

**SCC NO. 1779****AN ORDINANCE OF THE SACRAMENTO COUNTY CODE  
ADDING SECTIONS 8.04.142, 8.04.236, 8.04.237 AND 8.04.238, AND  
CHAPTER 8.22 RELATING TO ROOSTERS**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento, State of California, ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 8.04.142, Chapter 8.04, Title 8, of the Sacramento County Code is added to read as follows:

**8.04.142 Enclosure.**

"Enclosure" means a structure used for confinement, including, but not limited to, a wire cage or item traditionally used for another purpose such as a water tank or plastic barrel that meets both of the following criteria:

1. Is used to provide long-term housing for one adult rooster.
2. Prevents interaction with other roosters.

SECTION 2. Section 8.04.236, Chapter 8.04, Title 8, of the Sacramento County Code is added to read as follows:

**8.04.236 Restricts Normal Movement.**

"Restricts Normal Movement" means any enclosure that limits a rooster's ability to walk, flap its wings, or turn around freely.

SECTION 3. Section 8.04.237, Chapter 8.04, Title 8, of the Sacramento County Code is added to read as follows:

**8.04.237 Rooster.**

"Rooster" means any male chicken which:

1. Is six months or older; or
2. Has full adult plumage; or
3. Is capable of crowing.

SECTION 4. Section 8.04.238, Chapter 8.04, Title 8, of the Sacramento County Code is added to read as follows:

**8.04.238 Tethering.**

"Tethering" means the use of any wire, string, rope, chain or similar device to restrict or restrain the movements of a rooster.

SECTION 5. Chapter 8.22, Title 8, of the Sacramento County Code is added to read as follows:

**Chapter 8.22 KEEPING OF ROOSTERS****8.22.010 Purpose.**

In enacting this Rooster Ordinance, the Board of Supervisors seeks to balance the needs of legitimate agricultural and educational programs with Sacramento County's responsibility to prevent environmentally harmful, inhumane, or illegal rooster-keeping practices. Its core purpose is to stop cockfighting and the breeding of birds for that purpose in order to protect public health, community safety, and animal welfare.

**8.22.020 Definitions.**

"Rooster" means any male chicken which:

1. Is six months or older; or
2. Has full adult plumage; or
3. Is capable of crowing.

"Enclosure" means a structure used for confinement, including, but not limited to, a wire cage or item traditionally used for another purpose such as a water tank or plastic barrel that meets both of the following criteria:

1. Is used to provide long-term housing for one adult rooster.
2. Prevents interaction with other roosters.

"Tethering" means the use of any wire, string, rope, chain or similar device to restrict or restrain the movements of a rooster.

"Restricts normal movement" means any enclosure that limits a rooster's ability to walk, flap its wings, or turn around freely.

**8.22.030 Rooster Keeping.**

At all times, roosters shall be provided:

1. Clean, potable water, unless water is restricted under the direction of a licensed veterinarian. Watering receptacles shall be kept clean and sanitized.
2. Food that is fresh, uncontaminated, and of sufficient quantity and nutritive value for the rooster's age, condition, and size. Food receptacles shall be accessible to each rooster, durable, and sanitized. Disposable receptacles may be used but must be discarded after each feeding.

3. Clean and sanitary premises that are kept in good repair, free of accumulated waste, free of standing water, free of excessive odor, and maintained to prevent vermin.

#### **8.22.040 Tethering.**

No person shall tether, or cause to be tethered, any rooster to a stake or any other object for any period of time. Each rooster found tethered in violation of this section constitutes a separate violation.

#### **8.22.050 Enclosures.**

A person shall not keep a rooster in an enclosure that restricts normal movement unless all of the following conditions are met:

1. The enclosure shall provide sufficient room for the rooster to spread both wings fully and to turn in a complete circle without any impediment and without touching the side of the enclosure.
2. The enclosure shall be of sufficient height to allow normal standing posture.
3. The enclosure shall be structurally sound and maintained in good repair to protect the rooster from injury, to contain the rooster, and to keep other animals out.
4. The enclosure shall be constructed and maintained so as to enable roosters to remain dry and clean and to allow access to food and water.
5. The enclosure shall provide adequate ventilation and protection from extreme temperatures and direct sunlight.
6. Floors shall be constructed and maintained so as to protect roosters' feet and legs from injury.
7. Excreta shall be removed from enclosures as often as necessary, and no less than once daily. When hosing or flushing is used for cleaning, any rooster housed in the enclosure shall be protected during the cleaning process, and measures shall be taken to prevent roosters in other enclosures from being contaminated by wastewater or debris.

#### **8.22.060 Rooster Mutilation.**

Pursuant to California Penal Code Sections 597 subdivision (c) and (d), mutilation of roosters is banned and punishable as a felony or misdemeanor by imprisonment, fine, or by both.

#### **8.22.070 Enforcement/Penalties.**

1. A person who violates this Chapter shall be liable for civil penalties, pursuant to Section 8.08.100.
2. Notwithstanding subdivision (1), the District Attorney may charge any person who violates this chapter with a misdemeanor. In

addition, the County Counsel may seek any legal or equitable relief as permitted under law.

3. In addition to any other remedy allowed by law, any person who violates this chapter may be subject to criminal sanctions, civil actions, and a nuisance enforcement action pursuant to Title 16, Chapter 16.18 of this Code and as indicated in this section.

4. The remedies and penalties provided herein are cumulative, alternative and nonexclusive. The use of one does not prevent the use of any others, and none of these penalties and remedies prevent the County from using any other remedy at law or in equity which may be available to enforce this chapter.

SECTION 6. This ordinance was introduced and the title thereof read at the regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors on June 9, 2026, and on June 16, 2026, further reading was waived by the unanimous vote of the Supervisors present.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force on and after thirty (30) days from the date of its passage, and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days from the date of its passage it shall be published once with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the same, said publication to be made in a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Sacramento.

On a motion by Supervisor Hume, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the foregoing ordinance was passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sacramento, State of California, this 16th day of June 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Desmond, Hume, Kennedy, Serna, Rodriguez

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

RECUSAL: None

(PER POLITICAL REFORM ACT (§ 18702.5.))



*Rosario Rodriguez*

Chair of the Board of Supervisors  
of Sacramento County, California

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

FILED by the Board of Supervisors on  
June 16, 2026

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In accordance with Section 25103 of the Government Code of the State of California a copy of the document has been delivered to the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, County of Sacramento on June 16, 2026 by *James Cervantes*, Deputy Clerk