



SUMMARY

Assembly Bill (AB) 2010, the SNIP Act, provides that High-Quality, High-Volume Spay and Neuter (HQHVSN) services performed in a registered veterinary premises do not require a dedicated surgical suite, equipment for viewing radiographs, or an absence of shelving in the room.

BACKGROUND

California is in the midst of a multi-decade pet overpopulation crisis, which has only worsened since the pandemic. While there are many contributing factors to this crisis, the simple fact is that California's veterinary shortage has meant that the number of animals spayed and neutered every year has not kept up with the number of pets that need these services. This has led to severely overcrowded shelters, large numbers of stray and abandoned animals, and tens of thousands of healthy animals euthanized annually. The crisis is even more dire in rural regions like the Central Valley, where the nearest access to spay and neuter services may be an hour away and unaffordable to many disadvantaged communities.

Fortunately, advancements in veterinary surgical practices have led to a pathway to address this growing crisis. While a veterinarian using traditional spay and neuter techniques can help less than 10 animals a day, HQHVSN practitioners can perform a minimum of 25 surgeries a day. Through the use of the smallest incision possible, dedicated support teams, and sequential workstations, HQHVSN eliminates unproductive time and enables the efficient spay and neuter of large number of pets while ensuring optimal veterinary oversight and maintaining high standards of health and safety.

However, regulatory barriers currently prevent HQHVSN from being used to its maximum potential, which can consistently allow for the spay and neutering of more than 60 animals a day at a lower cost than traditional surgeries. In California, veterinary regulations (CCR Tit. 16 § 2030 (g)) require a separate room for all aseptic surgeries, a requirement not shared with most other states. Not only does this requirement drastically slow down HQHVSN, it also prevents the use of Mobile Animal Sterilization Hospital (MASH) clinics, which can bring travelling HQHVSN units to underserved and rural areas.

THIS BILL

In order to promote the use of HQHVSN to combat California's pet overpopulation crisis, we must remove unnecessary barriers to its fullest and most efficient use. AB 2010 will do this by specifying that HQHVSN services performed in a registered veterinary premises do not require a dedicated surgical suite, equipment for viewing radiographs, or an absence of shelving in the room, while still maintaining the applicability of all other health and safety standards.

By removing unneeded restrictions on the use of HQHVSN, AB 2010 will allow MASH clinics to bring affordable, accessible spay and neuter services to all corners of the state, from underserved and overwhelmed urban areas to rural communities where there may be no local access to spay and neuter services. AB 2010 provides a much-needed fix to allow spay and neuter services at the scale needed to meet the public need, relieve our overcrowded shelters and save the lives of countless animals.

SUPPORT



Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria, 27th Assembly District

AB 2010 – The Spay/Neuter Improvement for Pets (SNIP) Act

- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Co-sponsor)
- Animal Balance (Co-sponsor)
- San Diego Humane Society (Co-sponsor)
- San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Co-sponsor)

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