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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**County Animal Advisory Commission Seeks Public Comment  
Regarding Animal Cruelty Ordinance**  
*Public Meeting Scheduled for Oct. 9 in Gilroy*

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— In October 2008, the County of Santa Clara Animal Advisory Commission will host a public meeting to obtain comments from county residents regarding a local ordinance relating to cruelty to animals. The ordinance would regulate rodeos in the unincorporated areas of the county. The public meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gilroy Senior Center at 7371 Hanna Street. For direction to the Gilroy Senior Center, call 408.846.0414.

The Animal Advisory Commission plans to forward a recommendation that includes a countywide regulation that imposes requirements on rodeos and circuses to the Housing, Land Use, Environment, and Transportation (HLUET) Committee on Nov. 20, 2008. Upon approval by the HLUET Committee, the ordinance will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for consideration.

"Animals used in circuses and rodeos should not suffer any mistreatment and neglect," said Supervisor Pete McHugh, Chair of the Board of Supervisors. "I believe that a new ordinance will help to promote the humane treatment of those animals."

In California, state regulations regarding animal cruelty are narrowly drawn. A number of cities and counties, including Alameda County, Santa Cruz County, and City and County of San Francisco, have

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passed additional rodeo and circus ordinances to promote the humane treatment of animals. These additional ordinances are consistent with the purpose of the state law. For example, regarding on-site veterinarians, the state law requires that an on-call veterinarian be within an hour of the event. The counties of Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco require a veterinarian or animal control officer onsite at rodeos.

The proposed ordinance provides regulations in areas that include the following:

- All animals used in competition at a rodeo event shall be in good health;
- Water shall be clean and available to all animals;
- Adequate fencing surrounding the event arena should be in place to protect audience;
- A conveyance is available at all times for the immediate and humane removal of injured animal; and
- The practice of tripping, dragging or felling any bovine animal by the tail shall not be permitted.

"It is important that the public participate in the democratic process and provide their opinions about the proposed new regulation on rodeos and animals," said Supervisor Don Gage, Chair of the HLUET Committee. "I encourage the residents to attend the public meeting in Gilroy."

If members of the public cannot attend the hearing, they can provide written comments via email to [public.comments@cob.sccgov.org](mailto:public.comments@cob.sccgov.org), or mail to the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110 (attention Animal Advisory Commission). The deadline to submit comments is at 5p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008.

"We will carefully evaluate everyone's input," said Sylvia Gallegos, Deputy County Executive. "It would be helpful to us if the public could be as specific as possible about their concerns or questions."

### Background

At the Board meeting on Feb. 12, 2008, the Board of Supervisors considered a referral from

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Supervisor Pete McHugh asking for a legal analysis of a potential County ordinance regarding circuses and rodeos. The Board therefore directed the Administration to prepare information for a local ordinance that reiterates state law relating to cruelty to animals and provides for local remedies.

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