

Jacqueline Jensen
511 San Vicente Blvd. #106
Santa Monica, CA 90402-1828

August 13, 2012

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

Re: Let's stop importing puppy mill puppies into our city

Dear City of Los Angeles:

I wholeheartedly urge you to please 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 and would have such a wonderful humanitarian and cost-saving impact on our community.

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. Furthermore, these animals often end up in our already overcrowded shelters. It is unconscionable and illogical 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. I urge you to please vote YES on the ordinance to ban the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in L.A. pet stores.

Thank you very much in advance for your attention to this very humane and highly impactful issue. I am a proud citizen of Los Angeles County and I am very eager to show other communities that we have a heart while thinking outside the box to solve important issues in the most compassionate way possible way for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacqueline Jensen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jacqueline Jensen