

Ordinance 2021-10-19-3

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, puppy mills produce millions of puppies a year in the United States and that most pet shop dogs and cats come from these 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 issues in the animals bred in those facilities, which many consumers are unaware of when purchasing animals from pet shops. These issues can impose financial and emotional costs on consumers.

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, prohibiting the retail sale of puppies and kittens will likely reduce pet overpopulation and thus reduce the burden of euthanizing on agencies, such as animal shelters, and financial costs on local taxpayers.

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.

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 a shelter, or from a hobby breeder.

WHEREAS, the Town Council believes it is in the best interests of this Town to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the Town and its residents, protect the citizens of the Town who may purchase cats or dogs from a pet shop or other business establishment, and help prevent inhumane breeding conditions.

Section 1. 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, rabbits, or dogs. Nothing in this section shall prohibit pet stores from collaborating with animal care facilities or animal rescue organizations to offer space for such entities to showcase adoptable dogs, rabbits, and cats.

Section 2. 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.

Adopted by the Hebron Town Council, Porter County, Indiana, this 19th day of October 2021.



Dave Peeler, President



Kevin Joseph, Councilman



Justin Albright, Vice President



John Spinks Jr., Councilman

Todd Adamczyk, Councilman

ATTEST:


Jamie Uzelac, Clerk Treasurer