

City of Sacramento  
**Animal Wellbeing Commission Report**  
915 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814  
www.cityofsacramento.org

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File ID: 2026-00730

5/13/2026

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**Discussion of Shelter Redemption Procedure and Ways to Incentivize Spay and Neuter for Owners Reclaiming Pets**

File ID: 2026-00730

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** 1) Review and comment; and 2) Pass a **Motion** to send a recommendation to the Personnel and Public Employees Committee regarding redemption of animals by their owners including incentivization of spay and neuter on first impound.

**Contact:** Ryan Hinderman, Interim Animal Care Services Manager, (916) 808-7911, rhinderman@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

**Presenter:** Ryan Hinderman, Interim Animal Care Services Manager, (916) 808-7911, rhinderman@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

**Attachments:**

1-Description/Analysis

**Description/Analysis**

**Issue Detail:** On January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the Animal Wellbeing Commission added to the follow-up log, a request to discuss the shelter's current procedure related to the redemption of animals by their owners, including the spay and neuter requirement for animals with two or more at-large impounds, and ways to incentivize voluntary spay and neuter on first impound.

**Policy Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Economic Impacts:** None.

**Environmental Considerations:** None.

**Sustainability:** None.

**Commission/Committee Action:** Not applicable.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** Spay and neuter are particularly important for animals with multiple instances of being found at large. Being unaltered can be a contributing factor in roaming behaviors and increases the chances the animal could breed if it encounters another unaltered dog. According to Sacramento City Code 9.44.190, an animal that has been previously redeemed after being impounded for being at large shall be spayed or neutered prior to a subsequent redemption. While this does not allow mandatory spay or neuter on first impound, there are ways it could be incentivized. This discussion will focus on potential procedures and incentives for spay and neuter of impounded animals, as well as how to maximize the number of animals reclaimed by owners.

**Financial Considerations:** Not applicable.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Not applicable.