

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

File ID: 2026-01453

8/12/2026

Strategic Planning for Community Spay and Neuter Clinics

File ID: 2026-01453

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Review and comment.

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Presenter: Ryan Hinderman, Communications and Customer Service Manager, (916) 808-7911, rhinderman@cityofsacramento.org, Community Development Department

Attachments:

- 1-Description/Analysis
- 2-PowerPoint Overview of \$500,000 Spay and Neuter Funding
- 3-Animal Intake Heat Map

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: During the preparation of the FY 26/27 budget, the Community Development Department made a budget augmentation request for \$500,000 from the City's General Fund for the Animal Care Services Division to partner with the nonprofit organization Animal Balance to conduct 10 high-volume spay and neuter clinics for community-owned pets. Each clinic is anticipated to perform approximately 200 surgeries for a total of approximately 2,000 surgeries. This request was made to help meet the need for spay and neuter services for underserved community members not able to afford this vital surgery with the goal of reducing unplanned litters and thereby decreasing the number of animals being brought to the Front Street Animal Shelter. On June 9, 2026, City Council adopted the FY 26/27 budget which included \$500,000 to hold 10 clinics with Animal Balance.

This item was added to the Animal Wellbeing Commission's (Commission) Follow-Up Log on June 10th, 2026. Recognizing that spay and neuter is a priority for the Commission, staff are bringing this item for discussion to gather input from the Commission. Specific questions for the Commission include:

- Which areas of the City have the greatest need for spay and neuter of community-owned pets (see attached map of stray animals and areas designated as disadvantaged communities by

the State)?

- Which facilities would have the capacity and meet the criteria required to hold these high-volume spay and neuter clinics?
- Do you have thoughts on which pet owners (e.g. lower-income, transportation barriers, etc.) and breeds to prioritize?

As next steps, the Animal Care Services Division will review the input from the Animal Wellbeing Commission, develop a schedule, enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Animal Balance that conducts the 10 clinics within FY 26/27 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027) and being working with Council offices and the community to plan and advertise the clinics.

Based on initial conversation with Animal Balance, it is anticipated that the first clinic will be held in December 2026.

Policy Considerations: None.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations:

Review and comment on Strategic Planning for Community Spay and Neuter Clinics is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as it consists of an organizational activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5)). Any actions that could result in a physical change in the environment would be identified as projects and would be subject to CEQA review. This report simply provides an opportunity for review and comment on how to effectively expend the funding for community spay and neuter.

Sustainability: Not Applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: This funding will provide substantial benefit to the community and has the potential to prevent future intakes at the Animal Care Services Division by reducing roaming behaviors and preventing litters of puppies and kittens. A discussion of strategies for implementing these clinics can help maximize the benefits produced by this funding.

Financial Considerations: On June 9, 2026, City Council adopted the FY 26/27 budget which included \$500,000 to hold 10 high-volume spay and neuter clinics with Animal Balance. This review and comment staff report on Strategic Planning for Community Spay and Neuter Clinics has no financial impact for the City of Sacramento.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.



Ryan Hinderman
August 12, 2026

A dark blue silhouette of the Sacramento skyline, including various buildings and the two towers of the Bay Bridge, set against a light blue background.

Community Spay and Neuter

Funding background and strategic planning

Overview

- Background on funding for spay/neuter clinics
- History of collaboration with Animal Balance
- Map of neighborhoods in highest need
- Animal Wellbeing Commission areas of input

Background

- City Council approved the budget augmentation request of **\$500,000** in the FY 26/27 budget to expand spay and neuter services for underserved community members.
- Council directed Staff to coordinate **ten mobile clinics** with Animal Balance.
- Each clinic is expected to spay or neuter approximately 200 animals.



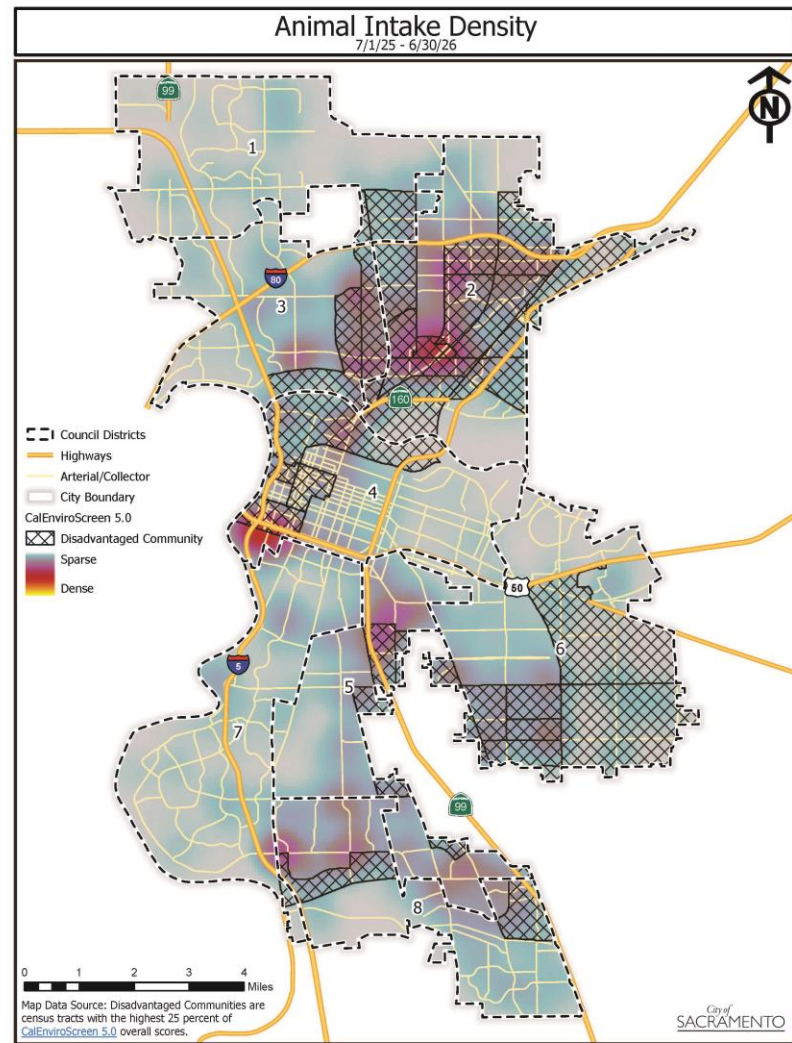
Animal Balance

- Five Animal Balance clinics in 2025 (one community clinic)
- Consistently the most affordable vendor
- Spayed/neutered 988 animals



Animal intake and neighborhood map

- Map includes statistics from July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026
- Includes city areas of disadvantaged neighborhoods and animal intake locations



Facility Requirements

- Room the size of a small gymnasium - accommodates prep/recovery/dog housing - needs to have multiple outlets and a reliable power source.
- Separate surgery suite with doors that close - needs to be attached to the main room
- Separate holding area with door for cats (this can be a large bathroom if needed) - must be attached or close by, cannot be in a separate building
- Sink area to wash and clean surgical instruments- preferably attached or close by
- Parking area or ability to conduct drive through drop offs
- Access to building from Thursday at 2pm through Sunday at 7pm (2pm -7pm on Thursday and 7am to 7pm Friday-Sunday)
- All areas being utilized must have working heating/air conditioning

Areas of commission input



Neighborhoods in need

What neighborhoods have the greatest need for spay/neuter services?



Clinic facilities

Identifying potential facilities that meet the criteria to hold spay/neuter clinics



Requirements

Discuss potential qualifying requirements for the service (income, breed, etc.)

Animal Intake Density

7/1/25 - 6/30/26

