

Shilling, Mona

From: Elizabeth Oreck <elizabetho@bestfriends.org>
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 10:11 AM
To: Fisher, Bill (Mayor); Jacobson, Carl (Mayor Pro Tem); Fuentes, Suzanne (Mayor Pro Tem); Atkinson, Dave (Council Member); Fellhauer, Marie (Council Member)
Cc: Weaver, Tracy (City Clerk); Domann, Cathy; Shilling, Mona
Subject: Support letter for proposed pet sales ordinance from Best Friends Animal Society
Attachments: El Segundo Support Letter 10-13-13.Pg 1.pdf; El Segundo Support Letter 10-13-13.Pg 2.pdf

Dear Mayor Fisher and members of the Council,

Attached please find a letter from Best Friends Animal Society in support of an ordinance to prohibit the retail sale of dogs and cats in El Segundo pet stores.

Best Friends is one of the leading animal welfare organizations in the United States. We operate the largest no kill animal sanctuary in the country, as well as a large municipal adoption center and spay/neuter clinic in Los Angeles. We recently launched the NKLA Coalition in an effort to take the City of Los Angeles to a no kill status. We are committed to bringing about a time of No More Homeless Pets, and we believe that an ordinance to restrict retail pet sales in El Segundo will take us one step closer to achieving that goal in California.

We have been honored to work with the city councils of many of the 14 cities in California that have enacted this ordinance, and I hope that you will let us know if there is anything Best Friends can do to help further the effort in El Segundo, as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Oreck
National Manager, Puppy Mill Initiatives
Best Friends Animal Society
(818) 521-0355, Tel
pupymills.bestfriends.org

Together, we can Save Them All™

Please visit and "like" our Facebook page, *I Adopted a Puppy Mill Dog*
Make your voice count! Join [Voices for No More Homeless Pets](#) to take action for animals in your community



**Best
Friends
Animal
Society**

SAVE THEM ALL™

13 October 2013

El Segundo City Council
350 Main Street
El Segundo, CA 90245

Re: Retail Pet Sales Ordinance

Dear Mayor Fisher and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society, a national animal welfare organization in its thirtieth year, I would like to offer support for an ordinance to ban the retail sale of dogs and cats in El Segundo pet stores. We urge you to join the other thirty-eight cities in North America that have made the change to no longer allow pet stores to sell commercially bred companion animals.

Pet mills, particularly puppy mills, are a serious problem in the U.S. These facilities, which supply nearly 100% of retail pet stores, are cruel and inhumane factories in which profit and maximum productivity take priority over the welfare of the animals.

Although these breeders may be regulated, their standards do not ensure a humane life for animals; in fact, they do little more than require food and water. USDA inspection reports show that many of these facilities continue to sell animals to local pet stores even after being cited for serious violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

These types of kennels can legally have hundreds - often a thousand - animals in one facility, and these animals are allowed to be confined to very small cages for their entire lives.

Because the goal is to make a profit, mill owners must cut corners to keep expenses low and profits high. For the unsuspecting consumer, this frequently results in the purchase of a pet facing an array of communicable or congenital diseases, many of which don't surface until after the pet lemon law is applicable. This creates a financial and emotional burden on the consumer, who believes he or she is buying a pet from the best source possible, and results in many of these animals being surrendered to our already overcrowded, taxpayer-subsidized shelters.

It makes little sense to continue manufacturing dogs and cats while so many are being killed for lack of space. Public education has been effective, but until communities take the initiative to limit the supply of animals being imported from these mostly out-of-state commercial facilities, there can be no hope of preventing these unnecessary deaths.

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Pet stores that obtain their animals from mills are not an asset to the community, yet it is those retailers who benefit most from the sale of these pets. While they may profit from the practice of buying puppies and kittens at a low price from commercial brokers and then selling them (typically without first spaying or neutering them) at a high price, it is the taxpaying public who pays for animal control to house and kill unwanted animals in the community.

Pet stores that sell commercially bred animals could be part of the solution rather than the problem, simply by either stopping pet sales altogether (and focusing on other profitable, ancillary components such as grooming, daycare or pet supplies), or by changing to a business model that offers products, services, and space for animal rescue organizations to adopt out animals from their stores. Best Friends has partnered with several of the many pet stores that have transitioned from selling milled dogs and cats to offering rescued pets for adoption, and we have found this progressive model to be both viable and embraced by the communities in which the stores are located. Thus, a ban on the retail sale of pets would *not* preclude pet stores from staying in business, and could in fact alleviate a significant burden on the city by increasing pet adoptions. It would also not impact responsible, hobby breeders.

We have been honored to work with the Southern California cities that have enacted these ordinances, most recently Los Angeles, San Diego, Burbank, Huntington Beach, Irvine and Glendale. We are proud to support you in your efforts to make El Segundo a humane and progressive leader for the rest of the country to follow, and we encourage the Council to take a compassionate, common sense initiative to addressing the pet mill crisis in your community.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Oreck

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