

From: Kate Hebel [<mailto:kate@newedition-inc.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2018 3:21 PM
To: Kelley, Pattie (CI-StPaul)
Subject: St. Paul Humane Pet Store Ordinance

I am a strong advocate for fostering and adoption of pets from the animal rescue groups and the humane society. I urge the members of the St. Paul City Council to support the humane pet store ordinance that prohibits the pet store sale of dogs and cats while allowing pet stores to co-host adoption events with shelters and rescue groups. We need to remove the incentives for the puppy mills to continue, and I do believe the retail pet stores are a primary buyer.

Thank you.

*Kate Hebel
1301 Fairmount Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105*

Hello!

I am writing to you today asking that you please support the pet store ordinance banning pet stores in St. Paul from buying from commercial breeders. I am a St. Paul resident and would love to live in a city that is a front runner in animal rights. I have never written in to my city council, but I find it necessary at this juncture to please ask that you pass this ordinance. As I am sure you are aware, the main focus of commercial breeding AKA: puppy mills, is profit. The animals in their possession are treated like livestock- in some cases, much worse. The parents of the "adorable" (read:sick) puppies are locked away in cages, sitting in their own filth, receiving no veterinary care, with little to no human interaction. Meanwhile, there are 3,000 adoptable healthy dogs and cats within a 50 mile radius of the Twin Cities. These animals deserve better than that. They deserve warm and loving homes to call their own. They deserve water free of bugs and parasites, steady meals, and stability. Dogs were never meant to be livestock. We have bred them to be our companions. Imagine a pet of your own in a situation that deplorable. It is almost unthinkable.

Ultimately, there is no need for breeders in general. There are 2 million healthy and adoptable pets euthanized in this country every year. Please consider passing this ordinance in order to ensure that these money hungry, heartless commercial breeders stop receiving business from the caring, intelligent, and informed individuals of St. Paul. We need to stop protecting these people. It is a disservice to these loving pets to continue to ignore the problem.

And as always, please spay and neuter your pets :)

Thank you for reading and I hope you will take this into consideration when making your decision tonight. I only wish I could be there, but unfortunately (yet fortunately) I am rehabilitating a rescue dog of my own after his surgery.

Sincerely,
Allison Claeson

I am a St. Paul resident and I want you to support the humane pet store ordinance, I believe all animals should be treated equally and when I adopted my Maltese from the golden valley humane society, they told us that he was used for breeding and he was 8 years old and hadn't been neutered and was covered in filth and had matted hair. When we brought him home he was aggressive towards our other dog and didn't know how to play with toys, didn't like treats, he would bury himself in his kennel and wouldn't come out. My family wanted to help him but unfortunately he died last May due to prostate cancer. So I beg you please do not let pet shops go on, the dogs are always sick and isn't fair to any of the animals. I want to people to adopt from their local shelters

Good evening,

It has come to my attention that the city of St. Paul is holding a public hearing for the Humane Pet Store Ordinance that will "ban St. Paul pet stores from buying and selling dogs and cats obtained from commercial breeding facilities, also known as puppy and kitten mills".

I am personally emailing the council in hopes of having this ordinance approved and have the ban be enforced.

As an owner of an Animal Humane Society rescue animal, I believe it is my duty to help bring citizens together and give animals a voice!

My little Daisy was rescued from a hoarding case. She was living in a citizen's home with 79 other dogs, 22 cats, and 6 guinea pigs. Can you imagine the conditions? These poor animals suffered most—if not all—of their lives living in captivity, feces invested environments...they suffered from malnourishment, fur matting, inbreeding, dog fighting, and much more. These are real issues. And they are right in our own backyards.



Although Daisy's case is unique, it is not so different from the life of the animals who are sold at pet stores. These pet stores have been known to be traced back to puppy and kitten mills, which result in unhealthy pets as they grow older. These animals endure horrendous living conditions and it must come to an end.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Thank you for giving animals a voice.

Sincerely,
Kaitlyn Stanton

Hi,

I'm a St. Paul resident writing in support of the St. Paul Humane Pet Store ordinance. As a current volunteer with local rescue Secondhand Hounds and longtime supporter of the Animal Humane Society, I've seen firsthand the cruelty of the pet mill industry – including the industry's long-term impact on both the animals used to breed puppies and kittens sold in stores, and the animals sold out of the pet stores. It's past time that we pass legislation that puts the livelihood of these animals ahead of someone else's profits.

The industry treats animals like commodities, to be sold out of stores with little more regard than an iPhone. The mill-produced animals sold in stores routinely lack proper socialization and care while they are in the stores, and routinely go on to experience lesser quality of life due to long-term health products that are a direct result of improper breeding and care. Blindness and degenerative diseases are just two of the byproducts of the mill industry that are the result of people putting profit over care and common sense – and in most instances, avoidable by following responsible breeding practices.

But the real cruelty is the animals who never make it to the stores; the ones used as lifelong breeders and discarded with little care once their breeding days are done or they are deemed no longer useful to the mill owners. They are sold at auction, or if lucky, to a rescue. They are not the scared, shy or timid animals we see typically come through rescues as strays or surrendered pets. They are completely shut down, unresponsive to human touch and scared of basic daily tasks, like going outside to the bathroom, touching grass, or being removed from a crate – maybe for the first times in their lives.

I've seen dogs that were once white come in with fur stained permanently yellow from standing in their own urine for days, months and even years. Dogs that are mentally and emotionally shut down. Dogs that will take months and sometimes year to recover and approach something approximating a normal life. And for what? We have better alternatives when looking for a pet – responsible breeder programs and the humane society or local rescue programs, to name a few.

When it comes time to vote on this ordinance, I ask you to consider: what is the real cost of the mill industry? And are we willing to support that cost any longer?

Jennie Betchwars
St. Paul resident (Como Park)

From: G Marault <marauge@goldengate.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 10:28 AM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Humane Pet Store Ordinance

Hi Dai,

I'm writing in support of the Humane Pet Store Ordinance. I hope you will support it at next week's vote.

If you don't support it, please reply with the reasons for your objections.

Thank you.

Geneviève Marault, 937 Charles Avenue

Dear St. Paul City Council Members,

I am a resident of St. Paul (Ward 4) and respectfully ask that you PASS the Humane Pet Store Ordinance.

I am involved with animal rescue organizations, having adopted 2 and fostered over 15 rescued dogs, many of them from breeding mills. I see on a daily basis the trauma that these mills inflicted on their survivors. There is no reason to support unethical breeding practices that result in damaged, often unhealthy puppies & kittens; cause unexpected vet bills for their adoptive families; and contribute to the overpopulation of pet animals in St. Paul, in Minnesota, and in the U.S.

Please support the Humane Pet Store Ordinance. It is an ethically appropriate response to the problems caused by commercial breeding mills; additionally, it will support local businesses through increased traffic via adoption events and increased purchases of pet food & supplies by those who adopt rescued animals.

Sincerely,
Shelby Flint
Ward 4, St. Paul

Council members,

I foster and volunteer with Underdog Rescue and know about the traumatic effects of puppy mills. I live in St. Paul and support the Humane Pet Store Ordinance wholeheartedly.

Thank you.

--

Mai Lee

Hello!

I am writing to share my strong support for the Humane Pet Store Ordinance - an ordinance that prohibits pet stores from selling dogs and cats acquired from puppy and kitten mills while allowing stores to host adoption events with animal shelters and rescues.

Please help protect animals! My pug is a survivor who was rescued from a puppy mill after years of aggressive breeding and lack of medical care. I've seen first-hand the unthinkable cruelty animals face in mills.

It would just be such a wonderful blessing for St. Paul to lead the way in protecting animals and the consumer public. Many people looking to provide an animal a loving home purchase from pet stores without any knowledge of the evil industry they are supporting or the health challenges their new puppy may face due to dangerous breeding practices. Anything that pushes the market toward buying from responsible breeders or adopting from rescues/shelters is a win both for animal welfare and animal lovers!

I wish you a happy holiday season!

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Ann Peckskamp
1604 Ashland Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55104

Dear Councilmembers,

I'm a Como Park resident writing in support of the St. Paul Humane Pet Store ordinance. As a current volunteer with local rescue Secondhand Hounds and longtime supporter of the Animal Humane Society, I've seen firsthand the cruelty of the pet mill industry – including the industry's long-term impact on both the animals used to breed puppies and kittens sold in stores, and the animals sold out of the pet stores. It's past time that we pass legislation that puts the livelihood of these animals ahead of someone else's profits.

The industry treats animals like commodities, to be sold out of stores with little more regard than an iPhone. The mill-produced animals routinely lack proper socialization and care while they are in the stores, and routinely go on to experience lesser quality of life due to long-term health issues that are a direct result of improper breeding and care. Blindness and degenerative diseases are just two of the byproducts of the mill industry that are the result of people putting profit over care and common sense – and in most instances, avoidable by following responsible breeding practices.

But the real cruelty is the animals who never make it to the stores; the ones used as lifelong breeders and discarded without a second thought once their breeding days are done or they are deemed no longer useful to the mill owners. They are sold at auction, or if lucky, to a rescue.

They are not the scared, shy or timid animals we see typically come through rescues as strays or surrendered pets. They are completely shut down, unresponsive to human touch and scared of basic daily tasks, like going outside to the bathroom, touching grass, or being removed from a crate – maybe for the first times in their lives.

I've seen dogs that were once white come in with fur stained permanently yellow from standing in their own urine for days, months and even years. Dogs that are mentally and emotionally shut down. Dogs that will take months and sometimes year to recover and approach something approximating a normal life. And for what? We have better alternatives when looking for a pet – responsible breeder programs, the Animal Human Society, and local rescue groups, to name a few.

When it comes time to vote on this ordinance, I ask you to consider: What is the real cost of the mill industry? And are we willing to support that cost any longer?

Jennie Betchwars
St. Paul resident (Como Park)

From: Madelon Deming [mailto:madelon.deming@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 2:09 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Humane Pet Store Ordinance

Dear City Council,

I support the Humane Pet Store Ordinance. Please vote to prohibit pet stores from selling dogs acquired from puppy mills.

Sincerely,
Madelon

From: Lynette Johnson [mailto:lynettejj@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 2:00 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Pet Humane Ordinance

I live in Eagan. I support the Pet Humane Ordinance. I feel anything that can help stop the continuance of animal mills should become law.

Thank you,
Lynette

Dear St. Paul City Council:

I am a St. Paul resident. I support the St. Paul Humane Pet Store Ordinance.

The mill industry praises its mass breeding of animals because mills are "regulated."

Mills, however, are allowed to confine animals in wire cages for all the years of their lives as long as the cage is 6 inches bigger than the animal. That is the industry's often touted "regulation."

Thank you council member Noecker for your influential leadership in the St. Paul Humane Pet Store Ordinance; thank you council member Thao for voicing the insight that our treatment of animals is a reflection of our country, and thank you St. Paul City Council for hearing the people of St. Paul.

On December 12, 2018, please unanimously approve the St. Paul Humane Pet Store Ordinance.

Sincerely,
Sadie Schrader
St. Paul, MN

As a Saint Paul resident I would like to voice that I support the banning of inhumane pet shop sales. I was informed from a friend that a December 12th voting session will take place. Please make a good choice!

"On December 12, St. Paul city council members will vote on adopting a humane pet store ordinance that prohibits pet stores from selling dogs and cats acquired from puppy and kitten mills. It'd continue to allow stores to host adoption events with animal shelters and rescues. In 2017, Roseville was the first Minnesota city to adopt a humane pet store ordinance, and this spring, Eden Prairie became the second. "

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Best Regards,

Gabriel D. Hanson
2565 Franklin Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55114

Hello,

Please ban pet stores from selling pets from puppy and kitten mills. This is an absolute horrendous practice. It won't stop until there no longer is demand—if people or pet stores aren't buying the animals from mills, then the horrible people will stop the practice. The average customer of a pet store would not know the animal was from a mill, and if did, would not buy them (or would buy them simply to save them).

It is also important to implement a proportionate punishment if a pet store is caught doing this— i.e. an overall fine of \$10,000 for simply doing it and an additional \$1,000 fine per animal. The pet store should also be punished in other ways to prevent the practice. Without ramifications a law banning the practice is essentially meaningless.

Thank you.

Shannon Nelson
Long Time Citizen of St. Paul
244 Marshall

Dear City Council Members,

I am a St. Paul resident, and I am writing to voice my support for the Humane Pet Store Ordinance, which will be voted upon on December 12th. My husband and I rescue dogs and train them as service dogs, so we know very well that there are a surplus of adoptable dogs available through shelters and rescue organizations as well as a heartbreaking number of unscrupulous breeders and sellers who profit by selling animals (who are often overbred and unhealthy) at pet stores. Please follow the examples of Roseville and Eden Prairie and help St. Paul to become a more ethical place for animals.

Thank you so much!

All the best,
Julie Coleman
Pawsitivity Service Dogs

Hi,
I live in St. Paul and I support the Humane Pet Store Ordinance.

I have personal experience having worked at Petland and seeing some of the poor puppies coming from puppy mills: a few examples: no teeth, younger than 8 weeks, broken collar bone, a lot of hyperglycemia due to nerves, etc. It's a terrible and heartless industry.

Please vote for the Humane Pet Store Ordinance and prevent unnecessary suffering.

Thank you,
Kirsten Just

From: Kristine Butler <kristinebutler@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 6, 2018 4:42 PM
To: #CI-StPaul_Ward1 <Ward1@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Request to vote against selling from pet mills

Dear Councilmember Thao,

Please vote yes on adopting a humane pet store ordinance that prohibits pet stores from selling dogs and cats acquired from puppy and kitten mills on December 12.

Thank you!

Kris Butler
1064 Marshall Ave.
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Hello,

I just wanted to send in a message in support of this new ordinance. I am a volunteer in 2 animal rescue groups, and witness firsthand the cruelty of mill-breeding operations, and am enraged at their exploitation of animals AND the externalized costs they place on regular citizens.

I wish the ordinance was expanded to include "pocket pets" as well, but it's a great start to keep greedy animal abusers out of our pet shops.

Thank you,
Leah Gannon
432 Victoria St S
St Paul MN 55102

Hello Council members,

I am writing to explain why I support the ban on puppy mill sales at pet stores. I acquired my 7 yr old shihtzu from a rescue group. They apparently purchased her and about 175 other dogs from a farm auction in Mississippi. The dogs were only given numbers, no names. She was discovered to have a fever of 105.7F, an abscess on her cheek the size of a baseball, a mouth full of rotten teeth and severe ear infections. Of course, she was not spayed. To help defray her health care costs, I had to pay over \$500 to adopt her. She was not potty trained, and after over a year in foster care still terrified of people. I couldn't get near her. I had to keep a leash on her at all times, which she dragged around, in case I needed to get ahold of her. She would not look me in the eye and flailed in panic whenever I picked her up. A year and a half later my patience has been rewarded with an amazingly happy dog, considering what she has been through. She no longer has to drag a leash, and I can even give her a brief scratch on the head. She has even wagged her tail once or twice, if I was not imagining things. However, we still have a lot of "accidents" around the house. She must have endured so much pain and misery. I hope you will help stop countless others from suffering like she did.

Thank you for listening,
Stephanie Beard
Minneapolis

From: Michelle [mailto:martymi@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 5:30 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council <Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Humane Pet Store Ordinance

I support!

Hello,

I am a St. Paul resident, living at 1706 Juliet Ave. I am writing to ask you to vote in favor of the Humane Pet Store Ordinance. Companion animals necessarily rely on humans to protect them; we should not exploit them, causing physical and emotional harm.

Thanks for reading my note!

Susan Henderson

Hello,

My name is Karin Wells and I live at 1377 Edmund Avenue in St. Paul.

I am urging you to support the humane pet store ordinance that prohibits the pet store sale of dogs and cats while allowing pet stores to co-host adoption events with shelters and rescue groups.

I am a volunteer for the Minnesota Companion Rabbit Society, and have helped facilitate rabbit adoptions through Petco, and have adopted a wonderful family pet through an adoption event co-hosted at a store.

Adoption through shelters and rescue groups creates transparency and a vetting process for adopters and adoptees, and prevents some of the problems that can arise through breeder sales to the stores.

Please support the humane pet store ordinance.

Thank you,

Karin Wells, M.A, C.H.H.C.

Dear City Council members,

My name is Amelia and I live on Jessamine Ave in Saint Paul. I would like to to advocate on the behalf of domesticated cats and dogs by asking you to support the humane pet store ordinance that prohibits the pet store sale of dogs and cats while allowing pet stores to co-host adoption events with shelters and rescue groups.

As you may be aware, puppy and kitten mills are inhumane commercial breeding facilities that disregard the health and well-being of the animals. They are not well-regulated and treat animals like objects, rather than living beings. There is a well-documented and indisputable link between puppy and kitten mills and pet stores.

Multiple cities throughout the nation have recognized the need to address the problem of selling dogs and cats through pet stores that have been obtained from puppy and kitten mills. Pet shop ordinances have been passed in more than 280 localities across the U.S., including Roseville (MN) and Eden Prairie (MN), Los Angeles, Chicago, and Boston, and the states of Maryland and California.

By passing a humane pet store ordinance, St. Paul will encourage the public to adopt homeless animals from shelters. Currently there are no pet stores in St. Paul that buy and sell dogs and cats from commercial dog and cat breeding facilities. Petland closed last year.

This is a proactive measure that puts safeguards in place to protect animal welfare and recognizes humane business practices and community values.

As a veterinary technician, I educate clients daily on providing care for their pets, which promotes the human-animal bond. Puppy and kitten mills, however, detract from that potential bond because many animals who are adopted from such mills are fearful, anxious and stressed.

It is important that our community does not associate pet stores and puppy mills with rescue groups.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Amelia Jordan, CVT

From: christinamassage01 [<mailto:christinamassage01@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 8:38 PM

To: #CI-StPaul_Ward5 <Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please vote FOR pet store ordinance!

Hello!

Writing to followup on a prior email regarding the vote 12/14 on a new pet store ordinance - please vote yes to support the passage of the new ordinance restricting sale of pupoies, kittens dogs & cats to rescues and shelter animals amd NOT commercially bred.

. I appreciate this has come before the council after some years of effort to bring it forward. Let's get this done. Thabks!

Respectfully,
Christina Henning
Ward 5 resident
446 Idaho Ave W St Paul MN