



HELP COMBAT CRUEL COMMERCIAL COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING

Pass A.4283 (AM L. Rosenthal) / S.1130 (Sen. Gianaris)

THE PROBLEM

The vast majority (*approximately 90%*) of companion animals sold in pet stores come from mills and factories. These large-scale commercial breeding facilities raise animals in **inhumane conditions** that cause physical, behavioral, and psychological problems in the dogs, cats, and rabbits bred and housed there.

THE SOLUTION

Enact **A.4283/S.1130**, which would **ban the selling of dogs, cats and rabbits at retail pet stores** in New York. **Similar bans have been enacted** by two states (*California and Maryland*) and in hundreds of local jurisdictions across the country.

REASONS TO SUPPORT

- **Current Regulation Is Ineffective:** Federal standards of care for commercially bred dogs, cats and rabbits are **nominal, deemed deficient by major veterinary organizations, and are barely enforced**. While New York's laws exceed the federal minimum standard of care, they are still insufficient and under-enforced. Compared to some other states, NYS has relatively **weak animal protection laws** and its commercial breeding laws regulate companion animal mills only within the state. Most pet stores **source animals from states with laws that either do not significantly raise the standard of care or inspection requirements** provided by the federal government, or **have no commercial breeding laws at all**. Enforcement is challenging because the industry is hidden from public view and pet stores have little incentive to report animal cruelty against their suppliers.
- **Promotes Animal Welfare:** Commercial breeding facilities tend towards **unethical breeding practices** and house animals in **overcrowded and unsanitary conditions without adequate food, water, socialization and veterinary care**, resulting in an array of **health and behavioral problems including communicable diseases, behavioral issues, and genetic disorders**. These problems often result in animals being abandoned or euthanized. *A ban on pet store sales of dogs, cats and rabbits would significantly increase adoption of homeless animals and reduce shelter euthanasia.*
- **Saves Taxpayer Money:** Mass production of companion animals in commercial breeding facilities is a major cause of **pet overpopulation and abandonment**, which in turn results in significant costs for taxpayers in housing and euthanizing animals. *New York expends approximately \$50 million annually to house and euthanize animals.*
- **Public Health and Environmental Benefits:** Companion animal mills pose **public health and environmental risks**. The release of pathogens into water, soil and air due to improper waste management at facilities presents a public health risk to humans and creates significant risks for disease transmission, as well as substantial pollution to the water, soil, and air. State and federal inspection reports show companion animal mills regularly engage in **improper and illegal waste disposal of feces, urine and carcasses**, in violation of state and federal environmental laws.
- **Consumer Protection:** Consumers are often unaware of the source of pet store animals since pet stores generally provide **little or misleading information to consumers**. Purchasers of these animals can incur **expensive veterinary bills and emotional trauma**, as well as litigation costs if they seek redress under existing consumer protection laws. *Pet stores face frequent consumer lawsuits for selling sick companion animals from commercial breeding facilities.*
- **Viability of Alternative Business Model:** Live animal sales comprise only a small fraction of the money spent in the pet industry (*less than 5%*). Pet stores across the country have remained profitable by **fostering adoptions and focusing sales on pet-related products and services** such as food and grooming.

Read the City Bar's report in support of A.4283/S.1130 here: <http://bit.ly/2Rq1QPF>.