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## Pet neutering could soon be state law



**By Ria Taormina  
NewsChannel 3**

A new law aimed at reducing dog and cat overpopulation in California has passed its first hurdle.

On Tuesday, the measure by Assemblyman Lloyd Levine of Sherman Oaks cleared the Business and Professions Committee on a seven-to-two vote.

It now moves to the Appropriations Committee, the last stop before the full Assembly.

California state and local governments spend \$250 million each year taking in nearly one million unwanted pets.

The healthy pets act says mandatory spaying and neutering of most California dogs and cats will save money and lives. Almost half of the pets taken in are killed.

The new bill would require most cats and dogs to be fixed by the time they're four-months old.

Coachella Valley Animal Campus supervisor Cookie Briney says fixing your pet is what responsible owners do. But there are exceptions to the law.

"It doesn't apply to breeders. They can get an exemption," Briney says. "It doesn't apply to service dogs, police dogs or seeing eye guide dogs."

Briney also says neutering or spaying pets by four-months-old prevents cancer with the pets.

Some Valley pet owners say they are glad something is being done about pet overpopulation.

"I'm tired of seeing animals running wild out in the Desert," perspective pet owner Robert Farrell says. "Snowbirds have been here for six months. They have an animal and let it go."

"I think some things are necessary," another owner said. "There are a lot of things people will try to get away with, if the government doesn't pass a law."

If the ordinance does pass in the Assembly, owners caught with unfixed pets can be fined \$500 if their pets are next spayed or neutered by four months.



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