

Hi Mitra-

I'm contacting you as a Ward 4 resident of St. Paul, avowed animal lover and advocate, and the President of [Minnesota Partnership for Animal Welfare](#).

St. Paul is considering adopting 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. As currently pet stores in St. Paul do not sell dogs and cats from commercial breeding facilities, the ordinance will prevent stores with this inhumane model from relocating into St. Paul while celebrating humane community values and business practices. The ordinance is championed by St. Paul City Councilmember Rebecca Noecker.

While I cannot attend the hearing on December 5th and provide testimony, I 100% support the adoption of a humane pet store ordinance that prohibits the pet store sale of dogs and cats while allowing pet stores to cohost adoption events with shelters and rescue groups.

As the previous ED for a local MN foster based animal rescue, I'm (unfortunately) well aware of the horrific and inhumane conditions animals forced to live in breeding facilities face. I personally "pulled" puppy mill dogs from shelters and rehomed them in foster homes. They were scared, fearful, and sick. They were incredibly difficult to rehabilitate, having lived the majority of their lives in crates without human interaction. It was heartbreaking and miserable to witness.

Responsible breeders do not sell to pet stores. The Humane Society of the United States reviewed the Codes of Ethics for the National Breed Clubs representing all 178 dog breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club and found that 96% of those National Clubs include statements that their breeders should not and/or do not sell to pet stores.

Fortunately, 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 and Eden Prairie, MN, Los Angeles, Chicago, Boston, and the states of Maryland and California. May St. Paul follow the lead and be proud to adopt this ordinance!

Thank you ahead of time for your support and please- if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I'm fortunate to work closely with Christine Coughlin, Minnesota State Director, State Affairs with HSUS. She can provide a wealth of knowledge on this topic and works tirelessly on behalf of all Minnesota animals.

Many thanks!

~Kate Mudge  
Ward 4 resident  
877 Tatum St., St. Paul, 55104

My name is Beth Paris and I live on Burlington Road in St. Paul. I am writing to urge your support for 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.

If you'd like to hear more about my rescue organization and how we work with our communities, please contact me. Thank you.

--

Beth Paris  
Founder & Director, 4 Pits Sake Rescue

My name is Holly Traynor and I live on 762 Delaware Ave in St. Paul. I am writing to urge your support for the humane pet store ordinance that prohibits the pet store sale of dogs and cats while allowing pet stores to cohost adoption events with shelters and rescue groups. Please do all you can to stop this inhumane practice that creates suffering for animals problems for citizens. Thank you.

Hello and thank you for your consideration this Wednesday, Dec 5, 2018, of a proposal for a new ordinance regarding pet stores,

I am writing to SUPPORT a new city ordinance in St. Paul that bans the sale of any puppies, kittens, or dogs bred by commercial breeders.

Please follow the example set by the city of Roseville and adopt the model they've established with assistance from Christina Coughlin of the Humane Society of the US.

NOW THAT PETLAND has closed, this is an excellent preventative step to keep new, similar businesses, from attempting to open.

Other pet stores across the country have thrived by evolving and moving AWAY from the commercial breeders who lack oversight by the USDA. Let St. Paul show leadership with respect to animal welfare. I hope St. Paul will join Roseville and set an example Minneapolis can follow.

I urge you to move ahead with this proposal.

Thank you!

Greta Kotz

Thank you for considering a new ordinance on Dec. 5th that would ban the sale of puppies, kitten, cats and dogs bred by commercial breeders in St. Paul. I have fostered and helped find homes for many of these amazing mom, dads and pups. Most in their golden years. Most had some health issue due to neglect. You'd never now it though by hey way they acted when they first experience grass and freedom. My rescue group addresses whatever their health issue and gives us both the best opportunity to find their perfect home. There are 83 dog rescue groups in Minnesota. thousands more volunteers finding homes for these pups at great expense. Every penny is well spent IMHO but most every penny is avoidable IMHO. I would like to see this group of dedicated individuals not have to make such sacrifices.

Of course this sacrifice is nothing, compared to what they have been through. My current foster is a very shy, a 10 year old poodle that spent years in conditions I cannot fathom. When he came to me, he hid under couches and chairs and beds. Now he finds comfort laying his head on my shoulder. He acts and plays like he the luckiest pup in the world. In many ways he is. I just wish he had a 10 year head start for his future family. I hope you will consider making every puppy and kitty in St. Paul the luckiest in the world. The ordinance you are considering will give them and their families that opportunity. Attached is the story of one of my first fosters. This plays out over and again. I wouldn't change a thing but for her start in life....

**From:** Justine Teachworth Osum [<mailto:justine.osum@spps.org>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 03, 2018 3:10 PM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward3

**Subject:** Humane pet store ordinance

*My name is Justine and I live on Kenneth St 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 feel that more efforts need to be made in order to protect pets, this includes pets being neglected and abused. I believe there should be strict and harsh punishment for harming an animal.*

*Thank you,*

*Sincerely Justine Osum*

*My name is Michelle Conklin and I live at 2153 Jefferson Ave 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. Thank you!!!!!!*

Dear Councilmembers

My name is Katie Jarvi and I am a resident of St. Paul, Ward 4. I am writing to urge you to support the ordinance that would ban pet store sales of puppies and kittens obtained from puppy and kitten mills.

Puppy and kitten mills are inhumane commercial breeding facilities that disregard the health and well-being of the animals to maintain a low overhead and increase profits. 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 or seek out responsible breeders who take excellent care of their dogs and cats. 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 consumers and recognizes humane business practices and community values.

I am the owner of two rescue dogs, and I regularly contribute to causes concerned for the welfare of animals. I want St. Paul to send a strong message that we are not a community that tolerates the inhumane treatment of animals. This ordinance helps further that message.

Thank you,

Katie Jarvi

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

**Sent:** Saturday, December 1, 2018 8:58 AM

**To:** #CI-StPaul\_Ward5 <[Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Ward5@ci.stpaul.mn.us)>

**Subject:** Ban on pet store puppy mill sales

Helli,

I am writing to SUPPORT a new city ordinance in St. Paul that bans the sale of any puppies or dogs bred by commercial breeders.

Please follow the example set by the city of Roseville and adopt the model they've established with assistance from Christina Coughlin of the Humane Society of the US.

NOW THAT Petland has closed, this is an excellent preventative step to keep new similar businesses from attempting to open.

Other pet stores across the country have thrived by evolving and moving AWAY from the commercial breeders. I hope St. Paul will join Roseville and set an example.

Thank you!

Christina Henning

446 Idaho Ave W

Please support the ban of allowing pet stores to sell dogs from puppy mills.

Thank you,

Shawn LaBarre

St. Paul resident

Hello and thank you for your consideration this Wed., Dec 5 of a proposal for a new ordinance regarding pet stores,

I am writing to SUPPORT a new city ordinance in St. Paul that bans the sale of any puppies, kittens, or dogs bred by commercial breeders.

Please follow the example set by the city of Roseville and adopt the model they've established with assistance from Christina Coughlin of the Humane Society of the US.

NOW THAT Petland has closed, this is an excellent preventative step to keep new similar businesses from attempting to open.

Other pet stores across the country have thrived by evolving and moving AWAY from the commercial breeders who lack oversight by the USDA. Let St. Paul show leadership with respect to animal welfare. I hope St. Paul will join Roseville and set an example Mpls can follow.

As a St. Paul resident and active voter, I urge you to move ahead with this asap.

Thank you!

Mckenzie Merges, BCTMB

*My name is Cathy Nielsen and I live on Winslow Ave. 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. We currently foster rescue dogs and many come from puppy mills so shut down, they have to learn how to become a dog.*

*We NEED your help, please!!! Thank you!*

*Best,  
Cathy and Jim Nielsen*

My name is kristin Johnson and I live at 347 Morton St W, Saint Paul Minnesota 55107. Please support the humane pet store policy. There is no place for people to make money from being cruel to animals and this is something that helps combat that. Thank you. Sincerely, Kristin Johnson

To whom it may concern,

I am write you because I am a resident in St. Paul and as an avid pet lover and personal dog owner, I support the humane pet store ordinance. Working in a hospital, I witness on a daily basis the impact animals have on making people feel better and heal. I believe pets deserve to have right to be cared for and loved, because they show us the unconditional love and support.

Thank you for your time

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Maria K. Spencer

Hello,

I am writing in regards to the St Paul pet ordinance. Please prohibit pet stores from selling breeder or puppy mill animals. There are countless animals legally euthanized every year because they do not have homes. Let's help bring these numbers down by requiring pet store to feature humane society pets for adoption if they just feature animals. It is a common sense ordinance that I hope we can see make happen. Chicago instituted this change last year now it's our turn!

Respectfully,

-Liza Heiligman

Date: December 3, 2018  
To: City of Saint Paul – City Council  
Re: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 347 of the Legislative Code regulating pet store sale of dogs and cats

Dear Councilmembers,

Thank you for consideration of Councilmember Noecker's proposed amendment banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. A special thanks goes to Councilmember Noecker for authoring this amendment. Clearly now is the time to approve such a measure as no pet stores currently operate in Saint Paul. The City of Saint Paul has the opportunity to join the ranks of other leading cities taking a stand against the scourge of animal mills and archaic pet stores that sell dogs and cats.

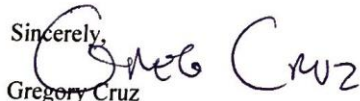
Mass companion animal breeding facilities, aka: 'puppy and kitten mills', are real. I've witnessed the incredible suffering they inflict as a result of their business model. While I appreciate the opportunity for industries to self-regulate, this industry has proven it is incapable of doing so. Mass breeders attempt to justify their actions and shield themselves with inadequate and antiquated federal standards and loosely-enforced state protections.

If you believe some mass breeders' websites you might think you could eat off of their floors. Perhaps this is the case if they anticipate an inspection. Such places are locked and 'out of bounds' to the general public. There's no denying that the parent animals of puppies and kittens destined for pet stores live in cages their entire lives. They are prisoners churning out litter after litter, year after year. They do so until they can no longer, or until their health declines, or until pet stores want to sell the next type of designer animal, or until these poor, broken creatures are crated up and dumped at 'puppy mill' auctions, or until the animals are taken out and shot or killed with a hammer. That's not an exaggeration. You will want to Google Thorp, WI puppy auction to get an idea of where our region's puppy mills dump their survivors. The 'lucky' animals are purchased by rescue groups that have to outbid greedy puppy mill operators who think they can make a quick buck bidding to get cheap breeding stock.

We as a community, and you as our leaders have the opportunity to take a stand to help animals and our unsuspecting public. By approving this measure you send a message to our metro area, to our state, to our region, to our country, and to the world that the people in Saint Paul have modern humane community standards and we will not tolerate cruelty, much less cruelty in the name of profit.

The above reasons should be enough reason to adopt Councilmember Noecker's proposed ordinance amendment. There's also a pragmatic aspect of this problem to consider. How much money does the City of Saint Paul spend on animal control and a City shelter? Most of these animals are dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens. How many of the City of Saint Paul's dollars are budgeted for the killing of unclaimed animals? Does the City really want to be associated in the killing of companion animals? Isn't it in the City's best interest to help promote a proactive way to help get these animals into the waiting arms of people who will pay to care for them and love them while decreasing cost to the City? An ordinance promoting adoption of homeless pets in pet stores costs the City nothing. It's a win for our City's budget, a win for the animals, for adopting families, for our rescue groups, for our pet stores, and it is a win for our City of Saint Paul and its residents.

Sincerely,



Gregory Cruz  
872 Goodrich Ave.