

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DEPTFORD RESTRICTING SALES OF DOGS AND CATS AT PET SHOPS, ENCOURAGING MUNICIPALITIES TO ADOPT ORDINANCES TO DO THE SAME, AND AUTHORIZING ENFORCEMENT OF SUCH ORDINANCES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, a significant number of puppies and kittens sold at pet shops come from large-scale, commercial breeding facilities where the health and welfare of the animals are not adequately provided for (“puppy mills” and “kitten mills,” respectively); and

WHEREAS, according to The Humane Society of the United States, it is estimated that 10,000 puppy mills produce more than 2,400,000 puppies a year in the United States and that most pet shop dogs and cats come from puppy mills and kitten mills; and

WHEREAS, the documented abuses endemic to puppy and kitten mills include overbreeding; inbreeding; minimal to non-existent veterinary care; lack of adequate and nutritious food, water and shelter; lack of socialization; lack of adequate space; and lack of adequate exercise; and

WHEREAS, the inhumane conditions in puppy and kitten mill facilities lead to health and behavioral issues in the animals bred in those facilities, which many consumers are unaware of when purchasing animals from pet shops due to both a lack of education on the issue and misleading tactics of pet shops in some cases; and

WHEREAS, these health and behavioral issues, which may not present themselves until sometime after the purchase of the animals, can impose exorbitant financial and emotional costs on consumers; and

WHEREAS, current Federal and State regulations do not adequately address the sale of puppy and kitten mill dogs and cats in pet shops; and

WHEREAS, restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens to only those that are sourced from shelters or rescue organizations is likely to decrease the demand for puppies and kittens bred in puppy and kitten mills, and is likely to increase demand for animals from animal shelters and rescue organizations; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Health in its 2014 Animal Intake and Disposition Survey has found that due in large part to pet overpopulation, more than 20,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in New Jersey animal shelters annually, including 2176 in the County of Gloucester. Restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens to only those that are sourced from animal shelters and rescue organizations will likely reduce pet overpopulation and thus the burden on such agencies and financial costs on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, across the country, thousands of independent pet shops as well as large chains operate profitably with a business model focused on the sale of pet services and supplies and not on the sale of dogs and cats. Many of these shops collaborate with local animal shelters and rescue organizations to offer space and support for showcasing adoptable homeless pets on their premises; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution will not affect a consumer's ability to obtain a dog or cat of his or her choice directly from a breed-specific rescue organization or a shelter, or from a hobby breeder where the consumer can see directly the conditions in which the dogs or cats are bred, or can confer directly with the hobby breeder concerning those conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Township of Deptford, in the County of Gloucester believes it is in the best interest of the Township of Deptford to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the Township and its residents, protect the citizens of the Township of Deptford who may purchase cats or dogs from a pet shop or other business establishment, help prevent inhumane breeding conditions, promote community awareness of animal welfare, and foster a more humane environment in the Township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body, in the Township of Deptford, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey that pet shops in the Township of Deptford are prohibited from selling dogs or cats unless they obtain such dogs or cats from animal shelters or animal rescue organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, upon adoption by Ordinance of the Township of Deptford, in the County of Gloucester, enforcement of such ordinance shall be provided through the Department of Health & Human Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Township of Deptford, County of Gloucester, and State of New Jersey, hereby supports and urges the Gloucester County Municipalities, the New Jersey State Assembly, the members of the New Jersey Senate, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities to approve and pass the bill for the reasons expressed herein; and

NOW BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to members of the New Jersey State Assembly, members of the New Jersey Senate, the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, and all Gloucester County municipalities.



TOWNSHIP OF DEPTFORD

PAUL MEDANY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DINA L. ZAWADSKI, TOWNSHIP CLERK

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a Regular Meeting of Township Council of the Township of Deptford held on the 14th day of December, 2015 at the Municipal Building, 1011 Cooper Street, Deptford, New Jersey.

DINA L. ZAWADSKI, TOWNSHIP CLERK

RECORD OF VOTE						
Council Member	Resolution No.	Ordinance No.	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
	R.242.15					
Medany						
Hufnell						
Barnshaw						
Lamb						
Love						
Schocklin						
Scott						