

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 4:24 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Categories: SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS, DOWNLOADED

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Live Form

Topic Ban Retail Sale of Dogs & Cats

BCC Agenda Date 6-7-2022

Your Stand on the Issue Support

Comments Please join progressive cities like Saint Pete, Safety Harbor, Dunedin and Largo and ban retail pet stores in Pinellas County. For reasons already researched, and you probably have already read, breeding for the trade is a cruel practice. There is no need for it, with so many unwanted and neglected animals, and active responsible private breeders. Please please vote to ban retail pet sales and no grandfathering.

Citizen Name Debra Moroff

Address 1014 Osprey Ct.
Dunedin, FL 34698
United States

Phone 786-853-6979

Email damoroff@aol.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:59 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Live Form

Topic Ordinance updates to Chapter 14 of the Pinellas County Code relating to animals specifically regarding the retail sale of dogs and cats in Pinellas County.

BCC Agenda Date 6-7-2022

Your Stand on the Issue

Comments Dear Commissioners Deggers, Flowers, Gerard, Justice, Long, Peters, and Seel, First, thank you for your service to the residents of Pinellas County. I am writing to support the ban on Puppy Retail Stores, and oppose the grandfathering of any such store. FL has 80+ counties/cities who have already passed this ordinance, and 6 states have passed a state wide ordinance. The grandfathering clause is best proven by Hillsborough County who included this in the ordinance, however, has recently reversed that decision, now having a total ban. This would put a sharp decrease in the puppy mills in which the sites are horrific. Investigative undercover work, as well as personal visits to the stores demonstrate the lies being told to the consumer. BBB ratings also confirm the medical issues of these puppies. Reputable Breeders do not sell to pet stores! The life in a puppy mill is haunting! I am asking you please, to be the voice for those who don't have one. To protect your residents from being lied to over & over. The modern day pet store model is a win-win for all. By having adoption only models, partnering with shelters & rescue groups, this would be a financial relief, as well as showing that Pinellas has compassion for all living breathing beings. Stores such as Petsmart have proven this model works. Thank you for your time, your consideration and for thinking of the residents, the animals and putting an end to such a cruel & abusive life.

Citizen Name Terri Blake

Address	65 Somerset St. #4 Clearwater Beach, FL 33767 United States
Phone	813-997-1922
Email	tb7565@gmail.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Brenda Jaenicke <mandbmarine@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:37 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners, As a resident of Pinellas County, I ask you to please vote NO on the proposal to allow the continued sale of puppies in retail stores and instead shut down the puppy mill pipeline into our community. As written, the current proposal would not address the puppy mill pipeline that imports cruelly bred dogs from commercial dog breeding operations into Pinellas County for resale in stores. Our community deserves better. Over 80 local governments across Florida, including several cities within Pinellas County, have already passed laws aimed at ending the retail sale of pets in pet stores. Pinellas County should join this growing list of local governments and pass a law that clearly prohibits the sale of puppies in pet stores. Thank you for your time and consideration of my position. Sincerely,
Brenda Jaenicke
Largo

Johnson, Krista

From: Marcella Vinciguerra <marcella.vinciguerra@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:34 PM
To: Long, Janet C; pgerard@pinellacounty.org; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; kpeters@pinellacounty.org; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Sincerely,

Marcella Vinciguerra

Johnson, Krista

From: Linda Lynch <linda_ann_lynch@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:33 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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local governments across Florida, including several cities within Pinellas County, have already passed laws aimed at ending the retail sale of pets in pet stores. Pinellas County should join this growing list of local governments and pass a law that clearly prohibits the sale of puppies in pet stores. Thank you for your time and consideration of my position. Sincerely,

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Johnson, Krista

From: Cathy Vinciguerra <cmv50cnm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 3:14 PM
To: Long, Janet C; pgerard@pinellacounty.org; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; kpeters@pinellacounty.org; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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I have been especially troubled over the past few months seeing what I fear is a puppy mill store on Gulf to Bay in Clearwater, near the corner of Belcher Rd. There is a small strip mall there and a large sign that reads "PUPPIES, PUPPIES, PUPPIES". And to make sure you don't miss it, there is a "sign spinner" standing near the curb on Gulf to Bay to grab the attention of passersby. It certainly has grabbed my attention.

PLEASE PROTECT THESE ANIMALS AND THE CITIZENS OF PINELLAS COUNTY. PLEASE PASS THIS LAW PROHIBITING THE SALE OF PUPPIES IN PET STORES.

Sincerely,
Cathy M. Vinciguerra
cmv50cnm@yahoo.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Alicia <usftampaamericanstudies2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:51 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. [Do not](#) click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

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Johnson, Krista

From: Pam Emery <pemery@jmcdev.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:50 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Gerard, Pat; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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As a resident of Pinellas County, I ask you to please vote NO on the proposal to allow the continued sale of puppies in retail stores and instead shut down the puppy mill pipeline into our community. As written, the current proposal would not address the puppy mill pipeline that imports cruelly bred dogs from commercial dog breeding operations into Pinellas County for resale in stores.

Our community deserves better. Over 80 local governments across Florida, including several cities within Pinellas County, have already passed laws aimed at ending the retail sale of pets in pet stores. Pinellas County should join this growing list of local governments and pass a law that clearly prohibits the sale of puppies in pet stores.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my position.

Sincerely,

Pamela Emery

Johnson, Krista

From: Sue <ossenberg07@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:35 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioners,

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Thank you for your time and consideration of my position.

Sincerely,

Susan Ossenberg

Johnson, Krista

From: Judith Seltrecht <jseltrecht123@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:32 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Proposed changes to pet store ordinance
Attachments: FAKC COMMISSIONER CHARLIE JUSTICE PINELLAS COUNTY 06062022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Please review my letter regarding the pet store ordinance

Sincerely,

Judith Seltrecht
President
Florida Association of Kennel Clubs



"A 501 (C) (3) Non Profit Dedicated to Protecting the Pure Bred Dog

June 6, 2022

Dear Commissioner Justice:

The Florida Association of Kennel Clubs is a Federation of the American Kennel Club. We support the preservation of pure bred dogs and the humane treatment of all animals. Our venues generate millions of dollars into the local community and are offered to all pure bred and mixed breed dogs, whether they originate from a rescue, breeder or pet store.

As a long standing member of the Hillsborough County Animal Advisory Board, I have met the individuals from All About Puppies. The Director of Animal Services and the Chief of the Enforcement Department in Hillsborough County stated they were exemplary in every aspect of their business. Sadly, after being grandfathered in Hillsborough County pet stores were banned due to a knee jerk reaction on a totally unrelated business which was neither a pet store nor responsible breeder. Do not let this happen in your county.

It appears that much of the information in the proposal is provided by the Humane Society of the United States which has not provided you with information they support the importation of dogs from many countries which have been banned temporarily by the CDC and USDA. Could they be in competition with Pet Stores and USDA licensed breeders?

Their comments do not mention that most areas with bans have not had a pet store in business.

The comments do not mention that Florida has one of the strictest "Pet Lemon Laws" with fines.

Their comments do not mention that many rescues buy and then rehome dogs from substandard kennels, here and abroad, offering no guarantees.

Their comments do not mention the scams, sales and transfers going on at our airports without protection to the health, safety and welfare of the people.

I encourage you, rather than banning and limiting current pet stores require excellence. Provide equal protection to all residents purchasing and rehoming dogs from Craig's list, rescues, unlicensed kennels and overseas sources as you would require from a pet store or breeder.

Yours sincerely

Judith Seltrecht

President, Florida Association of Kennel Clubs

Member Hillsborough County Animal Advisory Committee

Delegate, American Kennel Club

Johnson, Krista

From: danajunemcpherson@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:11 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Gerard, Pat; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave
Subject: Please to vote 'no" on tomorrow's ordinance-so we can prevent retail sale of puppies born in puppy mills

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of Pinellas County, I ask you to please vote **NO** on the proposal to allow the continued sale of puppies in retail stores and instead shut down the puppy mill pipeline into our community! As written, **the current proposal would not address** the puppy mill pipeline that imports **cruelly bred dogs** from **commercial dog breeding operations** into Pinellas County for resale in stores.

Our community deserves better. Over 80 local governments across Florida, including several cities within Pinellas County, have already passed laws aimed at ending the retail sale of pets in pet stores. Pinellas County should join this growing list of local governments and pass a law the clearly prohibits the sale of puppies in pet stores.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my position.

Dana June McPherson
770 331 1807
2048 Michigan Ave NE
Saint Petersburg, FL 33703

Johnson, Krista

From: Krystal Burroughs <islandrulesgirl@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:06 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioners,

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Our community deserves better. Over 80 local governments across Florida, including several cities within Pinellas County, have already passed laws aimed at ending the retail sale of pets in pet stores. Pinellas County should join this growing list of local governments and pass a law that clearly prohibits the sale of puppies in pet stores.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my position.

Sincerely,
Krystal Burroughs

Johnson, Krista

From: Marilyn Johnson <mjscreations04@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Subject: Pinellas resident asks that you don't grandfather in the 6 retail pet stores.
Categories: SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS, DOWNLOADED

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

Please ban the existing retail pet stores from selling dogs and cats. There is little consumer protection for buyers and solid proof these pups come from puppy mills. The Pinellas county presentation on this topic states:

Research supports:

- USDA is not adequately regulating the dog breeding industry
- The USDA is failing to safeguard the health and welfare of the dogs being produced by the industry.

Consumer Protection:

Florida Department of Agriculture

- Doesn't provide any additional protections for the dogs transported into the state for sale.
- Requires the Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection on each dog to be submitted for record-keeping.
- Provides little protection for consumers with the Pet Lemon Law, FS828.29

The county's ordinance allows the stores to sell to other buyers, so they will never phase-out.

Every other surrounding county has banned retail pet stores, as have 75 Florida jurisdictions and 5 states. Jennifer Hobgood, the Senior Director of State Legislation with the ASPCA, spoke at the Manatee County Commission Meeting for the ban of retail pet sales. She stated public information in Florida clearly shows that puppies sold at retail stores come from puppy mills. Their staff analyzed over 5,000 input reports from the Florida Department of Agriculture over a 6-month period and found puppy

importers and breeders brought 12,000 puppies into Florida to sell at pet stores with more than 80% of those originating in only five Midwestern states that have the highest concentration of puppy mills; Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Kansas. One in four of the puppies shipped to Florida stores came from breeding and brokerage facilities in Missouri alone. This leads to contagious and hereditary illnesses in puppies and of course the suffering of the breeder dogs. In June 2021, the ASPCA filed a lawsuit against the USDA for failure to enforce the Animal welfare act because even if a puppy mill passes inspection, the USDA standards are so low, they are considered inhumane by animal organizations, and most people.

I am for a full retail pet store ban in Pinellas County, and not grandfathering in the 6 stores already in business. Thank you for your consideration on this urgent matter!

Sincerely,
Marilyn Johnson

Johnson, Krista

From: Cyndi Rennick <greyadvocatemom@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Fw: Please vote NO!

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Cynthia Rennick
10587 118th Ter
Largo, FL 33773
727-417-0913

Johnson, Krista

From: Renee Raitano <renee10240@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 2:01 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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*Renee L. Raitano
727-742-5520 Cell
Seminole, Fl. 33777*

Johnson, Krista

From: Mona Spangler <mona.spangler@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Thank you for your time and consideration of my position.

Sincerely,

Mona Spangler

Sent from my iPhone

Johnson, Krista

From: Patty Hatfield <clayginger@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 1:51 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Thank you for your time and consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

Patty Hatfield and Peggy Flowers
clayginger@earthlink.net

"Life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to man. Just as one wants happiness and fears pain, just as one wants to live and not die, so do other creatures."

~The Dalai Lama

Johnson, Krista

From: Jonathan Piper <JDPIPER1@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 1:51 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Please Vote NO on Pet Sales Ordinance

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Jonathan Piper

Johnson, Krista

From: Roxanne Palmer <mrsroxypalmer@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Hello Commissioners - I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering and hope you do, too.

Have a Blessed Day!
Roxanne Palmer, M.S.Ed.
11586 Murray Ave, 33778

*"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."
— Albert Einstein*

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:42 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

Categories: SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS, DOWNLOADED

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Live Form

Topic	Ordinance to update Chapter 14
BCC Agenda Date	6-7-2022
Your Stand on the Issue	Support
Comments	please vote yes to ban the retail sales of dogs, cats, and rabbits. Please also vote to NOT allow grandfathering in of businesses that currently sell these animals.
Citizen Name	Denise Cumbee
Address	12373 84th Way Largo, 33773 United States
Phone	
Email	denise.alex3@verizon.net

Johnson, Krista

From: maureen nolan <ceaserbug@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:26 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Seel, Karen; Eggers, Dave; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie; Gerard, Pat
Subject: Pinellas resident asks that you don't grandfather in the 6 retail pet stores.
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Research supports:

- USDA is not adequately regulating the dog breeding industry
- The USDA is failing to safeguard the health and welfare of the dogs being produced by the industry.

Consumer Protection:

Florida Department of Agriculture

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I am for a full retail pet store ban in Pinellas County, and not grandfathering in the 6 stores already in business. Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,
Maureen Nolan

Johnson, Krista

From: Sandi Whitman <wingwen10@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 12:20 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: FW: I support No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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"I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering"

Thank you

Sandi Whitman 720-454-2454

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Johnson, Krista

From: Kate MacFall <kmacfall@humanesociety.org>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 11:38 AM
To: Kate MacFall
Subject: Pet Retail Sales and Puppy Mills
Attachments: 2021 Pet Store Industry Trends.pdf; General pet store ordinance fact sheet_10 25.docx; Humane Pet Store Bill FAQ.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Hello Commissioners and Mr. Chairman,
Thank you for your time and attention on the puppy mill and pet retail sales issue! It's an important animal welfare and consumer protection issue.
It sounds like the final decision at tomorrow's meeting may be to grandfather in the existing stores and prevent any future puppy selling pet stores from opening in your county although I hope you are still open to a phase out of the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits with a requirement for the stores to transition to a more humane pet store model selling goods/ services and not selling pets.
I cannot attend your meeting (although several volunteers plan to attend) because I will be attending a county commission meeting on the east coast of FL supporting a proposed ordinance that will phase out the retail sale of dogs, cats & rabbits in 1 years' time. The proposed ordinance stipulates the stores must adhere to a humane pet store model (which is more profitable anyway) and phase out the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits.

High volume retail sales require high volume breeders. And responsible breeders are just that- responsible. A responsible breeder would never sell their puppies to a pet store- don't take my word for it, ask a responsible breeder in your community. It's actually in their code of ethics.
Everyone knows puppy selling pet stores source their puppies from puppy mills, a dirty, cruel and inhumane business. And the consumer protection issue is equally problematic. AG Ashley Moody's office has an ongoing investigation into a Petland store in Orange County due to the high volume of complaints. Clearly there is reason for concern if her office is investigating.
There is endless research on the cruelty of puppy mills and in fact the Humane Society of the United States has an entire department working on puppy mills nationwide. The animal welfare community often has varied opinions on issues, but there is strong agreement community wide on the opposition of puppy mills and pet retail sales. The HSUS worked closely with Orange and Manatee Counties on their ordinances that passed in 2021.

I do understand the pushback from the other side and have some understanding of the difficult decisions in your duties as a county commissioner. (thank you)

I trust you all will do as you think is best for your community but just a few quick points:

- 84 municipalities in Florida have enacted similar ordinances phasing out the retail sale of pets
- This is about right versus wrong and the humane treatment of animals- don't be fooled. Puppy selling pet stores do source from puppy mills.
- The consumer protection and predatory lending concerns are very real.
- There are 12 Petland stores nationwide that do not sell puppies. And countless independently owned stores that do not sell puppies.

- Yes, we are working on this at the state level but it will take some time...
- Spreadsheet with list of FL ordinances: [List of Ordinances](#)

We would very much support a decision to phase out and ultimately prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits and require pet stores to adopt to a humane pet store model and truly appreciate your time and efforts on this important issue.

Best,
Kate
(850) 508-1001

Kate MacFall

Florida Senior State Director
kmacfall@humanesociety.org
850.508.1001

humanesociety.org



The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's most effective animal protection organization, fighting for all animals for more than 60 years. To support our work, please make a [monthly donation](#), give in [another way](#) or [volunteer](#).



Pet Store Industry Trends & Leader Quotes

When faced with legislation that would prohibit pet stores from selling commercially raised puppies and kittens, puppy-selling pet store owners and lobbyists argue the policy would put them out of business. Yet, they also admit only 4% of Americans obtain pets from pet stores and their own industry repeatedly points to the fact that a products and services model is the key to pet retail success.

According to the American Pet Products Association:

- Americans spent \$103 billion on their pets in 2020 with pet food, products, and services dominating.
- Dog and cat sales were excluded for the second year because they are a “relatively small contributor to overall sales” and are “typically obtained outside of the retail pet channel.”
- Despite the challenges of the pandemic, “pet specialty and independent retailers experienced solid growth in 2020.”
- Stores added services like boarding, grooming, insurance, training, pet sitting and walking services to have an edge over online retailers.

According to *Pet Business Magazine*, of the top 25 pet retailers in North America only one sells puppies, and that chain (Petland) has moved down the list. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, “the pet industry’s biggest retail chains continued to thrive by leveraging their unique strengths while developing new channels to reach consumers.” In fact, more than half of the top retailers expanded in 2020.

According to *Ex-Parthenon*, one of the largest consulting organizations in the world, the pet store industry has become “a potentially explosive market” as Americans are increasingly spending more on fancy food, treats, clothing, and premium services, and 78% of people prefer to shop for their pets in brick-and-mortar stores.

According to the *World Pet Association*, in 2019 pet stores that only sold dry goods reported more total revenue per square foot (\$403) than those that sold animals (\$246).

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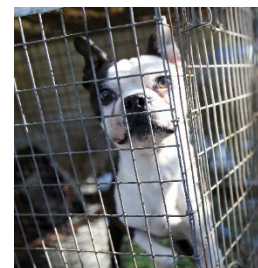
Woof Gang Bakery & Grooming, the 8th largest pet store chain, added 15 new locations in 2020 and reported the average per-store revenue was up by more than 23%. The key factor to this growth was introducing pet grooming services after “listening and responding to market demand.” On the sale of puppies, Woof Gang representatives have said: “To be perfectly clear, the Woof Gang Bakery company adamantly opposes the archaic and abhorrent practice of puppy mill breeding and selling puppy mill dogs. Good pet stores do not sell puppies and responsible pet breeders do not sell to stores.”

Pet Food Express, the 15th largest pet store chain, focuses on “products that meet rigorous quality standards” and “the very best customer service” and proudly partners shelters and rescues to adopt out homeless pets. In a letter to support California legislation to prohibit the sale of commercially raised puppies in pet stores, the owners wrote: “We support AB 485 because we want to see all pet stores operate responsibly. Not only is it the right thing to do, but it’s the key to a successful business.”

PetSmart and PetCo, the two largest chains, have never sold dogs or cats. Instead, both offer a wide range of products and services and partner with thousands of animal welfare organizations across the nation to showcase adoptable pets. This not only saves lives, but also increases profits for the stores, as adoption event days are often their busiest and most profitable with adopters buying everything they need for their new pet, often spending 5 times more than the average shopper and becoming a loyal customer.

HUMANE PET STORE ORDINANCE

Background: Selling commercially raised puppies and kittens in pet store raises serious animal welfare and consumer protection issues. By prohibiting pet stores from selling commercially raised dogs and cats but allowing them to partner with shelters and rescues to host adoption events and sell products and services, lawmakers can protect consumers and promote humane businesses.



Nearly 400 localities across 30 states and five states have already enacted this policy.

A humane pet store ordinance will reduce the demand for puppy mill puppies.

- Pet stores can only fill their cages everyday with dozens of 8-week-old puppies of varying breeds by sourcing from large-scale commercial breeders that place profit over the wellbeing of their dogs.
- Public records show the vast majority of puppy-selling pet stores source the majority of their puppies from large scale commercial breeders and brokers, many with egregious animal welfare records.
- Responsible breeders never sell to pet stores because they demand to meet prospective buyers in person and their breed clubs' codes of ethics do not allow it.

A humane pet store ordinance will protect puppies from the puppy mill-pet store pipeline.

- Pet store puppies are born into cruel and unsanitary conditions, taken from their mothers at just 7-8 weeks old, crammed into cages and trucked across the country in close proximity to other stressed and sick puppies, and then placed in pet store cages to be handled by inexperienced staff and consumers.
- Overcrowding, filthy conditions, and lack of basic veterinary oversight at commercial breeding facilities and during transport lead to many health issues once puppies reach pet stores. According to the CDC, 95% of pet store puppies have been pumped with antibiotics.
- Neither the USDA nor any state agency adequately protect breeding dogs or puppies, and USDA license does not mean a facility is not a puppy mill.

A humane pet store ordinance will protect consumers from a wide range of problems.

- Pet stores charge premium prices for puppies by promising consumers the puppies are from quality breeders, yet if consumers could see the conditions the puppies were born into and transported in, they would overwhelmingly refuse to support that cruelty.
- Pet store puppies are often sick, costing consumers hundreds or thousands of dollars in veterinary bills, and sometimes leaving them with the heartbreak of having a new pet die or having to relinquish them.
- Contact with pet store puppies has led to an antibiotic-resistant disease outbreak that sickened over 100 Americans and led one CDC official to state that "it is difficult to control a whole system that lacks hygiene at many points and seems to use antibiotics instead."
- When consumers balk at the price of puppies, sales staff offer third party financing with low interest rates. Yet, pet store customers have unknowingly ended up with interest rates as high as 188%.

A humane pet store ordinance supports responsible pet businesses and pet acquisition.

- The massive retail pet industry (\$103 billion and counting) is dominated by the sale of pet products and services, with dog and cat sales not even tracked anymore after steadily declining for years.
- Stores that have sold puppies in the past are now thriving with a products and services model, with some adding high demand services like grooming, training, or daycare.
- Residents will still be able to obtain the pet of their choice by adopting from a local shelter or rescue or seeking out a responsible breeder who sells directly to the public.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Humane Pet Store Law FAQ

What will this bill/ordinance do?

It will drive the pet market towards more humane sources such as shelters, rescues and responsible breeders by prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. This is a reasonable restriction that alleviates a wide range of documented problems that stem from the sale of puppies in pet stores.

What problems do puppy-selling pet stores pose?

Animal welfare problems: It is hard to imagine a worse pipeline for an 8-week-old puppy to be immersed. Most pet store puppies are born in cruel and unsanitary puppy mills, taken from their mothers at just weeks old, trucked long distances, and then placed on a pet store sales floor. What pet store customers don't see are the mother dogs languishing in faraway puppy mills, provided bare minimum care to keep them alive and breeding.

Consumer protection problems: Because of the conditions they were born into, overbreeding and inbreeding of their mothers, the stress of transport, and comingling with other sick puppies, pet store puppies are likely to be sick, often costing customers hundreds or thousands of dollars in veterinary costs, sometimes only to suffer the heartbreak of their new pet dying. Because pet store puppies were taken from their mothers and littermates too early and know nothing but life in a cage, they are also likely to have behavior problems. Consumers are also often misled with false promises about a puppy's health, socialization, and the breeder they came from.

Public health problems: According to the American Medical Association and the CDC, pet store puppies continue to expose staff and customers to an antibiotic-resistant strain of *Campylobacter*. Some patients endured prolonged hospital stays because the infection wasn't treatable with traditional antibiotics. This outbreak is a result of pet stores responding to the high numbers of sick, or likely-to-be sick, puppies with reckless antibiotic overuse.

Predatory lending: Puppy financing options are a key part of the pet store sales pitch, since few can afford thousands of dollars for a puppy out-of-pocket. So, pet stores push financing and promise low or no interest rates. Yet, pet store customers have unknowingly ended up with interest rates as high as 188%, and some have to make payments on puppies that died shortly after purchase.

Why don't responsible breeders sell to pet stores?

Responsible breeders only sell directly to the public so they can screen prospective buyers in person. They would never hand over their puppies to a truck driver to be transported to a faraway pet store, displayed like a product, and sold to anyone with a credit card. Plus, most breed clubs discourage selling to pet stores and pride themselves on selling exclusively to individuals or families they have met.

What impact will this bill have on existing pet stores?

The vast majority of pet stores—both large and small—are already in compliance with this bill as they do not sell puppies. Those that do sell puppies are an outlier in their own industry and are ignoring market trends. Any pet store would be smart to tap into the \$103 billion pet market that is dominated by the sale of pet products and services. Some puppy-selling pet store owners have claimed puppies are their niche and they need that to compete against other stores. Luckily, those willing to put in the effort to change their business model can find a new niche and thrive.

For instance, Daryl's Pet Store in Redlands, CA has been in business since 1975. After the statewide prohibition on dog and cat sales went into effect, they ramped up their focus on high quality pet supplies and started offering "a full suite of grooming services." Love's Pets in Agoura Hills, CA sold puppies before the law went into effect too. Now they boast on their website: "We have over 30 years of experience providing expert non-veterinary care, grain-free 1st quality food & treats, nutritional supplements, and pet toys & accessories." Park Pet Shop was required to stop selling dogs and cats after the Chicago law went into effect, and the store remains open with a products and services model that includes grooming and aquarium services.

What impact will this bill have on the puppy mill industry?

It is well-documented that most pet store puppies come from puppy mills. Basic principles of supply and demand dictate that if pet stores no longer buy puppies from mills, that inhumane marketplace will shrink and less dogs will be forced into a life of confinement to be bred repeatedly. Also, a report on dog breeders from IBISWorld Industry found that

“adopt don’t shop” campaigns and a steadily declining number of pet stores working with breeders has led to decreased revenues for breeders. The report notes an additional benefit—when low-quality breeders are forced out of the industry, the overall quality of breeders will slowly improve and eventually there will be far less puppy mills and far more reputable breeders. Although the impact of pet store ordinances on the puppy mill industry is less traceable and more gradual than many would like, it is crucial to note that 100% of the consumer protection issues that pet stores pose go away when stores stop selling puppies.

What impact will this bill have on unscrupulous rescues?

Most rescues operate responsibly while doing the lifesaving work of rehoming animals. At the same time, puppy mills churn out as many puppies as possible with no regard for the health and wellbeing of their breeding dogs or their offspring, nor for the public who will end up with unhealthy pets. Under this bill, pet stores would be allowed to partner with rescues to host adoption events, as this has been proven to drive consumers to stores, but stores have total control over which rescues they work with or if they work with rescues at all. Focusing on rescues is merely an attempt to deflect attention away from the massive puppy mill problem.

What does a USDA license say about the quality of a breeder?

A USDA license says almost nothing about the quality of a breeder, as standards are shockingly low and enforcement is severely lacking. Pet stores that brag about sourcing from USDA-licensed breeders apparently feel it is acceptable to confine dogs in stacked, wire cages only six inches larger than themselves for their entire lives, denying them exercise and basic veterinary care, and breeding them at every heat cycle until their bodies wear out, as all of this is allowed under federal law. Many licensed breeders fail to even meet the low standards, yet the USDA continues to license them year after year. In recent years, the USDA has proven it cares far more about protecting the puppy mill industry than regulating it, with policies that instruct inspectors to avoid citing for most violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

Where can people obtain the dog of their choice if not from a pet store?

According to the pet industry, only 4% of dogs are obtained from pet stores, so no significant impact on consumer choice will be felt. People can still adopt from a shelter or rescue or purchase a puppy from a responsible breeder who happily allows consumers to see where the puppy was bred and raised. A search of the AKC Marketplace, for instance, shows there are many puppies of popular breeds available in the area from breeders that consumers can meet in person.

Are pet stores a regulated outlet for puppy-buying consumers?

There are minimal legal protections for pet store animals and consumers. Few states regulate the source of pet store puppies – the root of all problems with puppy-selling pet stores. No state or locality has the authority to regulate breeders and dealers in other states. The federal government does not regulate pet stores, and its regulation of commercial breeders is minimal at best.

Why don’t pet store laws increase “black market” online puppy sales?

Even though the USDA has been regulating those who sell puppies over the internet for the past 8 years and breeders who sell online face the same regulation as those who sell to pet stores, puppy-selling pet stores continue to argue that online sales are a “black market.” Also, there is no evidence that pet store laws have led to increased online puppy sales. For one, pet store customers want to meet a puppy in person before purchase, so they are more likely to seek out a responsible breeder or a shelter or rescue than buy a puppy sight-unseen online. Also, pet stores cater to impulse purchases. Without that cute puppy in the window in high foot traffic areas, many wouldn’t buy a puppy at all.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Johnson, Krista

From: Hans Hess <hess@cbsinet.com>
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 9:41 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Subject: Pinellas resident - Don't grandfather in the 6 retail pet stores.
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners;

Good morning, I am a Pinellas Residents and would like you to ban the existing retail pet stores from selling dogs and cats.

There is little consumer protection for buyers and solid proof these puppies come from puppy mills. Every other surrounding county has banned retail pet stores, as have 75 Florida jurisdictions as well as 5 other states.

I am for a **FULL RETAIL PET STORE BAN** in Pinellas County, and **NOT GRANDFATHERING** in the 6 stores already in business here.

This matters a great deal to me and will be part of my next voting decision.

Thank you for your time.

Hans Hess
603 Lennox Rd W
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 8:04 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

Categories: SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS, DOWNLOADED

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Live Form

Topic	Chapter 14 Retail Sale of Dogs and Cats
BCC Agenda Date	6-07-2022
Your Stand on the Issue	Undecided
Comments	I support a full ban on the commercial sale of dogs and cats in Pinellas County. I support updates to the ordinance which require permits and more humane living conditions for animals.
Citizen Name	Cathleen Harrington
Address	10450 Blossom Lake Dr Seminole, FL 33772 United States
Phone	630-8021228
Email	deanandcathy4718@hotmail.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Renee Rivard <monarch.renee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 10:36 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Commissioner Justice, Please Make a Motion

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Hi Commissioner Justice,

Would you please make a motion at Tuesday's meeting for a full ban on the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits? I think we have provided plenty of information about the rabbits to warrant a ban. The SPCA in Pinellas took in 311 unwanted pet rabbits last year, roughly 250 in 2020, and roughly 300 in 2019. That is a big expense. The Humane Society in Tampa spent \$40k just spaying and neutering 261 rabbits last year! New York state is waiting for the governor to sign into law a ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits. You seem like a no nonsense type of man. This is a bunch of nonsense that private citizens are having to jump in and try to rescue rabbits from parks and apartment complexes. Appreciate any help you can give. Thank you!

Renee Rivard

Johnson, Krista

From: Robin S <rvschenck@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 9:54 PM
To: Rvschenck@gmail.com
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioner:

Please do not allow the six puppy stores to continue to procure from puppy mills. (being grandfathered in). This should not be condoned any longer by ANY pet store.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Robin Schenck

Johnson, Krista

From: Samantha Turetsky <samituretsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 7:43 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Subject: comment as constituent

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Hello,

My name is Dr. Samantha Turetsky. I'm a licensed psychologist and homeowner in Pinellas County, Florida, and I am writing to you today as your constituent regarding the retail ban on the sale of puppies and kittens on Tuesday, June 7th. I am asking that you ban the retail sale of puppies and kittens, WITHOUT grandfathering in existing stores.

As someone who dedicates many hours of my personal time per week to volunteering with a local animal rescue, I have seen first hand how rampant the problem of pet overpopulation is in our city, and constantly see pleas from individuals and rescues about needing to rehome or surrender their animals, as well as the overwhelming number of homeless animals in our shelters. All our surrounding counties have enacted a retail ban on the sale of puppies and kittens. Why has Pinellas not understood the importance of this ban?

Please watch the video below to get a sample of what pet stores support in our community:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5p4MRndc4AU>

You personally have a chance to use your power and your voice to help innocent animals who cannot speak for themselves. Please, I beg you, do the right thing, side with justice, and pass the retail ban of animals without grandfathering in existing stores. I want our county to stand for values I can feel good about- and that means closing all pet stores once and for all.

Sincerely,

--

Dr. Samantha Turetsky, Psy.D.
Licensed Psychologist

Johnson, Krista

From: Kim <kgronemeyer@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 7:02 PM
To: Peters, Kathleen; Seel, Karen; Long, Janet C; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I'm writing today to urge you to vote yes on the ban of retail sales of cats, dogs (AND ADD RABBITS) and no to grandfathering in businesses that sell these animals. They lie about where the animals come from and support puppy mills while animals in the pound are put down because they can't find homes. Rabbits are bought and then released into the wild where they are doomed to die. The cycle has to stop. These inhumane businesses are just profiting off the lives of helpless, innocent animals that need our protection. Please show the animals the compassion they deserve. Thank you.

Johnson, Krista

From: Gaye Collins <gfcollins@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 6:22 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / NO Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Puppy mills should be banned across the country! No animal should be treated that way or be forced to live under such horrific conditions!

Gaye Collins
Belleair, FL

Johnson, Krista

From: Mike Meoni <meoniteam@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 11:35 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Retail Ban on animal sales

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioner

We just wanted to let you know that we support the ban on all retail animal sales that purchase their animals from puppy and other animal mills. These animals are treated cruelly And in many cases have serious health issues when they are sold to the general public without their knowledge. Pinellas County should not allow this to continue and allow these Retail store owners to profit from the misery of these defenseless animals. We urge you to vote for this ban and do the right thing.

Thank you.

Sincerely
Michael and Melody Meoni
Clearwater Fl.

Johnson, Krista

From: Elena Mavros <pidinc@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 9:19 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering

Elena Mavros

Sent from my iPhone

Johnson, Krista

From: LisaS <lisascheu@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 8:01 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Subject: Retail Puppy Sales is TORTURE
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,
Please ban the existing retail pet stores from selling dogs and cats. There is little consumer protection for buyers and solid proof these pups come from puppy mills.

I'm sure not a single, solitary one of you would even DREAM of buying a puppy from a retail store. Please follow your own heart and ban these terrible businesses.

Adopt, don't shop. You've heard it forever.

Lisa Scheuermann

Johnson, Krista

From: LAUREN GLASS <bellacatz@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 5, 2022 7:13 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: [BULK] PINELLAS RESIDENT ASKS THAT YOU DON'T GRANDFATHER IN THE 6 RETAIL PET STORES

Importance: Low

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioner,

Please ban the existing retail pet stores from selling dogs and cats. There is little consumer protection for buyers and solid proof these pups come from puppy mills. The Pinellas county presentation on this topic states:

Research supports:

- USDA is not adequately regulating the dog breeding industry
- The USDA is failing to safeguard the health and welfare of the dogs being produced by the industry.

Consumer Protection:

Florida Department of Agriculture

- Doesn't provide any additional protections for the dogs transported into the state for sale.
- Requires the Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection on each dog to be submitted for record-keeping.
- Provides little protection for consumers with the Pet Lemon Law, FS828.29

The ordinance the county is presenting allows the stores to sell to other buyers, so they will never phase-out. Every other surrounding county has banned retail pet stores, as have 75 Florida jurisdictions and 5 states.

Jennifer Hobgood, the Senior Director of State Legislation with the ASPCA, spoke at the Manatee County Commission Meeting for the ban of retail pet sales. She stated public information in Florida clearly shows that puppies sold at retail stores come from puppy mills. Their staff analyzed over 5,000 input reports from the Florida Department of Agriculture over a 6-month period and found puppy importers and breeders brought 12,000 puppies into Florida to sell at pet stores with more than 80% of those originating in only five Midwestern states that have the highest concentration of puppy mills; Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Kansas. One in four of the puppies shipped to Florida stores came from breeding and brokerage facilities in Missouri alone. This leads to contagious and hereditary illnesses in puppies and of course the suffering of the breeder dogs. In June 2021, the ASPCA filed a lawsuit against the USDA for failure to enforce the Animal welfare act because even if a puppy mill passes inspection, the USDA standards are so low, they are considered inhumane by animal organizations, and most people.

I am for a full retail pet store ban in Pinellas County, and not grandfathering in the 6 stores already in business. Thank you for your time. Lauren Rachel Glass 327 46th Ave N Saint Petersburg, FL 33703

Johnson, Krista

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of ggmeisels at gmail.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #24368024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of Inquiry	Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3 (2022 Chairman)
Subject	County Code Chapter 14 relating to the sale of animals
Message	You and I met many years ago when we lived on Tierra Verde in Pinellas County, and I liked and respected you. We now live in Hillsborough County. The above Chapter seems resonable EXCEPT for the inclusion of forbidding new or expansion of existing pet stores. (Section 14-29 I (d)) As a hobby breeder I often buy supplies from Pet Stores, so this would forbid improving concenience of access and quality of stores. It is also government interference with standard business practice. Please lead the County Commission to removing that part of the proposed ordinance. Thank you
Your Name	Gerhard G. Meisels
Your Street Address	10815 Great Whiteoaks Lane
City/Unincorporated County	Thonotosassa
Zip Code	33592
Your Phone Number	8132449641
Your Email Address	ggmeisels@gmail.com

This email was sent to cjustice@pinellascounty.org as a result of a form being completed.
[Click here](#) to report unwanted email.



Johnson, Krista

From: Andrea Wells <pawsonparade@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 9:19 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Subject: Clearwater resident requests Ban of Retail Pet Stores' selling of dogs & cats to Stop sanctioning the profiteering fr: Pain
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioners,

Please ban the existing retail pet stores from selling dogs and cats. There is little consumer protection for buyers and solid proof these pups come from puppy mills. The Pinellas county presentation on this topic states:

Research supports:

- USDA is not adequately regulating the dog breeding industry
- The USDA is failing to safeguard the health and welfare of the dogs being produced by the industry.

Consumer Protection:

Florida Department of Agriculture

- Doesn't provide any additional protections for the dogs transported into the state for sale.
- Requires the Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection on each dog to be submitted for record-keeping.
- Provides little protection for consumers with the Pet Lemon Law, FS828.29

The ordinance the county is presenting allows the stores to sell to other buyers, so they will never phase-out. Every other surrounding county has banned retail pet stores, as have 75 Florida jurisdictions and 5 states.

Jennifer Hobgood, the Senior Director of State Legislation with the ASPCA, spoke at the Manatee County Commission Meeting for the ban of retail pet sales. She stated public information in Florida clearly shows that puppies sold at retail stores come from puppy mills. Their staff analyzed over 5,000 input reports from the Florida Department of Agriculture over a 6-month period and found puppy importers and breeders brought 12,000 puppies into Florida to sell at pet stores with more than 80% of those originating in only five Midwestern states that have the highest concentration of puppy mills; Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Kansas. One in four of the puppies shipped to Florida stores came from breeding and brokerage facilities in Missouri alone. This leads to contagious and hereditary illnesses in puppies and of course the suffering of the breeder dogs. In June 2021, the ASPCA filed a lawsuit against the USDA for failure to enforce the Animal welfare act because even if a puppy mill passes inspection, the USDA standards are so low, they are considered inhumane by animal organizations, and most people.

I am for a full retail pet store ban in Pinellas County, and not grandfathering in the 6 stores already in business. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andrea E. Wells

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Johnson, Krista

From: CAPS <caps@caps-web.org>
Sent: Saturday, June 4, 2022 12:44 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: [BULK] Pinellas County Pet Shop Investigations

Importance: Low

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioner Justice:

I am the founder and president of Companion Animal Protection Society, which investigates the pet shop and puppy/kitten mill industry. Founded in 1992, CAPS understands every aspect of this cruel industry, which not only abuses and exploits animals but commits consumer fraud and misrepresentation.

Our investigators have gone undercover to more than 1,000 mills, most of them USDA-licensed, and to hundreds of pet shops around the country, including many in Florida. They've also worked undercover at the largest USDA licensed broker in the country, the most notorious broker/breeder, who had 900 adult dogs and 400 puppies (she was convicted and lost her USDA license based on our evidence), and two Petland stores. The investigative evidence for one Petland was featured in the hour-long story we did with Dateline in 2000; this exposé took us 13 months to produce.

CAPS has investigated USDA and compared our findings to those of USDA inspectors, which is why we were able to get a meeting with USDA's Office of Inspector General in 2006 through our pro bono lobbyists in Washington, D.C. The result of this two-hour meeting was a scathing OIG report in 2010. USDA encourages inspectors to not find violations or to write them up as teachable moments that don't appear on reports. When pet shops tell you their breeders have no violations, it means nothing. We are now gathering state inspection reports that have multiple violations for the same facilities that have no federal ones

Our West Hollywood ordinance, passed in 2010 was the genesis for the pet shop ordinance movement. CAPS was behind the Sarasota ordinance and trained the advocate who subsequently got ordinances passed in Manatee, Hillsborough and De Soto Counties.

Yesterday, New York passed a statewide retail ban law, which we had been trying to pass for four years after having investigated the 100 (now 58) pet shops in the state, many multiple times, and numerous puppy/kitten mills selling to them.

<https://www.caps-web.org/the-truth-behind-pinellas-county-florida-pet-shops/>

Here is the blog and video expose about the four Pinellas pet shops selling puppies and the one selling rabbits, birds, chicks and ducks that were open in August 2021. As you know, two more puppy selling pet shops subsequently opened. After reading the blog and watching the video exposé, if you aren't convinced that banning the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits is the ethical decision, then I will be happy to email you the full-length investigation reports. Hillsborough

realized that grandfathering in pet shops doesn't work. All about Puppies and Puppies Tampa (arrested for not using CVIs) have the same owners as your All about Puppies and Puppies St. Pete.

Maybe it doesn't bother you that the puppies being sold in your county's pet shops are raised in puppy mills. But you should be concerned about your citizens being deceived. Our investigations of pet shops are primarily about exposing the fraud and misrepresentations being told by owners, managers and employees. We also documented that Sunshine Puppies isn't complying with Largo's regulatory ordinance by failing to disclose breeder addresses and USDA numbers on cage cards.

The pet shops in your county use the same brokers and breeders as other pet shops in Florida. After Pinellas, our investigator went to the three pet shops in Lee County and six puppy stores and one rabbit and bird store in Miami Dade. Miami-Dade has 23 pet shops selling puppies, down from the 27 we investigated in 2018. The owner of Petland Largo also has franchises in Plantation, Pembroke Pines, Davie, Naples, Kendall, and Doral (opened in September 2021), four more in Texas and one in Kansas.

Kind regards,

Deborah A. Howard
President
Companion Animal Protection Society (CAPS)
805-492-CAPS
caps@caps-web.org
www.caps-web.org

[Facebook](#)/[Twitter](#)/[Instagram](#)



Founded in 1992, the Companion Animal Protection Society (CAPS) is the only national nonprofit dedicated exclusively to protecting companion animals from cruelty in pet shops and puppy/kitten mills. CAPS addresses animal suffering through investigations, outreach, legislation, legal advocacy, consumer assistance, and rescue.

Johnson, Krista

From: Tracy Isaacs <isaacs.tracy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Subject: [BULK] PET STORE VOTE ON 6/7
Importance: Low
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

Please ban the existing retail pet stores from selling dogs and cats!!

**The ordinance the county is presenting allows the stores to sell to other buyers, so they will never phase-out.
Every other surrounding county has banned retail pet stores, as have 75 Florida jurisdictions and 5 states.**

There is little consumer protection for buyers and solid proof these pups come from puppy mills. The Pinellas county presentation on this topic states:

Research supports:

- USDA is not adequately regulating the dog breeding industry
- The USDA is failing to safeguard the health and welfare of the dogs being produced by the industry.

Consumer Protection: Florida Department of Agriculture

- Doesn't provide any additional protections for the dogs transported into the state for sale.
- Requires the Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection on each dog to be submitted for record-keeping.
- Provides little protection for consumers with the Pet Lemon Law, FS828.29

I am for a full retail pet store ban in Pinellas County, and not grandfathering in the 6 stores already in business. Thank you for your time.

Tracy A. Isaacs



727-254-2222

Isaacs.Tracy@yahoo.com

Clearwater, FL



Johnson, Krista

From: Elizabeth Olson <ebeth1233@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Cc: Marilyn Weaver; Betsy Coville, DVM; Renee Rivard; 207- Vet With Hart Veterinary House Call
Subject: Pinellas Resident writes re: Retail Pet Stores
Attachments: PXL_20220601_193154849.jpg; PXL_20220601_205204794.MP.jpg; Bruno CVI.jpg
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioners,

I have been a Pinellas resident and voter since 1999. I founded 501c3 non-profit animal rescue, Rescue Pink, and am a longtime volunteer at Pinellas County Animal Services and Humane Society of Pinellas.

I spoke with most of you on the phone on this topic a few months ago. Since then, it was a positive step (thank you!) that we passed a ban on no new retail pet stores allowed (thankfully since we have more than most counties in the state).

Unfortunately, grandfathering these 6 stores means business continues as usual in Pinellas County when all the surrounding counties have banned them.

I met a woman this week and found out she bought her 'Shih Tzu' from Sunshine puppies. \$2,600 later, she found out the dog is not a purebred Shih Tzu. It looks more like a poodle mix yet they posted the 'mom and dad' on the cute little book they gave her, showing her dog also. You can see even then it doesn't look like a Shih Tzu (I have 2 rescue Shih Tzu's from PCAS and I can attest the dog is not a purebred Shih Tzu). I am attaching the Certificate of Veterinary Inspection showing the dog came from Missouri, which of course is no surprise since these stores buy from puppy mills. I am also attaching their cover and a picture of the dog. Their warranty is a joke and they will not cover practically anything. They even mention if the dog is not the breed it states, they won't do anything.

There is little consumer protection at these stores and solid proof these pups come from puppy mills. The county presentation for the retail pet store meeting on 6/7 gives so much good information about the lack of regulation of these puppy mills and states:

Research supports: • USDA is not adequately regulating the dog breeding industry. • The USDA is failing to safeguard the health and welfare of the dogs being produced by the industry.

Consumer Protection:

Florida Department of Agriculture • Doesn't provide any additional protections for the dogs transported into the state for sale. • Requires the Official Certificates of Veterinary Inspection on each dog to be submitted for record-keeping. • Provides little protection for consumers with the Pet Lemon Law, FS 828.29 The ordinance the county is presenting allows the **stores to sell to other buyers**, so they will never phase out. Please have that option removed!

Every other surrounding county has banned retail pet stores, as have 75 Florida jurisdictions and 5 states (in their presentation also).

Jennifer Hobgood, the Senior Director of State Legislation with the ASPCA, spoke at the Manatee County Commission Meeting for the ban of retail pet sales.

She stated public information in Florida clearly shows that puppies sold at retail stores come from puppy mills. Their staff analyzed over 5,000 input reports from the Florida Department of Agriculture over a 6-month period and found puppy importers and breeders brought 12,000 puppies into Florida to sell at pet stores with more than 80% of those originating in only five Midwestern states that have the highest concentration of puppy mills; Missouri, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Kansas. One in four of the puppies shipped to Florida stores came from breeding and brokerage facilities in Missouri alone. This leads to contagious and hereditary illnesses in puppies and of course the suffering of the breeder dogs.

In June 2021, the ASPCA filed a lawsuit against the USDA for failure to enforce the Animal welfare act because even if a puppy mill passes inspection, the USDA standards are so low, they are considered inhumane by animal organizations, and most people.

I am for a full retail pet store ban in Pinellas County, and not grandfathering in the 6 stores already in business.

I am also for banning pet rabbit sales in pet stores.

Thank you for your time.

--

Elizabeth Olson

Founder, 501c3 Rescue Pink

www.rescuepink.net

727-688-7090

Johnson, Krista

From: Parri, Daniel <danp@parrilaw.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Subject: don't grandfather in the 6 retail pet stores
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear council members,

It is a shame that we still allow puppies to be sold at retail pet stores in Pinellas County. I am for a full retail pet store ban in Pinellas County, and not grandfathering in the 6 stores already in business. Thank you.

Dan

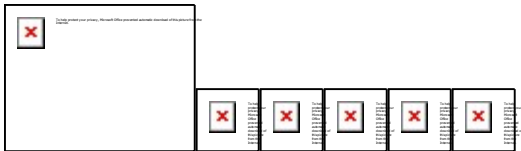
If you would like to talk, just [CLICK HERE](#) and block some time that works for both of us.

Daniel C. Parri, Esq.



Supporting:





The Parri Law Firm, PLLC
1217 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Clearwater, FL 33756
Phone: 727-586-4224
Fax: 727-585-4452

www.parrilaw.com

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Johnson, Krista

From: V Butcher <vbutcher727@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 1:42 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: VOTE NO JUNE 7th

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Pinellas County Residents that Voted you in are OPPOSED to passing a Law allowing existing Pet Stores to continue selling Puppies & Kittens!

The poor animals are cramped in cages, never getting fresh air or live and FORCED to reproduce until they cannot anymore and then they are shot, drowned or inhumanely buried alive! ASPCA has video proof of this!

How can anyone condone this?

If you Vote this un, I will personally call Shannen Behnken of Channel 8 News and have it broadcasted the people we voted in allowed this abuse to continue!

Breeders can get out and go to work same as the rest of us and STOP USING ANIMALS FOR INCOME.

Vicki Butcher

Largo, FL

Johnson, Krista

From: Marilyn Miller <totowizard@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 12:18 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Long, Janet C
Subject: Pinellas resident asks that you don't grandfather in the 6 retail pet stores.
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,
Please ban the existing retail pet stores from selling dogs and cats. There is little consumer protection for buyers and solid proof these pups come from puppy mills. The Pinellas county presentation on this topic states:

Research supports:

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Florida Department of Agriculture

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I am for a full retail pet store ban in Pinellas County, and not grandfathering in the 6 stores already in business. Thank you for your time.

Marilyn Miller
Clearwater

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 10:55 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

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Live Form

Topic	Ban Retail Pet Stores
BCC Agenda Date	
Your Stand on the Issue	Oppose
Comments	I oppose retail pet stores in our city.
Citizen Name	Serena Goulish
Address	1413 Sandalwood Dr Dunedin, FL 34698 United States
Phone	
Email	

Johnson, Krista

From: Diane Koon <vegdiene60@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 9:11 AM
To: Diane Koon
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Hello

I am writing to ask you on June 7 to pass this new ban and stop selling dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores in Pinellas. Please do not grandfather the stores that already exist. They will continue to get their animals from the cruel industry of puppy mills. We here in Florida need to end this cruel cycle of animal abuse.

Thanks for your time

Diane Koon

9011

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 12:58 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Live Form

Topic	Ban puppy mills
BCC Agenda Date	6-02-0202
Your Stand on the Issue	Oppose
Comments	Stop puppy mills SYOP ABUSING ANIMALS!LEE
Citizen Name	Leona Tsairis
Address	2519 McMullen Booth Road 510-273 Clearwater, FL 33963 United States
Phone	727-6485758
Email	Alwayzhavasmile3@aol.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Renee Rivard <monarch.renee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2022 12:56 AM
To: Eggers, Dave; Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Justice, Charlie; Seel, Karen; Long, Janet C
Subject: Pinellas Work Session / Retail Pet Sales Ban
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello Pinellas Commissioners,

Just got home from work and viewed the Work Session you all had today. Excellent conversation and great questions! Thank you! (We need to push for the rabbits!)

Obviously, a full retail BAN is what is needed:

Animal Services Director makes our case by saying that he finds APHIS an "unacceptable system"--

******He said APHIS is not able to ensure the overall health and humane treatment at the breeding facilities****Please Commissioners, this sentence sums the whole issue up! Don't let those parent dogs suffer in those puppy mills anymore. Do your part and enact a full ban---don't be an accomplice to this exploitation and abuse.**

Animal Services Director stated the following:

- USDA's own Inspector General said what they are doing is insufficient
- Minimal work is being done to enforce AWA (Animal Welfare Act)
- APHIS doesn't consistently address complaints
- The state only collects OCVIs (veterinarian inspection certificates), nothing else
- They tried to pull OCVIs from the state and it was complicated (didn't know what state the pet stores are getting their puppies from) and they ended up not get any information from the state.
- There really is no protection for the consumer with our state lemon law**

No puppy stores source from Florida breeders. **All puppies come from out of state. (Because they buy them where they can get them the cheapest---puppy mills. Florida barely has any puppy mills--puppies don't do well in the humidity)**

He said that 50% of the puppies sold at the puppy stores end up going out of county with buyers that are from out of county or out of state. **(Probably because there are retail bans in many other counties. And Pinellas County residents know that these stores sell puppy mill puppies and don't want the stores in their backyard!)**

RABBITS:

Animal Services Director said that they don't have enough information about rabbits but USDA does regulate them like they do puppies. He said that Animal Services can not regulate rabbits because rabbits are sold for food, they are sold for fur, and for pets.

Then he says "We can only regulate sales as pets"

Orange County, DeSoto County, and Key West all ban the retail sale of rabbits!

WE WANT TO REGULATE RABBITS AS PETS! A retail pet ban is what we want for rabbits. Pet stores sell rabbits as pets only---ask them---they will tell you that they sell them as pets. People who eat rabbit get already dead rabbit meat from a grocery store or restaurant. People don't buy rabbits for fur at a pet store---they would have to kill the rabbit and preserve the fur. If a person wants to buy a rabbit to feed their snake, they would not pay \$50 at a pet store for a rabbit---they would go to a breeder and get it cheaper (at \$50, you might as well take the snake out to a restaurant for a rabbit dinner!)

If Doug doesn't have enough information about rabbits---forward him the e-mails I send you about rabbits. Maybe he needs to go out and chase some rabbits around town with the rabbit rescue folks---then he will want a ban!

Full Retail Ban on Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits please!

We can make Florida a better place for animals if we all do our part!

Renee Rivard

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 6:37 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Live Form

Topic	Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
BCC Agenda Date	6-7-2022
Your Stand on the Issue	Support
Comments	Vote ~ YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering Ordinance updates to Chapter 14 of the Pinellas County Code relating to animals specifically regarding the retail sale of dogs and cats in Pinellas County.
Citizen Name	Penelope Crotty
Address	400 Pennsylvania Ave Clearwater, FL 33755 United States
Phone	727-564-8324
Email	Penelopesanden@yahoo.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Penny Crotty <penelopesanden@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 6:26 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Johnson, Krista

From: Jennifer Hobgood <jennifer.hobgood@aspca.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 5:51 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Cc: Brightwell, Doug
Subject: Proposed changes to ordinance will not address problems with sales of puppies from puppy mills
Attachments: Pinellas County Retail Sales of Dogs and Cats ASPCA Comments.pdf; FLORIDA'S PUPPY MILL PIPELINE-TRACING THE SOURCE OF PET STORE PUPPIES-04132021.pdf; Local Ordinances Upheld by Courts.pdf; Model Retail Dog and Cat Sales Ordinance ASPCA.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. [Do not](#) click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners:

ASPCA has worked across the country to support the passage of effective state and local laws aimed at shutting down the puppy mill pipeline that supplies pet stores with inhumanely bred puppies. On behalf of our Pinellas County supporters, we are writing to urge the County to reject the proposed changes to Chapter 14 of the Pinellas County Code to grandfather existing stores and restrict the expansion or relocation of existing stores. Such changes fail to protect animals or consumers from the inherent problems associated with sales of puppies in retail stores. Instead, we encourage the County to adopt an ordinance that definitively ends the retail sale of dogs and cats in Pinellas County. Grandfathering existing operations would have no impact on the puppy mill pipeline that imports cruelly bred dogs from commercial dog breeding operations into Pinellas County for sale in retail stores.

Dogs in [commercial breeding facilities](#) spend most of their lives in [cramped cages](#), where they are made to produce litter after litter and suffer from [inadequate care](#). A [pipeline of middlemen](#) ships puppies from [out-of-state puppy mills](#) to Florida, where they are sold on to an unsuspecting public. Responsible breeders do not sell their puppies or kittens to pet stores for resale. By [ending the sale of dogs in stores](#), the Board can shut down the [puppy mill pipeline](#) into Pinellas County. Pet businesses in Florida that do not sell dogs far outnumber pet stores that do, demonstrating that stores do not need to sell dogs to thrive.

ASPCA asks the Board to reject the current proposal and instead move forward with an ordinance that clearly prohibits the retail sale of dogs and cats and does not grandfather existing stores. Adding an amortization period of one year or less would allow stores to adapt their business model.

As we have seen first-hand, pet dealers will exploit poorly crafted language to continue selling puppy mill dogs.^[1] The ASPCA strongly recommends that any law that addresses pet store sales definitively prohibit all retail sales of dogs and cats, without grandfather provisions or loopholes that permit stores to sell dogs obtained from certain sources. An effective model permits pet stores to partner with shelters and rescues to provide space in their stores to display

adoptable animals, while ownership remains with the partnering non-profit or governmental organization. This is the model that many retail pet stores currently employ to great success and is the only model the ASPCA supports. It is the most effective way to prevent puppy mill cruelty and safeguard public health and consumers.

In sum, we urge the Board to adopt an ordinance that clearly and fully prohibits the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. I have enclosed additional materials, including model ordinance language and a report that traces the source of pet store puppies in Florida. Please contact me if you have questions or we can be of further assistance.

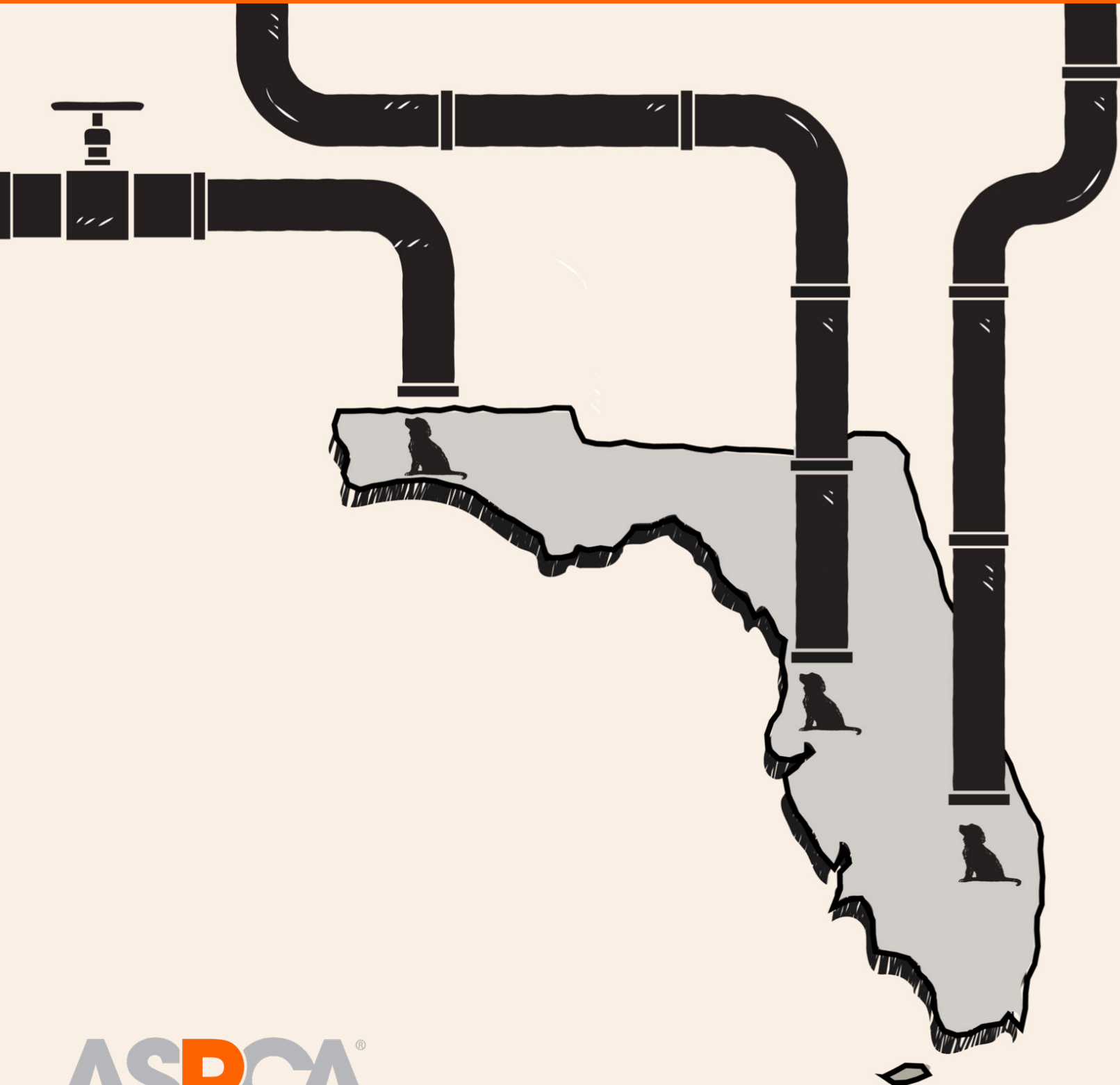
Respectfully,

Jen Hobgood, Ph.D.
Senior Director of State Legislation, Southern Division
Government Relations
Tallahassee, FL
850.445.5245

 Government Relations
The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®

^[1] Iowa Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General Press Release. March 25, 2020. "Miller dismantles national 'puppy laundering' ring." Accessed online August 20, 2020 at: <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/puppy-mill-laundering-ring-rescue-settlement-california-chicago>
Spielman, Fran. "Alderman moves to close legal loophole in Chicago's puppy mill ordinance." Chicago Sun Times. May 20, 2020. Accessed online August 20, 2020 at: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2020/5/20/21265137/puppy-mills-ordinance-loophole-chicago-city-council>

FLORIDA'S PUPPY MILL PIPELINE: TRACING THE SOURCE OF PET STORE PUPPIES



INTRODUCTION

A pipeline of out-of-state commercial dog breeders and middlemen moves truckloads of puppies to be sold in Florida's pet stores.

Commercial breeders (a.k.a. puppy mills) profit by producing large numbers of puppies as quickly and cheaply as possible. Dogs are forced to live in cramped, filthy cages where diseases spread easily. Dogs receive minimal veterinary care and are forced to breed nonstop—even if they are sick, weak or have serious hereditary issues that could be passed on to their offspring.

The conditions in which these dogs are kept would be unacceptable to almost anyone. But these facilities aren't opening their doors to consumers. Instead, they ship their weeks-old puppies to pet stores or employ a network of brokers or middlemen to traffic puppies to pet stores in faraway states, where they are marketed as “responsibly bred” puppies from trusted breeders. The harsh transport conditions endured by these very young puppies can also invite the spread of disease, resulting in sick and dead puppies. This cruel system obscures transparency and traceability resulting in compromised puppies being sold to unsuspecting consumers throughout Florida.

METHODOLOGY

Through monthly public records requests to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Public Records Division (FDACS), the ASPCA received over 5,000 puppy import records (i.e. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection, or CVIs) for the period of August 2019 through December 2020. According to Florida law, an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is required to be filed for all dogs imported into the state intended for sale. The CVI document includes information such as the age, sex, breed, color, and health record of the dog, the names and addresses of the consignor or seller and the consignee or purchaser.

The ASPCA analyzed these 5,000+ import CVIs provided by FDACS, which details imports of over 12,000 puppies over the aforementioned period.¹

Federal law requires certain businesses that use animals—like zoos, research institutions and commercial pet breeders and brokers—to meet minimal animal care standards found in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is tasked with licensing and inspecting these facilities but this system is ineffective. Federal standards are notoriously low and enforcement nonexistent.

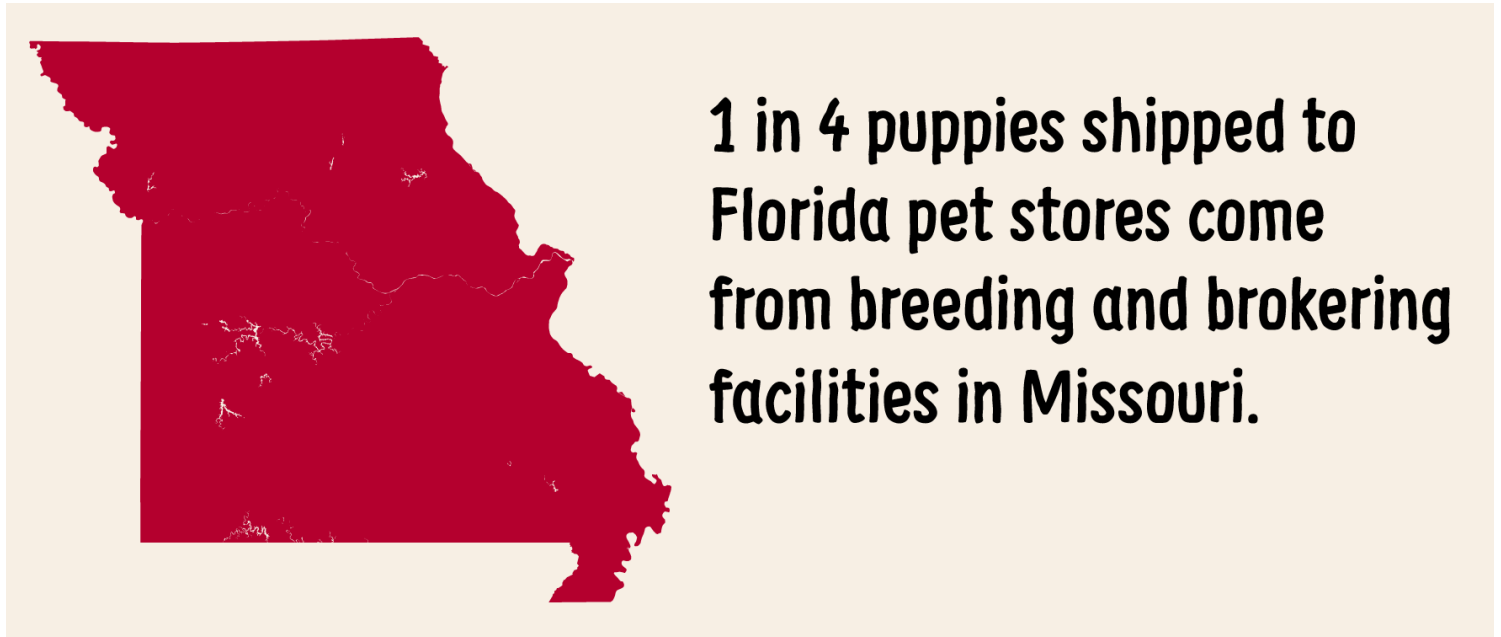
In response to this system of cruelty, Florida localities have enacted laws to keep cruelly bred puppies out of their pet stores.

In 2020, the Florida Attorney General filed a complaint against a pet store, Petland Orlando East/Waterford Lakes, for allegedly selling sick and dying puppies.

¹ The ASPCA's analysis is limited to only the documents supplied by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Records in response to the public record requests made in the time period. Further noting that the Division does not retain records for the intrastate transfer of puppies, meaning from an in-state source to another in-state entity, so those puppy transfers are not included in this data.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Over 80% of the puppies imported into Florida came from only 5 states: Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, and Kansas.** These midwestern states have the highest concentration of commercial dog breeding facilities in the U.S.²



- **More than 6,500 (53%) of all puppies shipped into Florida were from commercial puppy brokers who function as “middlemen” in the puppy mill pipeline.** When looking at the top 25 suppliers, 86% of pet stores imported puppies from brokers and they were 4 times as likely to be sourced from a broker than a breeder.
- **Blue Ribbon Puppies in Indiana is the single largest supplier to Florida pet stores.** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) linked this puppy broker to a major multi-drug resistant disease outbreak, caused by contact with puppies sold at pet stores. According to the CDC, Florida had the second highest number of campylobacter infections nationally.³ Blue Ribbon Puppies was a major supplier of Petland stores in Florida, and shipped to locations in Largo, Plantation, Pembroke Pines, Davie, Naples, Kendall, Fort Walton, Orlando, and Pensacola. Blue Ribbon Puppies also shipped puppies to Palm Beach Puppies and Nussy's Puppies of Kendall.



WINK Digital Media, February 23, 2018

² <https://aphis-efile.force.com/PublicSearchTool/s/>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/campylobacter/outbreaks/puppies-9-17/map.html>

• **Two major suppliers to Florida are also commercial brokers: J.A.K.s Puppies in Iowa and Sobrad LLC d/b/a Pinnacle Pet in Missouri.** In 2019, J.A.K.s Puppies, along with another Iowa-based business, was sued by the Iowa Attorney General for illegally transferring hundreds of designer puppies through sham Iowa non-profit “rescues” to out-of-state pet shops. The lawsuit accused J.A.K.s Puppies of misleading consumers about the true source of the puppies and for abusing their Iowa non-profit status to circumvent state and local laws banning the sale of “puppy mill” dogs. In 2020, Iowa dissolved J.A.K.s Puppies’ phony rescue, Hobo K-9, and imposed a \$60,000 penalty against them.⁴ J.A.K.s Puppies remains federally licensed to broker puppies. J.A.K.s Puppies supplied to Bff Puppies, Breeders Pick, Chews A Puppy, Diamond & Doggies, Forever Love Puppies, Furbabies at the Mall, Glamorous Puppies, Love My Puppy, Nessy’s Puppies of Kendall, Pet Kingdom, Petland Bradenton, Petland South Orlando, Puppies and Rescues, Puppies Galore & More, Puppies To Go, Puppy Avenue, Puppies Secret and Vanity Pups.

J.A.K.s Puppies supplies puppies to over a quarter of Florida’s puppy-selling pet stores.

Florida attorney general says Petland store sold sick puppies as ‘high quality, healthy’

Miami Herald, May 20, 2020

A SAMPLING OF COMMERCIAL BREEDERS SUPPLYING FLORIDA PET STORES

Joyce Cairns (Kansas)

This facility has over 160 dogs with a history of USDA violations, including dogs with dental disease, heavily matted and dirty coats, jagged metal enclosures, screws protruding at dogs’ eye level, contaminated feeders, floors wet and soiled with feces (resulting in “soiled dog coats”), a dog with hair loss and exposed skin that was “thick and scaly,” a dog with green eye discharge, and a dog who was very thin with the spine “visually protruding.” Pictured below are photos of dogs in this facility at a USDA inspection in 2020. Cairns supplied puppies to Puppies Secret, Puppies To Go, Palm Beach Puppies, Gorgeous Puppies and Kittens, Puppies World of Miami, Imperial Puppies, Beautiful Puppies & Boutique and Nessy’s Puppies of Kendall.



⁴ <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/puppy-mill-laundering-ring-rescue-settlement-california-chicago>

Lorilee Thomas/Puppies Extraordinaire (Kansas)

This operation has over 1,000 dogs and a history of USDA violations, including dogs with hair loss, dogs with matting, eye injuries, wires poking into kennels, excessively long toenails, and evidence of mice. Thomas supplied puppies to All About Puppies Largo, All About Puppies Tampa, Breeders Pick, Gorgeous Puppies and Kittens, Imperial Puppies, Lil Rascals Puppies, Petland Fort Walton, Petland Pensacola, Puppies To Go and The Puppy Store.

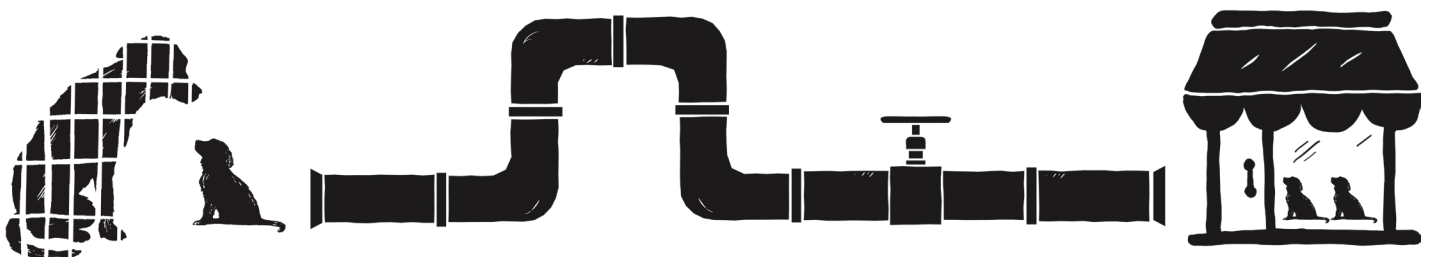
Justin and LaNae Jackson (Kansas)

This commercial operation has almost 600 dogs at their facility. The USDA has cited many violations, including both underweight and sick dogs, rusty kennels and broken floors, limited shade and shelter in housing, grime and rust in the feeders, dog with open ear wound, dog with swollen mass in between toes, and expired medication. Pictured below are dogs at this facility at a USDA inspection. This breeding operation supplied puppies to Sunshine Puppies, Puppies To Go, Nessy's Puppies of Kendall, Breeders Pick, Puppies Secret, Chews A Puppy, Beautiful Puppies & Boutique, Epic Puppies, Palm Beach Puppies, Glamorous Puppies, Puppies World of Miami, Gorgeous Puppies and Kittens, Quality Doggies, Imperial Puppies and Lil Rascals Puppies.



CONCLUSION

Insufficient laws, coupled with the USDA's neglectful enforcement of its bare-bones welfare regulations, have proven to enable massive animal suffering. The cruel puppy mill pipeline is bringing puppies into Florida at an alarming rate, where they are sold to an unsuspecting public. By ending the sale of dogs in stores, we can shut down the puppy mill pipeline into Florida.



Pet Stores Contained in Import Records

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) provided over 5,000 puppy import records for the period of August 2019 through December 2020 which included information for the following list of pet stores.

All About Puppies	Brandon
All About Puppies	Largo
Barb's Pet World	Trenton
Beautiful Puppies & Boutique	Coral Springs
Bff Puppies	Orange Park
Bill's Birds	Davie
Breeder's Pick Orlando Inc.	Orlando
Chews A Puppy	Ocoee
Diamond & Doggies	Lauderdale-by-the-Seas
Epic Puppies	Miami
Forever Love Puppies	Pembroke Pines
Furbabies at the Mall/Happy Tails	Lake Wales
Glamorous Puppies	Miami
Gorgeous Puppies and Kittens	Miami
Heavenly Puppies	Boca Raton
Honey Pets	Davie
Imperial Puppies	Miami
Just Puppies	Orlando
Lil Rascals	Fort Meyers
Love My Puppy	Boca Raton
Nessy's Puppies of Kendall	Miami
Palm Beach Puppies	Boca Raton
Pet Kingdom	Fort Meyers
Petland Bradenton	Bradenton
Petland Davie	Davie
Petland Fort Myers	Fort Meyers
Petland Naples	Naples
Petland Largo	Largo
Petland Orlando East	Orlando
Petland Orlando South	Orlando
Petland Pembroke Pines	Pembroke Pines
Petland Pensacola	Pensacola

Pet Stores Contained in Import Records

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) provided over 5,000 puppy import records for the period of August 2019 through December 2020 which included information for the following list of pet stores.

Petland Plantation	Plantation
Petland Sarasota	Sarasota
Petland Kendall	Miami
Petland Fort Walton	Fort Walton
Petland Jacksonville	Jacksonville
Puppies & Rescues	Pembroke Pines
Puppies Galore & More	Jacksonville
Puppies Plus	Parkland
Puppies Plus	Melbourne
Puppies Secret	Miami
Puppies Tampa	Tampa
Puppies To Go	Miami
Puppies World of Miami	Doral
Puppy Avenue	Jacksonville
Puppy Place USA	Miami
Quality Doggie's Inc.	Miami
Star Pups	West Palm Beach
Sunshine Puppies	Largo
Teacup, Puppies, and Boutique	Davie
The Puppy Store	Orlando
Tiny Paws Teacup & Toy Puppy	Miami
Vanity Pups	Fleming Island
Waggs to Riches	Boca Raton
Wet Kisses Pet Company	Lake Worth

LOCAL ORDINANCES PROHIBITING THE RETAIL SALES OF DOGS AND CATS ARE CONSISTENTLY UPHELD BY LOCAL AND FEDERAL COURTS DESPITE CHALLENGES FROM THE RETAIL PET INDUSTRY

"Because Plaintiffs do not have a constitutionally protected interest to sell live cats and dogs, and a rational basis exists for the ordinance...the Defendant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law."

—Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit in and for Sarasota County, Florida. Decided February 13, 2018. *BKG Pets, Inc. et. al. v. Sarasota County, Florida*, Case Number 2016-CA- 5533NC Note: Plaintiffs, *BKG Pets, Inc.* also own *Petland Kennesaw* and *Petland Mall of Georgia*.

"The Illinois Constitution permits home-rule units like Chicago to regulate animal control and welfare concurrently with the state. And the puppy-mill ordinance doesn't discriminate against interstate commerce, even in mild practical effect, so it requires no special cost-benefit justification under the Commerce Clause."

the rational basis test. The Ordinance seeks to curb the practice of purchasing animals from 'puppy mills' and the resulting problems of mistreatment and abandonment."

—United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Decided June 25, 2015. *Maryeli's Lovely Pets, Inc. v. City of Sunrise*. Civil Action No. 14-61391-Civ-Scola

"But the Court's place is not to judge the wisdom or fairness of the City's decision to pass the Ordinance. Rather, the Court may judge only whether the Ordinance conflicts with the constitutional provisions Plaintiffs have cited. There being no conflict between the Ordinance and the United States and Arizona Constitutions, the Court must uphold the Ordinance and grant summary judgment for the Defendant

—United States Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit. Decided, September 21, 2017. *Park Pet Shop, Inc. v. City of Chicago*, 872 F.3d 495, 2017 U.S. App.

"...the Court concludes that the Ordinance satisfies

City of Phoenix and the HSUS."

—United States District Court Arizona, Decided 2015. *Puppies 'N Love v. City of Phoenix*, 116 F. Supp. 3d 971.

"As relevant here, Perfect Puppy, Inc. (our plaintiff) believes it has a rock-solid facial—and as-applied-takings claim against the City of East Providence (our defendant) based on a city ordinance banning dog and cat sales. A district judge, though, gave any supposed facial claim the boot on summary judgment for lack of development and remanded the as-applied claim to state court for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction. An unhappy Perfect Puppy appeals. But we see no error with the judge's facial-takings ruling and have no jurisdiction over the judge's remand order."

—First Circuit Court of Appeals, Decided December 8, 2015. *Perfect Puppy, Inc. v. City of E. Providence*, 98 F. Supp. 3d 408

"Protecting consumers, reducing financial support for mill breeders, and encouraging pet adoption are indisputably legitimate state interests."

—United States District Court Maryland, Decided February 7, 2020. *Just Puppies, Inc. v. Frosh*, 2020 BL 45434, D. Md., No. 19-2439.

ASPCA Model

Section 1. PET SHOPS

A. Definitions

As used in this Article, the term:

(1) "Animal care facility" means an animal control center or animal shelter, maintained by or under contract with any state, county or municipality, whose mission and practice is, in whole, or in significant part, the rescue, care, and placement of stray, abandoned, or surrendered animals in permanent homes or with rescue organizations, and which does not breed animals.

(2) "Animal rescue organization" means any not for profit organization which has tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, whose mission and practice is, in whole or in significant part, the rescue, care, and placement of stray, abandoned, or surrendered animals in permanent homes, and which does not breed animals.

(3) "Cat" means a member of the species of domestic cat, Felis catus.

(4) "Dog" means a member of the species of domestic dog, Canis familiaris.

(5) "Pet Shop" means a retail establishment where animals are sold, exchanged, bartered, or offered for sale as pets to the general public at retail. Such definition shall not include an animal care facility or animal rescue organization, or a person or establishment that sells, exchanges, barter, or offers for sale only animals that were bred or reared on the premises of such person or establishment.

B. Restrictions on the Sale of Animals

A pet shop may not sell, exchange, barter, offer for sale, auction, or otherwise deliver or transfer a cat or a dog, provided that nothing in this section shall prevent a pet shop from providing space and appropriate care for cats and dogs owned by an animal care facility or an animal rescue organization and maintained at the pet shop for the purpose of adopting those animals to the public.

C. Disclosures

A pet shop that provides space for the adoption of cats or dogs shall post, in a conspicuous location on the cage or enclosure of each such animal, a sign stating the name of the animal care facility or animal rescue organization which owns the dog or cat offered for adoption.

D. Offenses

Each dog or cat sold, exchanged, bartered, offered for sale, auctioned, delivered, or transferred in violation of this section shall constitute a separate offense. Each failure to post a sign for an individual dog or cat as required by this section shall constitute a separate offense.

June 2, 2022

Pinellas County Board of Commissioners
315 Court St # 501
Clearwater, FL 33756

< sent via email to: JanetCLong@pinellascounty.org; pgerard@pinellascounty.org; cjustice@pinellascounty.org; deggers@pinellascounty.org; kseel@pinellascounty.org; kpeters@pinellascounty.org; rflowers@pinellascounty.org >

RE: Proposed changes to ordinance will not address problems with sales of puppies from puppy mills

Dear Commissioners:

ASPCA has worked across the country to support the passage of effective state and local laws aimed at shutting down the puppy mill pipeline that supplies pet stores with inhumanely bred puppies. On behalf of our Pinellas County supporters, we are writing to urge the County to reject the proposed changes to Chapter 14 of the Pinellas County Code to grandfather existing stores and restrict the expansion or relocation of existing stores. Such changes fail to protect animals or consumers from the inherent problems associated with sales of puppies in retail stores. Instead, we encourage the County to adopt an ordinance that definitively ends the retail sale of dogs and cats in Pinellas County. Grandfathering existing operations would have no impact on the puppy mill pipeline that imports cruelly bred dogs from commercial dog breeding operations into Pinellas County for sale in retail stores.

Dogs in [commercial breeding facilities](#) spend most of their lives in [cramped cages](#), where they are made to produce litter after litter and suffer from [inadequate care](#). A [pipeline of middlemen](#) ships puppies from [out-of-state puppy mills](#) to Florida, where they are sold on to an unsuspecting public. Responsible breeders do not sell their puppies or kittens to pet stores for resale. By [ending the sale of dogs in stores](#), the Board can shut down the puppy mill pipeline into Pinellas County. Pet businesses in Florida that do not sell dogs far outnumber pet stores that do, demonstrating that stores do not need to sell dogs to thrive.

ASPCA asks the Board to reject the current proposal and instead move forward with an ordinance that clearly prohibits the retail sale of dogs and cats and does not grandfather existing stores. Adding an amortization period of one year or less would allow stores to adapt their business model.

As we have seen first-hand, pet dealers will exploit poorly crafted language to continue selling puppy mill dogs.¹ The ASPCA strongly recommends that any law that addresses pet store sales definitively prohibit all retail sales of dogs and cats, without grandfather provisions or loopholes that permit stores to sell dogs obtained from certain sources. An effective model permits pet stores to partner with shelters and rescues to provide space in their stores to display adoptable animals, while ownership remains with the partnering non-profit or governmental organization. This is the model that many retail pet stores currently employ to great success and is the only model the ASPCA supports. It is the most effective way to prevent puppy mill cruelty and safeguard public health and consumers.

¹ Iowa Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General Press Release. March 25, 2020. "Miller dismantles national 'puppy laundering' ring." Accessed online August 20, 2020 at: <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/newsroom/puppy-mill-laundering-ring-rescue-settlement-california-chicago>

Spielman, Fran. "Alderman moves to close legal loophole in Chicago's puppy mill ordinance." Chicago Sun Times. May 20, 2020. Accessed online August 20, 2020 at: <https://chicago.suntimes.com/city-hall/2020/5/20/21265137/puppy-mills-ordinance-loophole-chicago-city-council>

In sum, we urge the Board to adopt an ordinance that clearly and fully prohibits the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. I have enclosed additional materials, including model ordinance language and a report that traces the source of pet store puppies in Florida. Please contact me at jennifer.hobgood@aspca.org or (850) 445-5245 if you have questions or we can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jen Hobgood".

Jennifer Hobgood, Ph.D.

Johnson, Krista

From: Barbara Sheets <babsheets@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 5:49 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clearwater City Commissioners,

Please stop the cruel, inhuman treatment of dogs, cats and rabbits now!
Puppy mills need to be put out of business.
The poor creatures are abused in order for someone to make a profit.
I am all for free enterprise but not at the expense of animals.
We are better than that! Florida is better than that!
We need to protect the lives and well being of those animals who cannot care and protect themselves.
I urge you to vote YES to banning the selling of dogs, cats and rabbits in retail stores with no grandfathering.
Thank you for your attention and consideration to this matter.

Barbara Sheets
725 Island Way
Clearwater Beach, FL 33767
805-390-6294

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 5:16 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Live Form

Topic	Ordinance updates to Chapter 14 regarding the retail sale of dogs and cats
BCC Agenda Date	6-7-2022
Your Stand on the Issue	Oppose
Comments	Puppy mills are creating unhealthy animals and fleecing the consumers for thousands of dollars. It is cruel and unnecessary to have dogs and cats bred and sold like groceries. It is up to us to protect the innocent lives of these poor unfortunate animals that are subjected to unscrupulous business practices. These people are not registered breeders who make sure their puppies are placed in good homes with loving owners. They want to make a profit regardless of the consequence. The shelters are full of unwanted animals who need a home. There are good and caring breeders that can be found through organizations such as the AKC. Florida is better than this. Close down the puppy mills and the stores that sell the puppies now!
Citizen Name	Barbara Sheets
Address	725 Island Way Clearwater Beach, Florida 33767 United States
Phone	805-3906294
Email	babsheets@gmail.com

Johnson, Krista

From: rbialor@tampabay.rr.com
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 1:37 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: FW: pet stores

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

From: rbialor@tampabay.rr.com <rbialor@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 1:34 PM
To: 'pgerard@pinellascounty.org' <pgerard@pinellascounty.org>
Subject: pet stores

Good afternoon,

I have lived in Pinellas County for 30 years. I volunteer at two No Kill Shelters. I've done this for 20 years. I've also participated in raids on puppy mills. The things I have witnessed are beyond comprehension. I've attended seminars numerous times on this issue.

True licensed, registered breeders explained that their dogs never go to stores that sell pets. One very clear way of knowing this and proving this was what they stated.

A breeder want to keep the line "pure" according to AKC regulations. If a dog has a trait, or is missing a trait that is required, they do not want that dog to reproduce. They will spay or neuter the dogs and place them in homes. At times they do take a fee. They pointed out that dogs sold in stores are almost never spayed or neutered. There are unscrupulous back yard breeders and puppy mill people who will mate a father and pup or a mother and pup if they think it will bring a more desirable color, more puppies to the litter etc. They have Veterinarians who stamp medical certificates en-masse for the dogs to travel interstate. When the dogs show signs of illness due to in breeding and poor care, the Vet having signed the certificate responds and says when they saw the dog, there were no issues. They have no idea what happened after that.

I myself have adopted two Double Dapple Dachshunds. At first I'd never heard of them. I'm quite familiar with them now. If you mate two Dapples, and they are Dachshunds that have spots on a dark coat, mating two provides a dog that has a white body, back legs that look like they are wearing little black pants, and often there are leopard spots in their ears. They are adorable and irresistible. However, almost all are born blind and deaf. It's impossible for a buyer to determine if a puppy is blind or deaf. Most of these dogs are born without legs, or

very deformed bodies. The backyard/puppy mill breeder will snap their necks or just drown them as they know they can't even let them be seen. My last double dapple was born to a puppy mill in Savannah Georgia. She was blind and deaf. A young girl working there fell in love with the dog and asked her boss not to drown the dog. She would adopt it. He gave her 24 hours to get approval from her parents. They refused. This girl was resourceful. She has witnessed things no one should ever have to see. She called D.A. R. E. They drove all night to pick up the dog from Savannah, hence her name.

I adopted this dog. She could see some shadows, that was it. I loved her with all my heart. She died at a young age due to other congenital issues from the inbreeding. Because they look a little cuter, a little different, a breeder can charge a few dollars more, are we going to allow this?

People are under the misconception that with a store bought dog, they will know what they're getting. They don't realize what is behind this.

I beg you to do all that you can to eliminate these stores from selling puppies. A true licensed breeder will still be able to offer people the puppies they want. They will be healthy puppies and lead healthy lives hopefully. I've seen first hand people turning in dogs to shelters that they paid thousands of dollars for. Often the dogs have epilepsy. Often they realize they are blind, deaf or impaired. The store wants nothing to do with that. A true breeder as well as all shelters and rescues that I know of, insist that you return the dog to them if there is any issue. Do not pass the dog along to a friend or relative.

These stores outfit themselves to look like a nursery and the sales people are Mary Poppins. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Growing up, a mixed breed dog was a Mutt. In my opinion, the greatest dogs. Now they are called "designer breeds".

What has happened to us here? These mills mate a Maltese with a Bichon because they're both white, a Bichon is a bit larger. They mate them in the hopes of having 3-5 puppies in a litter as opposed to 2-3. I've seen kennels stacked on kennels being hosed down with the dogs in them. The food and water bowls are in them, the dogs in terrible condition. There is no care or concern for the dogs used to breed. The only concern is how many puppies they can remove from a cage.

There is no way to control this behavior. If they are raided, the purpose is to save the dogs. If the people are given a summons, unless they surrender the dogs, they can't be taken away. As the point is rescuing them, they don't issue them a summons as long as they relinquish the dogs. Those dogs are saved. However, the puppy mill will re-open either in the same spot or a couple of miles away.

Let people have the puppies they want. Let them buy instead of adopt if that's what they want. Personally, I'm in favor of adopting dogs. They know you've given them a second chance

at life. You will never have a more devoted pet. Ask anyone who has adopted from a reputable shelter or rescue.

Please stop the horrors that are created to keep these puppy stores in business. We are a humane people in a humane society. There is no need for this to continue. However, until the money is taken out of it, the stores will continue to take puppies from anywhere. And in these cases, "anywhere" is a puppy mill.

These puppy mills are as horrifying as concentration camps. They are about torture and death. How can we stand by and let this continue?

Please do everything you can to eliminate this horrible situation.

Many thanks,

Richard Bialor

1741 Hickory Gate Drive S.
Dunedin Fl. 34598

727-743-4707

Johnson, Krista

From: Diane Sinicrope <dianes@ad-mkt.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 12:07 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: IMPORTANT: Proposed ordinance on June 7th regarding Retail Ban on sale of dogs & cats- VOTE NO

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello,

As a concerned citizen and supporter of compassionate legislation, I urge you to vote NO for the proposed ordinance that allows "grandfathering" of current retail pet stores. This will continue the inhumane treatment of dogs and cats by wholesale breeders.

I am asking you to take steps that our neighboring counties and cities have taken to stop the cruelty and ban this practice. I am a registered voter and want to support you, but cannot if you do not take this step to protect helpless animals.

Sincerely,

Diane Sinicrope
Clearwater, Florida

Johnson, Krista

From: Vandenberg, Courtney
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 6:38 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Subject: FW: Rabbit PETITION signatures

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

From: Renee Rivard <monarch.renee@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:26 PM
To: Gerard, Pat <pgerard@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Eggers, Dave <deggers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Justice, Charlie <cjustice@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Robinson-Flowers, Rene <rflowers@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Long, Janet C <JanetCLong@co.pinellas.fl.us>; Seel, Karen <kseel@co.pinellas.fl.us>
Subject: Rabbit PETITION signatures

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello Pinellas Commissioners,

The people are speaking! Almost the same amount of people signed this rabbit ban petition to ban rabbit sales! The SPCA in Pinellas County took in over 300 rabbits this year, roughly 250 last year, and 300 the year before. Yet, your Animal Services Director didn't even mention rabbits. We want to see rabbits included in the discussion!

https://www.change.org/p/ban-pet-rabbit-sales-in-the-greater-tampa-bay-area?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=51a83610-23f9-11ec-99b2-5925d68e4860

Genny from Seminole:

The return rate of rabbits purchased from pet stores is at an astounding number. This makes shelters and rescues completely full at all times which obviously is a huge problem.

Linda from St. Pete:

People buy domestic rabbits and let them run loose in neighborhoods.

Marylou from St. Pete:

It is unspeakable that animals are treated like merchandise in this great State! I am appalled that you would continue to allow retail sales of any animal when there are thousands of unwanted animals in local shelters. Please close down these stores immediately!

Mara from St. Pete:

This should not even be a discussion. Profit and greed should never triumph over humanity and decency. If there is even the slightest evidence to support that alternative methods do not work, and there is, much more in fact, then a complete ban is the only resolution.

William from Largo:

There are rabbits being dumped and abandon daily and this change needs to happen to STOP impulsive buying. Too many rabbits are bought by impulse.

Rebecca from St. Pete:

Nothing should have to live in a cage it's whole life

Stephanie from St. Pete:

I now reside in 33710. Rabbits and other small animals are lucky if given up to shelter. Often they are just abandoned or starved once the novelty wears off. Please ban the sale of rabbits and other small critters.

Victoria from Largo:

Ethics and integrity.

Nancy from St.Pete:

Sales of any small domestic animal like rabbits and chicks, seem like a bad idea to me; owner gets his money and the animals are usually only homed for a short while, and then dumped. Not a good situation for them, at all.

Renee Rivard

On Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 01:03:59 PM EDT, Renee Rivard <monarch.renee@yahoo.com> wrote:

Hello Commissioner---Here is a petition with over 1,200 signatures for you to ban the retail sale of dogs and cats---no grandfathering. Please stop duping unsuspecting consumers into buying these puppies.

https://www.change.org/p/pinellas-county-commissioners-ban-retail-dog-cat-sales-in-pinellas-county?utm_content=cl_sharecopy_30901719_en-US%3A7&recruiter=699403637&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=tap_basic_share

Please scroll to bottom of petition and click on "View all Reasons for Signing" to see what your constituents wrote.

Some comments from your constituents:

Carly from Palm Harbor:

Disgusting conditions for dogs who are not cared for and just used to breed. Puppies are often sick or breed with genetic problems. Need to stop these sales.

Danyelle from St. Pete:

Absolutely. Dogs , cats rabbits are not property These conditions are deplorable

Renny from Largo:

There are many wonderful animals who need loving homes. I have seen puppy mills and am totally against them. Owners are concerned about making money and not the animals' welfare. If you want a pet, go to SPCA, Humane Society, Petsmart Adoptions, Friends of Strays, Pet Pals, Petco Adoptions, etc. Do not go to pet stores who sell the unfortunate little puppy mill animals.

Debbie from Clearwater:
Banning this is the right thing to do!

Casie from Tarpon Springs:
it is only humane to stop breeding for profit
too many animals needing homes
there is absolutely no reason to sell animals

This is what I wrote:

2,700 unsuspecting consumers thought their puppies were NOT coming from puppy mills when they bought their puppies from Pinellas County puppy stores last year. Tell Pinellas Commissioners not to dupe any more consumers by grandfathering in those stores.

Renee Rivard

Johnson, Krista

From: Marilyn Weaver <marilynw@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:58 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Cc: Marilyn Weaver LOHVFL
Subject: June 7, 2022 Pinellas Cty. Commission Meeting, Re: Ban of Retail Sale of Dogs & Cats
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

I may be unable to attend the meeting and wish therefore, to now request that you give full attention to the need to ban the retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, flea markets, and on the side of the road in Pinellas County. You have heard the cogent reasons for this ban, so no need for me to reiterate them. I am requesting that you therefore vote YES for a ban on a retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, with no grandfathering.

After learning about the horrible plight regarding the sale of rabbits for pets in all kinds of stores, rabbits need to be considered in this ban, or, as a separate piece of legislation. Practicing humanity is decidedly called for, for rabbits.

Respectfully,

Marilyn Weaver, Executive Director

The League of Humane Voters-FL
www.LOHVFL.org

**Compassion for all Animals, both Human and Non-Human
Never be Silent! Find your Voice for Animals!**

Our vision: A society in which people value and safeguard the lives of animals

Johnson, Krista

From: joanne minks <bluesnjojo@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 4:47 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Make it a law that puppies can't be sold

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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These puppies from puppy mills are not protected and are being neglected. It's a shame !!!
Ban puppy stores especially if they sell puppy mill pups.
Where's your heart
Joanne

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 2:35 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Live Form

Topic	Support Ban on ALL pet stores, no grandfathering
BCC Agenda Date	6-07-2022
Your Stand on the Issue	Oppose
Comments	I oppose ANY and ALL sales of pets through pet stores. No grandfathering should be allowed.
Citizen Name	Darlene Sirois
Address	751 Samantha Dr, FL 34683 United States
Phone	727-784-7647
Email	dsirois56@outlook.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Darlene Sirois <dsirois56@outlook.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 2:20 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote Yes on a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Johnson, Krista

From: SANJA SMAJLOVIC <sanja.smajlovic@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Vote to APPROVE ban on retails sales of dogs and cats
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

I may be unable to attend the meeting and wish therefore, to now request that you give full attention to the need to ban the retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, flea markets, and on the side of the road in Pinellas County. You have heard the cogent reasons for this ban, so no need for me to reiterate them. I am requesting that you therefore vote YES for a ban on a retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, with no grandfathering.

After learning about the horrible plight regarding the sale of rabbits for pets in all kinds of stores, rabbits need to be considered in this ban, or, as a separate piece of legislation. Practicing humanity is decidedly called for, for rabbits.

Respectfully,

Sanja Smajlovic
7276861738
Clearwater 33762

Johnson, Krista

From: Dan Hester <dhesterfl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 11:33 AM
To: Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Eggers, Dave; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Peters, Kathleen; Gerard, Pat
Subject: Retail Pet Sales June 7, 2022 agenda item 22-0716A
Attachments: Letter to Pinellas County Commissioners 6-1-2022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioners: I hope this finds you well. I would appreciate if you would spend a couple minutes to read my attached letter.
Thank you and God bless you!

Sincerely,
Dan Hester
President/BOD
MEOW Now, Inc 501-c-3



Operations Director
Chad Thompson

Administrative Director
Nikola Couling

Board of Directors

Dan Hester

Marilyn Weaver

Cathy Unruh

TRAP-NEUTER-VACCINATE-RETURN (TNVR)

A 501(C)3 ORGANIZATION

www.meownowfl.org info@meownowfl.org 727.203.5255 6822 22nd Ave, N. #195 – St. Petersburg, FL 33710

June 1, 2022

Dear Honorable and Distinguished Members of Pinellas County Commission: I write you today as president of MEOW Now Inc. (501-c-3). I am asking you to rethink your position if you are in favor of this proposed ordinance. The animal welfare community at large opposes this proposed ordinance for one simple reason; it allows "grandfathering" of the current retail pet stores. In my discussion with other animal welfare advocates, shelter leadership and board members we believe there is a solution to the "grandfathering" clause that we would support. That being a two-year period where these operators can either change their business plan or cease operation.

I've often heard from some that government cannot legislate business in their jurisdiction. We all know that's nonsense and happens every day in cities and counties all over America. Not only do you have the authority to decide what sort of business operates in the county, your constituents expect such.

The power point presentation that will be given at your June 7th meeting clearly identifies the reasons why you should oppose this ordinance in its current form. In fact, the presentation validates the need for you to eliminate the "grandfathering" clause.

The USDA Inspector General cited a number of deficiencies in this oversight department like:

Minimal standards in place and minimal enforcement

- Enforcement process was ineffective against large-scale dog dealers
- Inspectors did not cite or document violations properly
- The APHIS penalty worksheet calculated minimal penalties
- APHIS misused guidelines to lower penalties
- Some breeders circumvented the AWA by selling animals online
- Minimal Work is being done to enforce the AWA
- Lack of organization by the USDA

The report went on to further say:

In 2021 the IG summary stated:

“We found that APHIS did not consistently address complaints it received or adequately document the results of it follow up. This occurred because APHIS does not have a documented process for resolving complaints and recording the results of the agency’s actions. As a result, some dog breeder facilities may be conducting regulated activity without a USDA license or oversight.”

USDA license or oversight. Therefore, APHIS is not able to ensure the overall health and humane treatment of animals at these facilities.”

Commissioner’s, please take a look around at our neighbor counties and cities. A total ban has been approved over and over again. Why does Pinellas County stand alone? Frankly, you all asked animal services to research this issue and report back. Animal services did and came to a conclusion that “grandfathering” would not solve the problem. So, I ask, who is it that seemingly pushed for the “grandfathering” clause in the final draft? This “grandfathering” ability will continue to create cruelty allowing people from the banned communities to come to Pinellas to purchase a dog. Do we want to be viewed as supporting “wholesale breeders” who by your own research finds significant risk of cruelty and inhumane treatment of these dogs? Were better than that! It pains me to think that this honorable group of elected officials are willing to and would be supporting the inhumane treatment of dogs and cats in our community.

I respectfully ask you to amend the ordinance that will ultimately ban retail pet sales in our county. Thank you for reading my letter and thank you for your public service!

Respectfully,

Dan Hester

President/Board of Director’s

MEOW Now, Inc. (501.c-3)

Johnson, Krista

From: lisa lannon <lmlannon3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 11:11 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban/No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Johnson, Krista

From: luvyrpets@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:17 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Peters, Kathleen; Justice, Charlie; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave
Subject: please shut down the puppy mills
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please shut down all these horrible puppy stores in Pinellas county, especially Largo. Show some compassion for these animals. The shelters and rescues are already overflowing with animals needing homes. It is extremely heartbreaking.

IN FAVOR OF A BAN ON THE RETAIL SALE OF DOGS AND CATS AS WELL AS OF RABBITS, WITH NO GRANDFATHERING IN OF EXISTING RETAIL STORES SELLING DOGS AND CATS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Belinda Blease
Largo, FL

--

SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PETS. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH HOMES FOR THEM ALL.

Johnson, Krista

From: Nancy Armitage <edit4food@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Vote YES to BAN retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits in pet stores with NO GRANDFATHERING

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Chairman Justice and Commissioners Eggers, Long, Seel, Peters, Gerard, and Flowers:

I beg you to vote **YES** to **BAN** retail sale of dogs, cats (and please add rabbits too) in pet stores, with **NO GRANDFATHERING**.

The sources of puppies, kittens, and bunnies put up for retail sale in stores are disgusting and inhumane. Please help put these hell holes out of business by removing the demand for their “product” in our county! Thank you.

Nancy Armitage
308 Lake Placid Ct
Oldsmar, FL 34677
727-492-2042 (cell)
US House Dist 12/13
FL Senate Dist 16
FL House Dist 64/57
Precinct 621

Johnson, Krista

From: bcelephant@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 2:17 PM
To: Long, Janet C; Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: Commercial Pet sales
Attachments: Veterinary view of Pet sales 2022.docx; Commissioner Letter May 2022.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Dear Commissioners,

I wish I could be there in person but I will be in court on an animal abuse case. I am sending in my stead two separate letters regarding pet sales in your County. I have a unique perspective first as a veterinarian and secondly as a veterinarian with a Masters Degree in Veterinary Forensic Sciences. I work animal abuse cases locally, nationally and internationally. I am open to discuss any questions you may have.

I thank you in advance for doing what is right for those who cannot help themselves and count on us to do it for them.

Betsy R. Coville MS, DVM

Dear Commissioners,

May 31, 2022

I appreciate your consideration of a ban on retail sales of rabbits in your County. There are multiple reasons for a ban both humane and monetary. Pet Co and PetSmart stopped selling rabbits over 14 years ago, not for humane reasons but because of profits. To get baby bunnies, they must be pulled early from the mother. The transport method and time to stores results in up to 30% losses to death and disease. Up to 60% never get sold because the cute bunny stage does not last long. These stores changed because they knew the real money was in selling supplies, feed, toys and housing.

Rabbits tend to be an impulse buy, thought of as an “easy” first pet. With no previous education, quickly owners learn about higher maintenance costs than a dog or cat. Not all vets care for rabbits, so it is expensive up to \$150-200 just to be neutered. Rabbits may already be pregnant when adopted! They also need to get nails clipped, teeth ground down coupled with respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases are common. You cannot just give them kibble like dog or cats; pellets alone are insufficient.

When the child loses interest in the rabbit, they often put them outside in a hutch on wire their feet cannot tolerate, with temperatures too cold in the winter and too hot in the summer and prey for insects and predators.

People quickly tire of the “carefree” rabbit as too much work, too much money, too much time and unlike their dog or cat feel okay about abandoning them outside. They see wild rabbits and assume they can survive just like them which is far from the truth. They are the third most abandoned pet because public shelters do not take rabbits for the same reasons owners give them up, they are not nearly as easy to care for as dogs and cats! The rescues are overwhelmed and have to turn them away.

You will notice, I have not even mentioned the inhumane rabbit mills where their life began. These “bunny” mills are similar to puppy mills but the standards are only one square foot per rabbit. The females are bred at every heat with up to 12 offspring in the 8-10 litters a year. Unlike dogs, rabbits are also raised for meat, fur, hunting and cosmetic testing. They are social animals with different personalities, likes and dislikes just like any other pet.

There are currently three locations in Florida which have placed bans on retail sales of rabbits, Orange County, DeSoto County and Key West. They have all placed rabbits along with dogs and cats in their retail sales ban. Key West simply added rabbits to their definition of pets. Similar to retail bans for dogs and cats, they allow sales from shelters and rescues. This ban will take the pressure off rescues, removing the guilt of turning them away and negating the need for owners to dump them.

Just like any other pet, they need our protection. We can stop selling rabbits from “bunny mills” and allow these stores to only adopt out the rabbits that are filling rescues. By simply adding rabbits to the dogs and cat retail sales bans, we can end the thousands of lives lost every year. It is only the right and humane thing to do.

Betsy R Coville MS, DVM

Dear Commissioners,

May 31, 2022

As a USDA Accredited veterinarian for over 33 years, I believe my perspective on sales of pets in store is relevant. There are some critical factors in this equation that are necessary to evaluate and I will elaborate them for you.

USDA Animal Welfare Rules and Regulations:

1. The term “puppy mill” is primarily based on large scale USDA licensed operations where animals are numbers and not individuals i.e., “factory farming” pets
2. Inspections have been reduced, including post violation follow ups and have not been annual
3. The required husbandry is horrifically minimal as follows:
 - Enclosures are only 6” longer and taller than the animal; allowing only for the ability to stand, turn and lay down
 - They must be exercised regularly (who checks?) but not if the solitary animal has twice the minimum cage space or is housed in a group
 - It is suggested they have human contact if solitary but can squeeze up to 12 animals in one cage
 - Temperatures can be up to 85°F and down to 50°F before supplemental measures are necessary
 - Wire flooring is approved as long as a paw would not fall through; sand, gravel or dirt are approved as long as it is kept “clean”
 - Food offered at least once daily unless self-feeders are provided
 - Water must be provided twice daily for one hour unless a self-waterer is available
 - To maximize profits females are bred at every heat until no longer capable then euthanized.

So, dogs with self-feeders, self-waterers and housed on dirt or wire with other animals require no human contact! What the majority of the pet owning public would consider cruel and inhumane is perfectly legal and “licensed”.

American Kennel Club:

1. AKC claims to work to advance canine health and well-being by setting breed “standards” which are frequently detrimental to both confirmation and health.
 - <https://dogbehaviorscience.wordpress.com/2012/09/29/100-years-of-breed-improvement/>
 - <https://www.animalwised.com/popular-dog-breeds-before-and-after-2719.html>
 - https://www.petmd.com/dog/care/evr_dg_purebred_dogs_complications
2. Some obvious examples:
 - a. Brachycephalic syndrome (bulldogs, pugs, boxers, Boston terriers, Shih Tzu, Pekingese) is a pathologic condition which consists of stenotic nares, elongated soft palette, hypoplastic trachea, making it difficult to breath and surgical correction is often needed
 - <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/brachycephalic-airway-syndrome-in-dogs>
3. Not for profit: when the AKC came out against the ban on racing Greyhounds in Florida, I was shocked until I found out the reasoning. Every greyhound puppy born was registered and paid to the AKC.
4. Registration is based only on the owner’s word and regardless of the temperament or health of the animal.
5. The cost to register a dog: Basic: \$35; Silver: \$50.99; Gold: \$63.99. Every puppy born in a USDA breeding facility is registered with the AKC with greater than 600,000 dogs a year, this is >80% of their revenue!

6. AKC inspections are not annual. Breeders with 4-6 litters per year are inspected only randomly. Inspections for breeders with 7-24 litters per year are performed every 18 months with an extra grace period of 18 months for those with two positive inspections in a row. So, there could be up to 36 months between inspections.

Pet stores:

1. The majority of pet stores no longer sell dogs and cats, if anything they sell birds, reptiles and pocket pets. The larger franchises open themselves to rescue groups providing a space to showcase animals.
2. These stores still employ thousands of people and are obviously successful selling pet supplies.
3. It is ideal for the purchaser of a purebred animal to see both parents for temperament and health concerns which is impossible at a pet store. A responsible local breeder would never send their puppies or kittens to a pet store, rather they want to meet and screen all adopters.
4. The pet stores typically have a "money back" guarantee but know they are feeding on the guilt that results in the reluctance to "return" a sick animal to the store and trade it in for a "new" one.....these are living, loving beings NOT a broken toy.
5. We cannot stop the reprehensible large scale breeding methods used until we stop buying the puppies. It is a simple matter of supply and demand, if there is no demand for these mass-produced dogs then the supplier's market will dry up and only then will they stop.
6. A very significant concern has been the rise of antibiotic resistant strains of *Campylobacter jejuni* as a public health threat with a known 168 cases linked to pet store puppies.
<https://consumer.healthday.com/9-16-pet-store-puppies-passing-drug-resistant-bacteria-to-people-2655020738.html>

Importation of animals:

1. Importation of animals from other countries can pose a problem with disease and parasites but the number of animals is insignificant compared to those coming from large scale breeding operations.
2. In the south, including Florida, the movement of animals is primarily out-of-state to the Northeast and Midwest where they do not have the high euthanasia rates seen in southern county shelters.

Roughly six million animals go into shelters each year in the US alone; over one million cats and dogs are euthanized and approximately 80% were healthy adoptable pets and up to 25% recognized as purebred. Several pet stores stopped selling puppies and kittens years ago, now it is time for the rest of them to do the honorable thing also. This is not a County putting people out of business but the end of an antiquated method of pet sales. Just like the circus has stopped doing animal acts and Sea World has stopped the breeding and shows with Orcas, the public can no longer justify or tolerate the methods being used towards animals in the 21st century. All the big pet stores are still in the billion-dollar business of selling pet supplies.

As a veterinarian who has seen the horrors of the suppliers, I strongly recommend your County moves forward with the humane and moral decision for "man's best friend" and prohibit all retail sales of commercially bred dogs and cats for both new and current facilities.

Respectfully,

Betsy R. Coville, MS, DVM

Johnson, Krista

From: 02 06 <9miles45@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 1:58 PM
To: Gerard, Pat
Cc: Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote Yes Pet Ban Vote No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Johnson, Krista

From: Patricia Scarvelli <scarvellip@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 1:57 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Cc: Patti Scarvelli
Subject: [BULK] VOTE TO BAN SALE OF CATS AND DOGS

Importance: Low

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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You certainly should be aware of the concern and problems with the sale of cat, dogs, (and rabbits) at pet stores, flea markets, road side sale spots. As a constituent, I implore and beg you to vote YES to ban this practice with no grandfathering offered.

I am sure the majority, except those making money off this horrible practice, would encourage you to do the same.

Thank you,

Patricia Scarvelli
727-688-3678

Johnson, Krista

From: Kim Hayes <khayes1115@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 1:37 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Justice, Charlie; Peters, Kathleen; Eggers, Dave; Seel, Karen; Robinson-Flowers, Rene
Subject: June 7, 2022 Pinellas Cty. Commission Meeting, Re: Ban of Retail Sale of Dogs & Cats
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

I may be unable to attend the meeting and wish therefore, to now request that you give full attention to the need to ban the retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, flea markets, and on the side of the road in Pinellas County. You have heard the cogent reasons for this ban, so no need for me to reiterate them. I am requesting that you therefore vote YES for a ban on a retail sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, with no grandfathering.

After learning about the horrible plight regarding the sale of rabbits for pets in all kinds of stores, rabbits need to be considered in this ban, or, as a separate piece of legislation. Practicing humanity is decidedly called for, for rabbits.

Respectfully,

Kim Hayes

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 12:31 AM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Live Form

Topic	Chapter 14 of the Pinellas County Code relating to animals specifically regarding the retail sale of dogs and cats in Pinellas County
BCC Agenda Date	6-7-2022
Your Stand on the Issue	Support
Comments	I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering.
Citizen Name	Miranda Hannahs
Address	2291 Gulf To Bay Blvd, Lot 213 Clearwater, FL 33765 United States
Phone	727-3962149
Email	Miranda0976@gmail.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 4:04 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

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Live Form

Topic Resalet of dogs, cats, & rabbits

BCC Agenda Date 5-07-2022

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments Please stop the sale of dogs, cats & rabbits in Pinellas County & do not allow grandfathering of six existing pet stores which sell dogs from puppy mills. These places are not regulated properly, and pets are in unhealthy conditions. The shelters are over run with pets people have turned in, and most have to be put down. Thank you for your quick action.

Citizen Name Kathleen Warth

Address 1859 N Washington Ave.
FL Clearwater
United States

Phone 727-742-9771

Email kathleenwarth@verizon.net

Johnson, Krista

From: Sylvia Cummings <sbmccummings@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 10:02 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES to Pet Store Ban/NO to Grandfathering

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please do the right thing by voting YES to Pet Store Ban and vote NO to grandfathering existing Pet stores. You can't put a price on a life.

Respectfully,
Sylvia Cummings
Pinellas County resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Johnson, Krista

From: Linda Weippert <lweippert-wow.net@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2022 1:48 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote Yes pet ban/ no grandfathering

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Johnson, Krista

From: M C <santaclodge@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2022 9:59 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote YES to pet banning and NO to grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please Vote YES to pet banning and Vote NO to grandfathering for the sake of all the voiceless furbabies, cats, dogs and rabbits. It is so inhumane the way these animals are being treated. Caged endlessly and neglected. It is unfathomable that we can let this continue to occur.

I appeal to your sense of caring and compassion to do the right thing by all these beautiful animals put here on God's green earth.
Do not let them suffer.

Thank you.
Em Clodge
Clearwater, 33763

Johnson, Krista

From: Linda Rowland <lindarowland11@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2022 6:03 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote yes pet ban. No grandfathering.

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Johnson, Krista

From: Denise Catanzarite <dcatz0605@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2022 1:04 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please vote to support this and end animal suffering.

Florida Resident & Registered Voter
Denise Catanzarite

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2022 12:37 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Live Form

Topic	Ordinance updates to chapter 14 of the Pinellas County code relating to animals specifically regarding the retail sale of dogs and cats in Pinellas County
BCC Agenda Date	6-7-2022
Your Stand on the Issue	Support
Comments	I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats and rabbits with no grandfathering. I support the ban but oppose the grandfathering of existing stores.
Citizen Name	Beverly Field
Address	2266 Palmetto Dr Clearwater, FL 33763 United States
Phone	7274556105-7274556105
Email	bevandkitty@gmail.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Cathy Baier <otterbpbk@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2022 7:50 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: [BULK] VOTE YES TO RETAIL PET BAN; NO GRANDFATHERING!
Importance: Low
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioners,

As someone who sees the costly downstream effects of unwanted rabbits in our community, I support a full retail ban on the sale of rabbits both at pet stores and any other locations (flea markets and roadside sellers) across the state of Florida. Some municipalities have already done this. The city of Key West passed a retail ban on the sale of commercially-bred cats dogs, rabbits, and guinea pigs years ago. To those voicing concerns about the future health of pet stores, the ban did NOT cause the pet store to go out of business. The business is still alive and well! But the ban did cause the number of rabbits our local county shelter gets, to drop significantly.

Please act on behalf of the animals, but also on behalf of your community, since its your constituents who, as taxpayers ultimately pay the cost of dealing with stray and unwanted animals. Thank you for your consideration in this matter!

Respectfully,
Cathy Baier
Florida Keys
otterbpbk@msn.com
(305) 797-0892

Johnson, Krista

From: noreply@fs30.formsite.com on behalf of flsuzanne at hotmail.com
<noreply@fs30.formsite.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 29, 2022 7:43 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Online Customer Service Contact Us Form Result #24305857

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

This information is a result of a Pinellas County Online Customer Service form submission from the Pinellas County web site.

Direction of Inquiry Commissioner Janet C. Long - District 1 (2022 Vice-Chair)
Commissioner Pat Gerard - District 2
Commissioner Charlie Justice - District 3 (2022 Chairman)
Commissioner Dave Eggers - District 4
Commissioner Karen Williams Seel - District 5
Commissioner Kathleen Peters - District 6
Commissioner René Flowers - District 7

Subject Pet sales ban

Message Hello Commissioners, my name is Suzanne Boschen at 675 Mandalay Ave., Clearwater Beach. I've been involved in rescuing animals for over 50 years.

I believe that we are conscious enough now in 2022 to realize and accept that any living breathing sentient creature has the ability to feel pain, fear, hunger, and loneliness. It is with this realization that I maintain they should not be treated as chattel to be sold for money.

I have been affiliated with many rescue groups over the years and I have seen the over abundance of pets that have been surrendered for many different reasons, some for valid reasons and some for frivolous reasons but all in need of shelter. Local rescue groups have an abundance of adoptable animals available year-round and even if someone absolutely must have a purebred pet, there are plenty of ethical breeders available to fill that void. Puppy mills and backyard breeders who inbreed animals for sale in pet stores often offer pets that are sick due to genetic disorders, and are ultimately destined for euthanasia after the purchaser has become very attached to the animal and has spent thousands of dollars trying to save it. Many times it ultimately falls to the rescue groups to step in and retrieve animals from these mills that require extensive medical treatment and socialization straining precious resources of the shelter. Mixed breed pets from rescue groups can and do make wonderful pets and tend to be stronger and healthier due to the diverse gene pool from which they come.

It is difficult for me to accept any claim that pet stores make that they have to sell animals to make a living. PetSmart is a stellar example of a business model of a pet supply retailer

that thrives without the sale of cats and dogs. Instead they invite rescue groups to place animals in their adoption center to find forever homes.

Consider for a minute going into a Petsmart and falling in love with Fluffy or Fido. If I adopt either pet all of a sudden I need to feed that pet. I need to buy him or her food, I will need to buy the pet dishes that the food goes in, a bed for the pet, a collar, toys, flea medication, shampoo, litter pan and litter and a sundry of other items a pet owner needs. I'm going to leave that store with my wallet a lot lighter without even having to buy a pet. I will also need to return to the store for food, toys, litter and other supplies on a regular basis. If the store offers grooming I will come back for that as well. If things work out well I may eventually come back for a companion for fluffy. This model has served Petsmart well for many years.

So let's clear the shelters first, let's get every stray off the streets and into loving homes, let's be ethical in our treatment of the creatures we share this earth with. Let us be the Good Shepards we are meant to be. Let us enforce this ban....

Thank you

Your Name	Suzanne Boschen
Your Street Address	675 Mandalay Ave
City/Unincorporated County	Clearwater Beach
Zip Code	33767
Your Phone Number	727-253-6411
Your Email Address	flsuzanne@hotmail.com

This email was sent to cjustice@pinellascounty.org as a result of a form being completed.

[Click here](#) to report unwanted email.



Johnson, Krista

From: Beverly Field <bevandkitty@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 8:22 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote yes pet ban/ no grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Sent from my iPhone

Johnson, Krista

From: tina eisbacher <tinaeisbacher@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: [BULK] Vote Yes on Ban/ No Grandfathering

Importance: Low

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Thank You, Tina Koufas-Eisbacher

"Like" me on [Facebook](#)
See my "Pins" on [Pinterest](#)

"the progress of a society can be judged by how well they treat their animals" Mahatma Gandhi

Johnson, Krista

From: Dawn Dee <ddhpfl@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 28, 2022 5:24 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Peters, Kathleen; Seel, Karen; Long, Janet C; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

PLEASE HELP!!!!!!!
THANK YOU!!!!!!!

Johnson, Krista

From: Greg R <mdgico@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 5:17 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: pet ban

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please vote yes on the pet ban and no to grandfathering.
Thank you!

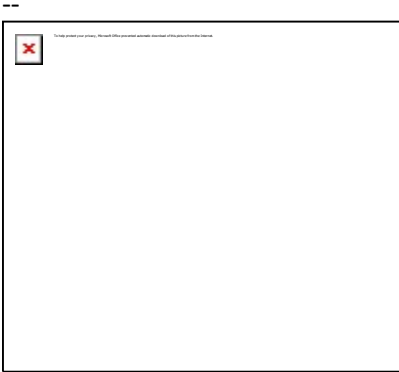
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Johnson, Krista

From: The Royal Cavy <theroyalcavy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 11:08 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote Yes Pet Ban/ No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Vote Yes Pet Ban/ No Grandfathering.



The Royal Cavy Guinea Pig Rescue Inc.

(727)408-9289

@theroyalcavyrescue@gmail.com

Johnson, Krista

From: Elka Zwick <elkazwick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 9:36 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioner Justice,

I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering.

Sincerely,

Elka Zwick
St. Petersburg, Florida

Johnson, Krista

From: Alexandra Nixon <alexsolnixon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

This email concerns the JUNE 7th Pinellas County Vote on Retail Pet Sales Ban for Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits. I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering of existing stores. Please vote in favor of this ban and against grandfathering existing stores.

Alexandra Nixon
1969 Chenango Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755
Cell. +1 727 488 2712

Johnson, Krista

From: Jo Levy <petladyjo@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 8:59 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

NO MORE SALES OF PETS ESPECIALLY DOGS, CATS & RABBITS

Johnson, Krista

From: Patricia Lovati <mama774@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 8:40 AM
To: Gerard, Pat
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / NO Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

I SUPPORT A FULL RETAIL BAN ON DOGS, CATS AND RABBITS WITH "NO GRANDFATHERING"

Please help these poor animals who can't speak for themselves!

Thank you 🙏
Patricia Lovati
(resident of Clearwater)

Sent from my iPhone

Johnson, Krista

From: Sherry Day <sherdaytampa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 7:42 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote YES Ban / no grandfathering of existing pet stores
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello

Please vote a **full ban** on sales of rabbits cats dogs puppies and vote **no grandfathering in of existing retailers**

Please acknowledge receipt

Sincerely,

Sherry Day
1860 Stevenson Ave. Clearwater , fl 33755 🌻

Johnson, Krista

From: Sherry Day <sherdaytampa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 27, 2022 7:37 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Ban on pet stores
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello

Please document my support id a **full ban** on sales of rabbits cats dogs puppies and vote **no grandfathering in.**

Please acknowledge receipt

Sincerely

Sherry Day

1860 Stevenson Ave. Clearwater , fl 33755 🌻

Johnson, Krista

From: jim bolger <jrb2752bolger@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:57 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Johnson, Krista

From: jim bolger <jrb2752bolger@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:55 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: "I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering"

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

"I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering"

Johnson, Krista

From: Rebecca Weiss <rebecca8@tampabay.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 5:06 PM
To: Gerard, Pat
Cc: Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Please vote YES Pet Ban/ no grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

No retail sales of cats, dogs rabbits please!

Kind Regards,

Rebecca Sjouwerman
rebecca8@tampabay.rr.com
Pinellas County

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 4:21 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Live Form

Topic 22-0716A Related to retail sales of dogs and cats

BCC Agenda Date 6-7-2022

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments
As a doctor of veterinary medicine with over 30 years experience I have rarely seen a pet store that gives adequate protection that a pet being sold to an owner is in optimum health. Records of care are inadequate and are not verifiable. Unknown stress exists between transportation, feeding, housing and medical care. Records based on the store are at risk of being altered. Has a veterinarian been involved at all during the care of the pet (examination, dosing with appropriate vaccine and wormers at correct ages, inspection for skin parasites and zoonotic diseases). The future pets and citizens have the right to have a "forever home" protected by the fact that they are purchasing a pet that is healthy both physically and psychologically. Otherwise you will have citizens spending money on unnecessary problems(including shelters) caused by the early care of these pets. I am against the retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits and any other species without inspections and certification programs in place. This includes existing stores as well. Sincerely, Rick Diedrich D.V.M.

Citizen Name Rick Diedrich

Address 327 5TH AVE N
SAFETY HARBOR, FL 34695-3640
United States

Phone 440-503-4192

Email dietz1539@aol.com

Johnson, Krista

From: nick nicholson <nick9992009@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 2:37 PM
To: pgerand@pinellascounty.org; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Pet Stores On your upcoming June 7th meeting
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I wish to vote YES on outlawing the sale of animals in Pinellas County.

I wish to vote NO on grandfathering in Pet Stores.

James Nicholson
2717 Seville Blvd
apt 9104
Clearwater, FL 33764

As a citizen and registered voter

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Johnson, Krista

From: Kim Le <vietcanuck08@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 1:33 PM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering Thank you, Kim L

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering.
Thank you,
Kim L

Johnson, Krista

From: Holly Fleming <aryiella@live.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 12:56 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Please do the right thing for these animals!

Holly Fleming
8942 118th Way
Seminole, FL 33772
727-417-7496

Johnson, Krista

From: Dara Crystal <dcrysal0407@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 12:50 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

Time to end the abuse and neglect.

Johnson, Krista

From: Lori Heffner <clearwaterbeachnut@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 12:46 PM
To: Peters, Kathleen; Seel, Karen; Long, Janet C; Justice, Charlie; Eggers, Dave; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Gerard, Pat
Subject: [BULK] PLEASE VOTE YES ON PET STORE BAN / NO GRANDFATHERING
Importance: Low
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON PET STORE BAN / NO GRANDFATHERING

Too many discarded and unwanted pets (dogs, cats, rabbits) being dumped and/or destroyed.

Lori Heffner
(727) 421-6361
Sent from my iPhone

Johnson, Krista

From: shaw.lisa@mail.com
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:35 AM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Subject: Vote YES Pet Ban / No Grandfathering
Importance: High
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Good morning Commissioners,

I want you to know that I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering! Note, the SPCA in Pinellas took in roughly 300 unwanted pet rabbits in 2019, 246 rabbits in 2020, and 311 rabbits in 2021. And turned away many more! These rabbits, and other animals, are given as gifts especially at Easter with little or no knowledge of what the animals need for care; sadly, the children and family tire of the pet and discard it.

Take the lives of these animals into consideration and not be pressured by retailers that are just thinking of profit.

Again, please vote **YES** on the pet ban and do not allow grandfathering!

Thank you for your consideration and take care,

Lisa Shaw

727.519.8084

shaw.lisa@mail.com

1601 S Belcher Rd

#81

Largo, FL 33771

Johnson, Krista

From: Gail Petrjck <gail.petrjck@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 10:17 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: Vote YES on Pet Ban and No on Grandfathering

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Commissioner Justice,

PLEASE vote YES for a **Retail Ban for Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits.**

Don't let them grandfather in the existing stores because there are so many unwanted neglected and **abandoned** pets and the retail stores are contributors to this vicious cycle. There are shelters and stores like Petco where people can find and help the abandoned pets as well as their community.

Don't forget about the rabbits either. **The SPCA in Pinellas took in roughly 300 unwanted pet rabbits in 2019, 246 rabbits in 2020, and 311 rabbits in 2021. And turned away many many more!** Please speak up for rabbits! I personally have rescued many pets including a rabbit. People buy these poor rabbits cheap during the easter holiday and then find they are having difficulty just taking care of their own family, so they abandon the rabbits thinking they are like the ones that live in the wild but they are not. The only way to stop it is to BAN sales. Banning sales will help with the overpopulation problem and the very sad abandonment of these poor animals.

Show mercy and *please* put the animal's welfare first, rather than the "almighty" dollar.

Thank you,
GailP

Johnson, Krista

From: Barbara Costa <cat94020@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 7:52 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Cc: Renee Rivard
Subject: Ban retail sale of pets

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.

I support a full retail ban on the sale of pets, no grandfathering

Sent from my iPhone

Barbara

Saving One Cat May Not Change The World But It Means The World To that One Cat

Johnson, Krista

From: June McGinnis <jfmcmoon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2022 6:51 AM
To: Justice, Charlie
Subject: [BULK] VOTE YES ON PET BAN/NO GRANDFATHERING

Importance: Low

Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

June McGinnis
Clearwater, FL

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Johnson, Krista

From: Isabelle <imtassi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2022 11:36 PM
To: Gerard, Pat; Robinson-Flowers, Rene; Eggers, Dave; Justice, Charlie; Long, Janet C; Seel, Karen; Peters, Kathleen
Subject: Pls. vote YES on the pet ban with NO grandfathering
Categories: DOWNLOADED, SENT TO BOARD REPORTERS

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Hello -

I support a FULL retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with NO grandfathering. Thank you.

--

Isabelle Tassi

<http://www.peaceablekingdomfilm.org>

Award-winning new film from Tribe of Heart

"The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that's wrong in the world." ~ Dr. Paul Farmer

Johnson, Krista

From: Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
<noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org
Sent: Monday, June 6, 2022 5:00 PM
To: BCC Agenda Comments

CAUTION: *This message has originated from outside of the organization. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you are expecting the correspondence from the sender and know the content is safe.*

Live Form

Topic	Ordinance updates to Chapter 14 of the Pinellas County Code relating to animals specifically regarding the retail sale of dogs and cats in Pinellas County
BCC Agenda Date	6-7-2022
Your Stand on the Issue	Support
Comments	I support a full retail ban on dogs, cats, and rabbits with no grandfathering. As a rabbit owner & foster and rabbit rescue supporter, I want to speak specifically to these commonly misunderstood pets. Over and over, well-meaning people fall for rabbits without understanding the time and cost involved. They live 8 to 12 years. They need special foods and plenty of space to run and play in order to be happy and healthy. They need exotic vet care, which can be costly. They need to be fixed – to keep the population in check but also for their health and to keep their hormones under control. Over and over, people realize that buying a pet rabbit was the wrong choice for them – and then they find out that rehoming their rabbit is very difficult. The rabbit rescues are bursting at the seams (all around our state and beyond), and many animal services departments are not equipped to help rabbits. The SPCA in Pinellas took in roughly 300 unwanted pet rabbits in 2019, 246 rabbits in 2020, and 311 rabbits in 2021. And turned away many more! Over and over, people take the easy way out and dump their pet rabbits on the street or in parks, where they suffer unimaginably. Domestic rabbits aren't the same as wild rabbits and are not equipped to live in the wild. They get attacked or killed by predators, hit by cars, infested with bot flies or parasites and often go on suffering with painful injuries or diseases so gruesome that it hurts to look at them. A full retail ban that includes rabbits is the first step in breaking this cycle of cruelty. Passing this ban is the humane choice and the necessary action to take.
Citizen Name	Melissa Bartalos

Address	794 Treasure Boat Way Sarasota United States
Phone	941-961-4363
Email	mmbartalos@gmail.com