

11-0754

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August 13, 2012

City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-4801

Re: I agree with the L.A. Times: YES on a pet sales ordinance

Dear City of Los Angeles:

I am writing to ask you to support an ordinance to prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in L.A. pet stores unless they come from a shelter or 501(c)(3) rescue group. This reform is long overdue.

Pet mills supply nearly 100% of U.S. pet stores. In these factory-like facilities, profit and maximum productivity take priority over the health and welfare of the animals. There are frequent reports of these animals having congenital or communicable diseases that cause heartache for unsuspecting customers who believe they are buying a healthy pet from the best source possible. These animals often end up in our already overcrowded shelters. It makes no sense to continue importing animals into our city while so many are being killed for lack of space in our shelters.

Pet stores that sell animals from puppy, kitten and rabbit mills are not an asset to our community. However, they could be part of the solution, by converting to a business model that offers profitable products, services, and space for rescue organizations to adopt out animals from their stores. A ban on the retail sale of milled dogs, cats and rabbits would not preclude pet stores from staying in business, and could in fact alleviate a significant burden on the city by increasing pet adoptions. It also would not prohibit anyone from owning a pet, adopting a pet, or purchasing a pet directly from a breeder.

The Los Angeles City Council has shown that it cares about the welfare of our community's animals. Let's continue on this compassionate path and set a positive and humane example for the rest of the country to follow. Please vote YES on the ordinance to ban the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in L.A. pet stores.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Sharon Schiesl
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