



May 15, 2017

Honorable Mayor Steinberg and Members of the City Council
City of Sacramento City Hall
915 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Consent Item 3 - Ordinance Amending Article IX of Chapter 9.44 of the Sacramento City Code Relating to the Sale and Advertisement of Dogs and Cats.

Dear Mayor Steinberg and Members of the City Council:

On behalf of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), I am writing to express our support for Consent Item 3, which would prohibit pet stores located in the City from selling pets. Founded in 1866, the ASPCA was the first humane society to be established in North America and is today one of the largest in the world. Our organization was founded on the belief that animals are entitled to kind and respectful treatment at the hands of humans and must be protected under the law.

The vast majority of pet store puppies and kittens come from commercial breeding facilities. These facilities are financially motivated to produce a high volume of litters at the lowest cost. In doing so, the adult breeding dogs are forced to endure intolerable conditions during their breeding years. The poor conditions have been well documented through the ASPCA's campaign, "NoPetStorePuppies." As part of the campaign, the ASPCA has collected and made public over 22,000 photographs taken by the USDA inside federally licensed commercial breeding facilities during routine inspections. The photos show the grim reality of how animals are subjected to inhumane and unhealthy living conditions.

Furthermore, studies demonstrate that animals bred in poor conditions suffer health and behavior problems. In particular, dogs bred in puppy mills experience increased aggression toward humans and other dogs, separation anxiety, and fear of other dogs and nonsocial stimuli. These problems have been well-documented but these risks are not disclosed to buyers who believe they are buying healthy puppies. Families are often unprepared for financial and emotional consequences of caring for an ill or behaviorally challenged dog.

To this end, we support efforts aimed at reducing the demand for and access to pets bred in commercial facilities. Unfortunately, federal laws are failing to protect the animals housed and produced in commercial mills and sold in pet stores. However, communities across the country are taking a stand against this cruelty. Over 220 municipalities have decided to take matters into their own hands by adopting local ordinances, like the one proposed in the City, which ban the sale of pets that are sourced from commercial facilities.

The ASPCA commends your leadership in bringing such a ban forward for the City Council's consideration. We believe that the ordinance being considered for adoption would help to reduce the demand for commercially-bred dogs, while still allowing promoting partnerships with shelters offering animals for adoption. I respectfully urge you to support the proposed prohibition on the sale of dogs and cats in City of Sacramento pet stores.



Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your humane leadership in addressing this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Riggs', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Susan Lea Riggs
Senior Legislative Director, Western Region
Susan.riggs@aspca.org
(916) 584-1816

cc. City of Sacramento City Clerk