

County of Santa Clara

Office of the Board of Supervisors

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Pete McHugh
Supervisor Third District

July 3, 2006

Mayor Diane Rose
Councilman Jim Janney
Councilwoman Patricia McCoy
Councilman Fred McLean
Councilwoman Mayda Winter
City of Imperial Beach
825 Imperial Beach Blvd.
Imperial Beach, CA 91932

Dear Mayor Rose and Councilmembers:

I strongly urge the Imperial Beach City Council to adopt Ordinance No. 2006-1046 that will be before the City Council on July 5 (Item 3-1). This ordinance substitutes the phrase "owner-guardian" for the word "owner." Santa Clara County recently adopted a similar change to its ordinances governing animals.

I voted in favor of this change because if more people think and act as guardians of their companion animals, there will be fewer cases of abuse, neglect and abandonment. I also believe that the change in mindset may encourage more owner-guardians to spay or neuter their dogs and cats. I have also enclosed the modification the County made to the ordinance to be clear that the change in no way alters the legal rights and duties of animal owner-guardians. The County took this action in response to concerns that residents raised about unintended consequences for regulatory agencies and providers of services and medical care to companion animals.

Sincerely,

Pete McHugh
District Three
Supervisor

Enclosure