

California Spay-Neuter Bill Moves to Senate

Legislation would require sterilization of most cats and dogs in the state.

Posted: June 2, 2009, 5 a.m. EDT

California Senate Bill 250 goes before the Senate Floor during the first week of June 2009, where the full Senate votes on the measure that seeks to require spay or neuter surgery for most of the state's cats and dogs.

The bill, previously placed in suspense file, passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 28.

SB 250, by Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez, calls on cat owners to spay or neuter their cats at 6 months of age if the cats are allowed to roam at large. The bill also requires the sterilization of all dogs at 6 months of age, unless the owner gets an unaltered dog license.

The bill has been amended to authorize local governments to use existing procedures to issue the intact dog licenses or to charge a fee for procedures related to the issuance, denial or revocation of unaltered dog licenses. In addition, unaltered dogs used in legal hunting activities would be exempt from being cited.

The sterilization of dogs found to be at-large continues to be a requirement under the bill.