

Council File # 11-0754

Emilie Moore
1341 Via Margarita
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274-2026

August 9, 2012

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

Re: Important Retail 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.

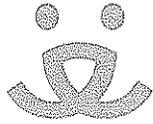
The Los Angeles City Council has shown that it cares about the welfare of our community's animals. Let's continue on this compassionate path and set a positive and humane example for the rest of the country to follow. Please vote YES on the ordinance to ban the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in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

Sincerely,

Thank
you!



Emilie Moore
3109931154



Best Friends
ANIMAL SOCIETY

Council File # 11-0754

5001 Angel Canyon Road • Kanab, Utah 84741-5000 • (435) 644-2001 • www.bestfriends.org

9 August 2012

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Retail Pet Sales Ordinance

Dear President Wesson and Members of the Council,

On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society, a national animal welfare organization in its twenty-ninth year, I am pleased to offer support for the proposal to ban the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in Los Angeles pet stores. We urge you to join the other twenty-six communities in the U.S. and Canada that have recently made the change to no longer allow pet stores to sell commercially bred domestic pets.

Pet mills, particularly puppy mills, are a serious problem in the U.S. These facilities, which supply nearly 100% of retail pet stores, are cruel and inhumane factories in which profit and maximum productivity take priority over the welfare of the animals.

Although these facilities may be regulated, their standards do not ensure a humane life for dogs; in fact, they do little more than require food, water and shelter. These types of kennels can legally have hundreds - often a thousand - dogs in one facility, and these dogs are allowed to be confined to very small cages for their entire lives. Because the goal is to make a profit, puppy mill owners must cut corners to keep expenses low and profits high. For the unsuspecting consumer, this frequently results in the purchase of a puppy facing an array of communicable or congenital diseases. This creates a financial and emotional burden on the consumer, who believes he or she is buying a puppy from the best source possible, and results in many of these dogs being surrendered to our already overcrowded shelters.

It makes little sense to continue manufacturing dogs, cats and rabbits while so many are being killed for lack of space. Public education has been effective, but until communities take the initiative to limit the supply of animals being imported from these mostly out-of-state commercial facilities, there can be no hope of preventing these unnecessary deaths.

Pet stores that obtain their animals from mills are not an asset to the community, yet it is those retailers who benefit most from the sale of these animals. While they may profit from the practice of buying puppies at a low price from commercial brokers and then selling them (typically without first spaying or neutering them) at a high price, it is the taxpaying public who pays for animal control to house and euthanize unwanted animals in the community.

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Pet stores that currently sell commercially bred animals could be part of the solution rather than the problem, simply by either stopping pet sales altogether (and focusing on other profitable, ancillary components such as grooming, daycare or pet supplies), or by changing to a business model that offers products, services, and space for animal rescue organizations to adopt out animals from their stores. Best Friends has partnered with several of the many pet stores that have transitioned from selling puppy mill dogs to offering rescued pets for adoption, and we have found this "humane" model to be both viable and embraced by the communities in which the stores are located. Thus, a ban on the retail sale of pets would *not* preclude pet stores from staying in business, and could in fact alleviate a significant burden on the city by increasing pet adoptions.

We have been honored to work with the City of Los Angeles on so many positive and successful animal welfare initiatives, most recently our operation of the Mission Hills animal shelter. We are proud to support you in your efforts to make L.A. a humane and progressive leader for the rest of the country to follow, and we applaud the Council for taking a compassionate, common sense initiative to addressing the puppy, kitten and rabbit mill crisis in our community, and setting a positive example for the rest of the country to follow.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Oreck
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