

RESOLUTION NO. __
URGING THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ENACT LEGISLATION
PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS IN PET STORES OR
ENABLING MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS IN PET STORES

WHEREAS Chapter 111 of the Stamford Code of Ordinances gives the City authority to regulate the sale of live animals and to prevent cruelty to animals, and

WHEREAS state and federal inspection reports document that certain pet stores have obtained puppies from commercial breeders with deficient animal welfare records, and

WHEREAS the documented abuses endemic to commercial breeders include over-breeding; inbreeding; minimal veterinary care; lack of adequate food, water and shelter; lack of socialization, exercise and enrichment; and lack of sanitation, and

WHEREAS the City has the authority to regulate and prohibit the keeping of domestic animals within the municipal limits or portions thereof, and

WHEREAS it is in the interest of the residents of Stamford to ensure that dogs and cats are raised in safe, humane conditions, and kept in safe, humane conditions, and

WHEREAS as a result of improper commercial breeding, pet store puppies have a higher risk of being sick and having behavioral problems

WHEREAS some pet stores have been known to mislead consumers as to the origin of the puppies and kittens in such stores and make false health and behavior guarantees thereby causing consumers to incur hundreds or thousands of dollars in veterinary bills while suffering the heartbreak of having their newly acquired pet suffer, and in some cases die, and

WHEREAS according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pet store puppies pose a health risk to consumers as over one hundred Americans, including at least two Connecticut residents, have contracted an antibiotic-resistant *Campylobacter* infection from contact with pet store puppies; and

WHEREAS there are many dogs and cats being held at the Stamford Animal Control Center that are in need of good homes; and

WHEREAS prohibiting pet stores from selling dogs and cats is likely to decrease the demand for puppies and kittens bred in puppy and kitten mills and decrease the burden that such puppies and kittens that end up in animal shelters place on local agencies and taxpayers,

The Stamford City Board of Representatives therefore resolves and strongly urges by this Resolution hereby that the Connecticut General Assembly either enact a statewide law that prohibits the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores or a clarifying provision stating that municipalities have the authority to regulate pet stores in a manner that is more restrictive than state law.