



P.O. BOX 2341 LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA 93339
WWW.CALIFEDDOGCLUBS.ORG

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
May 31, 2011

Honorable Mayor Villaraigosa and City Council Members,

The California Federation of Dog Clubs, founded in 1990, represents thousands of pet owners in our state. We are devoted to promoting responsible dog ownership and protecting the rights of responsible dog owners.

The CFoDC is **OPPOSED** to sales bans on pets. Such bans only create a shortage of desirable pets, a black market for dogs and cats, and a rise in imports into LA from other countries. Many "rescues" these days are importing dogs from overseas to meet the demand for pets. This is happening right now in the City of Los Angeles! A "rescue" group here in LA imports dogs and sells them for hundreds of dollars each. Per the "Dogs Without Borders" website: "We currently rescue most dogs from local shelters and strays, but sometimes we rescue dogs from as far away as Taiwan!...Some of the dogs you see on our site are not here in the States."

This practice is not only outrageous, but also is very irresponsible on the part of shelters/rescues that participate. There are diseases and parasites in other countries which are transmitted from dog-to-dog or from dogs to humans which put the safety of our citizens and our dog population at great risk. In late 2004, the first case of canine rabies in Los Angeles County in 30 years was confirmed. The dog had recently come in from Mexico. Rabies is a fatal disease that still causes over 50,000 human deaths annually worldwide.

Pet stores are a well-regulated source for healthy animals. Currently, most pet stores do support rescue with adoption drives. A ban on sales of commercially-bred pets is not necessary. Studies show pet store animals are generally very healthy. Imported strays are a different matter, with unknown health, temperament, parasites and infectious diseases.

Research shows that less than 5% of shelter animals originate from pet stores. The vast majority of pet store customers are very happy with their pets. A sales ban would only hurt legitimate businesses and responsible, regulated breeders, not substandard facilities. Pet stores are a legitimate source for healthy, well-bred animals. Banning sales of animals in pet stores will have many adverse unintended consequences harmful to public health and safety. We urge you to reject the proposed ban on sales of pets through pet stores.

Sincerely yours,

Geneva Coats, R.N.
Secretary, California Federation of Dog Clubs



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Regarding claims about purported ill health of pet store puppies:

Claims of high incidence of illness in pet store puppies are totally unsubstantiated. There is evidence that the pet industry provides more veterinary care for puppies than the public at large. DVM/VPI Insurance Group, the largest provider of animal health insurance, testified during a hearing in California that "preconceived notions" concerning pet store puppies "could not have been more wrong."

After insuring more than 89,000 pet store puppies and kittens and handling health claims from a pool of more than 500,000 insured animals, the insurance company reduced its premiums for pet store puppies and kittens substantially by as much as 22 percent compared to premiums charged for animals from other sources. Why? Pet store puppies receive more veterinary attention during the first 12 weeks of age than any other puppies and, as a result, have fewer claims.

Let's debunk the false claim of high number of pet store puppies ending up in shelters.

A Las Vegas shelter collects data on their intakes. Here is an excerpt from an article written on the subject:

'Officials should focus on finding the origin of the animals that rescue groups, shelters and animal control agencies come in contact with, said Harold Vosko, co-founder of Las Vegas-based Heaven Can Wait Animal Sanctuary. Without accurate information on the source of the crisis, addressing it is impossible, he said.'

'Statistics collected over the past two years at Heaven Can Wait showed more than 85 percent of the animals came from a neighbor or friend's litter, Vosko said. **Fewer than 5 percent were from pet stores and no more than 1 percent or 2 percent were from professional breeders.'**

'The Lied Animal Foundation, which operates the regional shelter, recently started asking people how they obtained their pets, said Jason Smith, who took over as director of operations about six weeks ago. The data will help Lied shape how it educates the community about responsible pet ownership.'

'Michael Maddox, director of legislative affairs for the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council in Washington, D.C., says, **'The "overwhelming majority" of pets in shelters come from sources other than pet stores.'**