

ORDINANCE 2018 - 6

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BARNEGAT, COUNTY OF OCEAN STATE OF NEW JERSEY CREATING NEW CHAPTER 61 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE BANNING THE SALE OF PUPPIES AND KITTENS

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). 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.

WHEREAS, the documented abuses endemic to puppy and kitten mills include over-breeding; 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.

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. 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 the consumer.

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

WHEREAS, prohibiting the retail sale of puppies and kittens 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.

WHEREAS, according to the New Jersey Department of Health 2016 Animal Intake and Disposition Survey, due in large part to pet overpopulation, more than 15,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in New Jersey animal shelters annually. 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 Ordinance 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 shelter, or from a hobby breeder where the consumer can see directly the conditions in which the dogs and cats are bred; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee believes it is in the best interests of this Township to adopt reasonable regulation to reduce costs to the Township and its residents, protect the citizens of the Township 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.

Section 1. Definitions:

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 significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes.

Cat means a member of a species of domestic cat, *Felis catus*.

Dog means a member of a species of domestic dog, *Canis familiaris*.

Offer for Sale means to sell offer for sale or adoption, advertise for the sale of, barter, auction, give away or otherwise dispose of a dog or cat.

Pet shop means a retail establishment where dogs and cats are sold, exchanged, bartered or offered for sale as pet animals to the general public at retail. Such definition shall not include an animal care facility or animal rescue organization, as defined.

Section 2. Restrictions on the Sale of Animals.

No pet store shall sell, deliver, offer for sale, barter, auction, give away or otherwise transfer or dispose of cats or dogs. Nothing in this section shall prohibit stores from collaborating with animal care facilities or animal rescue organizations to offer space for such entities to showcase adoptable dogs and cats.

Section 3. Severability.

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication in an official newspaper of the Township, as required by and in conformance with law

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed by the Township Committee of the Township of Barnegat on first reading at a meeting of the Township Committee held on the 6th day of February, 2018 at the Municipal Complex. The Ordinance will be considered for second and final reading at a meeting of the Township Committee which is scheduled for the 6th day of March, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached, at the Municipal Complex located at 900 West Bay Avenue, Barnegat, New Jersey, at which time the public is invited to ask questions, raise objections, or provide public comment with regard to the proposed adoption of this Ordinance.

Michele Rivers, RMC
Municipal Clerk