

**THE VOTERS OF THE COUNTY OF MADERA DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Madera County shall **build a New Madera Animal Shelter Facility with a separate, affordable, Nonprofit Vet Clinic.** The new complex shall be known as The Madera County Animal Services (MCAS) facility. It shall be appropriately planned and sized in accordance with modern, up-to-date standards, with widely accessible hours for the public, and staffed to meet the needs of a county-wide animal services facility. To facilitate future expansion, the facility shall be located on a 5- to 10-acre campus adjacent to the City of Madera. A minimum of an initial five-building campus, for stray intake/triage areas, adoptions, administration, public education and interaction, and the veterinary clinic shall be planned and implemented. This new MCAS facility shall include separate dog and cat holding and adoption areas, shaded adoption courtyards, public and volunteer interaction, education, and training areas, with fencing and covered spaces for large-animal display and holding, and wildlife rescue, as necessary. All indoor dog kennels shall be attached to an exterior outdoor run.

**2. Loan, Construction, and Distribution of Funding.** To meet the urgent need for these expanded new MCAS facilities and improved services, a loan against the measure shall be used to purchase vacant land, plan, build, and equip the facilities, and shall prioritize construction and opening of the independent, nonprofit, affordable veterinary clinic. Measure funding shall be distributed proportionately: 40 percent to build and operate the new Animal Services Department complex, and 60 percent to build, equip, and operate the new Madera Spay Neuter Clinic. Any surplus or unspent annual funding shall be retained within Measure for future use and or reallocated as needed per the direction of the Founding Oversight Board (FOB). Approved expenses incurred in the Measure A effort shall be reimbursed from the Measure funding.

**3. Consolidation and Update of Animal Control Ordinances County-Wide.** Effective modern ordinances shall be implemented and enforced county-wide with required fee-incentive licensing, reduced price altered dog licensing to encourage responsible animal ownership, and to reduce the number of unaltered owned dogs and cats. Deterrence through education and effective licensing and citation fees controls populations, reduces stray animals, and addresses and reduces the ongoing need for euthanasia of homeless, unadoptable, stray animals. The implementation of this measure shall, upon opening of the new facility, replace, supersede, consolidate, and update all county-wide animal ordinances, and relieve current funding spent on Animal Services by Madera County and the Cities of Madera and Chowchilla. The new Madera County Animal Services Department shall become the sole consolidated agency for enforcing all updated animal ordinances. Any Animal Control personnel, city assets of animal control vehicles, or other equipment shall be transferred to the new MCAS, unless other agreements are reached.

**4. Owned Animal Grandfather Clause.** Any reasonable number of previously owned, well-cared-for, altered animals existing at the time of this ordinance implementation shall be exempted and allowed under this “grandfather” clause.

**5. MCAS shall operate Madera County Animal Control (MCAC) operations as a separate subsidiary department** with a focus on improved, well-equipped, and expanded patrols, and enforcement of updated and effective, and pet-limiting animal control ordinances with licensing restrictions, with the primary goals of preventing animal cruelty, hoarding, and controlling and reducing unaltered animal populations. Functions such as community patrols, public outreach, and promotion of affordable spaying/neutering, licensing, and investigation of incidents of animal neglect or cruelty shall also be prioritized. Breeder ordinances shall be updated, with limited annual licenses priced appropriately, reducing the number of breeding animals enforced, and with annual premises inspections.

**6. Animal Control Staffing** shall be proportionate, increased by district area, properly equipped, and funded appropriately to the population growth, with salaries and expenditures appropriate to area positions. As soon as this measure is implemented, the Madera Animal Control Services' ordinance updates and animal control enforcement functions shall be supervised and operated by, or under the guidance and control of one or more senior law enforcement members of the Madera County Sheriff's Department, with reasonable and proportionate funding of those positions reimbursed by this measure.

**7. Intake of Animals** The Madera County Animal Services (MCAS) Department shall, without undue charges, expense, qualification or deflection, accept stray, injured or homeless animals from Animal Control Officers, other Law Enforcement Officers and Madera County residents for the appropriate state-regulated time-limited holds, public display, reclamations, adoptions, transfer to rescue groups, and or as a necessary last resort, provide humane euthanasia to reduce the current massive overpopulation crisis of suffering, injured, roaming and starving animals.

**8. The Madera Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic shall be a separately built and independently operated nonprofit entity located on the new MCAS campus to provide affordable, quality veterinary services to Madera residents.** The facility shall operate with the operational goal and spirit of keeping veterinary services affordable, and shall be appropriately planned and sized, with accessible hours, basic modern facilities, website software, scheduling apps, all necessary equipment, surgical suites necessary to provide standard care, and with appropriate co-pays. Low-cost vaccine clinics shall be held monthly or weekly. This new vet clinic and its personnel shall be subject to annual budget oversight and approval in operations, hiring, performance reviews, or termination, by the FOB and or their designees.

**9. Responsible, Local Control, and Transparent Use of Funding.** Measure is funded by a one-quarter of one percent ( $\frac{1}{4}$  %) sales tax increase, and shall be used responsibly, restricted to local use and solely for the uses outlined herein, shall be independently audited annually, with financial statements posted. Any reallocation of Measure funds, or annual funding surplus, shall be reserved solely for future use within the guidelines of this measure, or appropriately invested in interest-bearing accounts for the sole benefit of this measure, under the review, discretion, and approval of the FOB.

**10. Temporary Holding and or Adoption Satellite Facilities.** Improved funding and support for temporary animal holding and or animal adoption display facilities in the City of Chowchilla and areas of Unincorporated Eastern Madera County, The Madera Ranchos, and other areas to be determined, and funded proportionately, where necessary, desired, and when feasible.

**11. Timing of Funding, Term, and Severability.** No Measure funding shall be allocated to the current Madera County Animal Services Department or returned to municipalities until the new facility is open and operational, or upon specific approval of the FOB. **Term and Severability.** This measure shall continue until it is repealed by voters.

**12. Spay Neuter Vouchers, Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) Program of Feral Cats.** This measure shall, where feasible, provide temporary, renewable funding for up to 2,000 low cost spay-neuter vouchers for Madera residents negotiated with other vets until the new clinic is in full operation, allocated at the direction of the FOB. TNR shall be funded when possible with the goal of stabilizing and reducing the large and growing feral cat populations. Homeless cats are starving, suffering, breeding, and impacting every neighborhood.

**14. Animal Rescue Efforts** shall be prioritized by MCAS and funded to post online, make available, and transfer or transport all possible adoptable, surplus animals to official out-of-area rescue groups. Approved support, transportation and operational costs to be provided by the MCAS department.

**15. Humane Euthanasia.** This MCAS department shall provide, as a last resort, the necessary, affordable euthanasia of injured, ill, aged, aggressive, or unadoptable, surplus animals upon residents' request or when necessary, without veterinary referrals or other hindrance.

**Deflecting surplus stray animals to roam, starve, reproduce and suffer is counterproductive to controlling homeless animal populations and maintaining good public safety.**

**16. Supportive Services** of ongoing educational outreach, dog licensing, standard and mobile vaccine clinics, and pop-up spay and neuter clinics shall be funded and made available in outlying areas when requested and where possible.

**17. Qualified volunteers** shall be recruited, welcomed, provided space and transport vehicles, with reasonable expense and time reimbursement to assist MCAS and the Madera Spay Neuter Veterinary Clinic in their functions, where approved and possible.

**18. Scholarship assistance agreements for local students** to study locally and obtain approved college-level certifications as Certified Vet Techs and select student veterinarians in exchange for approved term local employment agreements at the facility. The Clinic shall employ and utilize veterinary interns and participate in approved clinical veterinary trials where available.

**19. County Administration and FOB Costs.** Madera County administration reimbursement cost shall be limited to 1% of annual measure funding. Any legal expenses, or other expenses or fees deemed necessary, incurred by, or approved by the FOB, shall be reimbursed or paid from Measure funding.

**20. Founding Oversight Board members (FOB)** are DJ Becker, Kirsten Gross, Stephanie Sibley, Lou Garrison and Diane Absher. FOB members shall serve as the initial five-member, independent Founding Oversight Board, with one senior administrative member from Madera County or Animal Services and one senior member from the veterinary clinic yet to be determined by the existing oversight board. FOB members shall meet quarterly, or as often as necessary, serve for a minimum of a renewable five-year term, and shall oversee and approve the site planning, design, responsible spending, and the implementation and operation of Measure as outlined above. The FOB members shall review, approve, or reallocate Operational Funding and Capital Expenses, approve annual budgeting, oversee the selection or dismissal of senior operational personnel, update allocations, goals, and operational policies, ensure all operations comply with the spirit and intent of this measure as outlined herein, and further interview and appoint its FOB successors or new members, as necessary. FOB members shall be reimbursed for reasonable approved time, legal, travel, or office expenses, as incurred, if any.

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