



ADMINISTRATION

31 West Quincy Street, Westmont, Illinois 60559

Tel: 630-981-6210 Fax: 630-604-1250
westmont.il.gov | administration@westmont.il.gov

Resolution No. _____ A Resolution in Support of Senate Bill 2280

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

WHEREAS, the documented abuses endemic to puppy and kitten mills include over-breeding; inbreeding; minimal to non-existent veterinary care or grooming; lack of adequate and nutritious food, water and shelter; lack of socialization; lack of adequate space; and lack of adequate exercise, including at USDA licensed facilities; and

WHEREAS, scientific data suggests that the inhumane conditions in puppy and kitten mill facilities lead to health and behavioral issues in the animals bred in those facilities, many of which may not present themselves until sometime after the purchase of the animals, can impose exorbitant financial and emotional costs on consumers; and

WHEREAS, many consumers due to either lack of education on the topic or due to efforts on the part of some pet shops to mislead the consumer, are unaware that animal welfare, health, and behavioral concerns exist within the facilities from which their animal was obtained, including some licensed by the USDA.; and

WHEREAS, current Federal, State and County regulations and resources do not properly address the sale of puppy and kitten mill dogs and cats in pet shops, nor do they provide the necessary oversight of commercial breeders and enforcement of existing animal welfare laws; 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 while increasing the demand for animals from animal shelters and rescue organizations, many of which have already received veterinary care and are receiving assistance with overcoming behavioral issues; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 2.4 million healthy, adoptable cats and dogs—about one every 13 seconds—are euthanized in the U.S. annually, restricting the retail sale of pets to only those that are sourced from animal shelters and rescue organizations is likely to reduce pet overpopulation, decrease the burden on such agencies, and lessen the cost to local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, across the country, thousands of independent pet shops and large chains operate profitably with a business model focused on the sale of pet services, pet supplies, and pet adoption, not on the sale of puppies and kittens; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2280 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 reputable hobby breeder where the consumer can see directly the conditions in which the dogs or cats are bred; where animal welfare standards go well beyond the minimal standards proposed by the USDA; where the health, temperament and best interests of the animal are placed before profit; and where the breeder is committed to the animal for life making animal homelessness a thing of the past; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Westmont Village Board of Trustees believe it is in the best interest of this Village to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the Village and its residents, protect the citizens of the Village 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 Village, the Westmont Village Board of Trustees stands with the Will County and DuPage County boards by fully supporting the ban on the retail sale of animals obtained from commercial breeders as outlined in Senate Bill 2280.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Westmont, DuPage County, Illinois, this 11th day of October, 2018.

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Absent: _____

Ronald J. Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Virginia Szymiski, Village Clerk