

Why Banning the Sale of Cats, Dogs and Rabbits in Pet Stores is Important

- Animals sold in pet stores are not sourced from responsible, reputable or ethical breeders. They are sourced from unknown backgrounds, often receiving less than minimum care and oversight by a licensed veterinarian.
- With no sterilization requirement, this often perpetuates the overpopulation of unwanted animals.
- With potential health problems, and weak guarantees from the sellers, these animals often contribute to the high rate of abandonment, surrender, and ultimately, euthanasia in our shelters.
- Reputable breeders guarantee the health and genetic integrity of their animals, with health screening for both parent dogs and puppies. Pet stores offer no such guarantee or consumer protection.
- Ethically conscious pet stores actively collaborate with shelter and rescue groups, raising awareness to help overcome the staggering number of homeless animals. They do this by regularly hosting adoption days.

A few good reasons to close off the retail channel of selling pets for profit:

- To shut down animal mills (large scale commercial breeding operations) and close off the retail distribution channel for animals that come from unethical and irresponsible breeders; (backyard breeders, etc.);
- To reduce the number of surrendered, abandoned, and unwanted animals;
- To reduce the high rate of euthanasia in shelters;
- To reduce impulse purchases;
- To address concerns regarding the care and treatment of animals for sale in pet stores;
- To address the feral cat overpopulation;
- To help promote the humane treatment of cats, dogs and rabbits;
- To protect consumers from purchasing sick and/or ill-bred animals.

The public at large do not want to knowingly support animal abuse and/or cruelty. Banning the sale of these pets in our pet stores will have a direct impact on:

- Reducing the supply and demand of animals sourced from unethical backgrounds;
- Reducing the number of unwanted, abandoned and/or surrendered pets;
- Reducing animal intake in shelters;
- Increasing adoptions in shelters;
- Decreasing euthanasia in shelters;
- Reducing impulse purchasing at the retail level;
- Promoting the humane treatment of animals.