

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 28, 2025 10:14 AM
To: ACC (ADM) <acc@sfgov.org>
Cc: Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor) <michaelangelo.torres@sfdph.org>
Subject: A Humane Request—Ban the Boiling of Live Animals

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Dear Members of the San Francisco Animal Care and Control Committee,

I write to share significant news that aligns perfectly with San Francisco's core principles of compassion and forward-thinking governance. [The United Kingdom has recently enacted a ban on the inhumane industry practice of boiling decapod crustaceans alive.](#) With our historic legacy at Fisherman's Wharf and our community's proven commitment to collective welfare, San Francisco is uniquely positioned to champion this cause nationally.

An ordinance that would prohibit the inhumane practice of boiling crustaceans alive within our city and county would set a precedent for a more humane future, and as the practice is already uncommon among restaurateurs, implementing this change would require minimal adjustment. Here is a draft EXAMPLE ORDINANCE I wrote, free to use:

Section 1. Findings and Purpose.

A. Scientific evidence increasingly indicates that decapod crustaceans, including but not limited to lobsters, crabs, crayfish, octopi, and prawns, possess complex nervous systems and are capable of experiencing pain and distress. (Schirmer et al. [2024, Biology]. <https://doi.org/10.3390/biology13110851>)

B. The practice of boiling these animals alive causes unnecessary and prolonged suffering.

C. The United Kingdom, as well as other jurisdictions such as Switzerland, Norway, and New Zealand, have already enacted legal protections recognizing the sentience of decapod crustaceans and restricting such inhumane practices.

D. San Francisco, as a leader in sustainable seafood advocacy, ethical practices, and culinary innovation, has a compelling interest in preventing animal cruelty within its jurisdiction and setting a progressive standard for humane treatment of decapod crustaceans.

Section 2. Chapter [Number] is added to the San Francisco Health Code, to read as follows: PROHIBITION ON THE INHUMANE PROCESSING OF DECAPOD CRUSTACEANS.

(a) Definitions.

1. Decapod Crustacean: shall mean any animal of the order Decapoda, including, but not limited to, lobsters, crabs, crayfish, shrimp, and prawns.

2. Commercial Establishment: shall mean any place of business operating within the City and County of San Francisco, including but not limited to restaurants, markets, wholesale facilities, food processing plants, and caterers, that sells, offers for sale, processes, or prepares decapod crustaceans for human consumption.

3. "Rendered Insensible to Pain": shall mean made unable to experience pain, distress, or suffering through a swift and effective mechanical or electrical method that causes immediate and irreversible loss of consciousness prior to killing or cooking.

(b) Prohibition.

It shall be unlawful for any person or commercial establishment to boil, steam, or otherwise cook a live decapod crustacean, or to cause such an act, without first rendering the animal insensible to pain through a method that ensures instantaneous and irreversible stun.

Section 3. Penalties.

(a) A violation for this ordinance shall constitute a misdemeanor.

1. For a first violation: A fine of not less than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) and mandatory training on compliant methods.
2. For a second violation within a three (3) year period: A fine of not less than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000).
3. For a third+ violation: Jail.

I am hopeful you will see the merit in this proposal and use your influential voice to pave the way for a more humane standard across the United States. Thank you for your time and for your dedicated service to the animals and people of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Santa Rosa, CA

SFSU Alum '08

SF Resident 2006-2017

Rebecca [REDACTED]

Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor)

Tue 1/6/2026 3:54 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

The ACC mandatory spay/neuter proposal for all dogs will hopefully curb the continual increase of dogs entering the shelter each quarter. However the proposal does not go far enough. It should also include mandatory spay/neuter for cats.

Each year second and third quarters see an increase of 200 to 300 cats entering the shelter in comparison with the first and fourth quarters. This cyclical “kitten season” can be mitigated by requiring spay/neuter.

ACC has admitted that enforcement can realistically only take place when an animal enters the shelter. So there would be no additional enforcement cost to including cats in the proposal. And cats already entering the shelter are fixed before being adopted out.

A spay/neuter requirement for cats may also reduce the number of people offering “free kittens” online. Those posting such offers would at least be put on notice to have their female cats spayed. And an educated community would request accountability.

Cats on the streets are not as visible dogs. Those that don’t reach the shelter often suffer and meet untimely unfortunate ends. There is no reason to perpetuate the annual increase in unwanted cats. Make spay/neuter a requirement for cats as well as dogs.

Thank you,

Rebecca [REDACTED]

Richmond District

San Francisco