

**BOROUGH OF FANWOOD
COUNTY OF UNION**

ORDINANCE NO. 16-08-R

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF FANWOOD, COUNTY OF UNION, AND
STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE OPERATION OF COMMERCIAL PET SHOPS**

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, 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.

WHEREAS, due in large part to pet overpopulation, more than 20,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in New Jersey animal shelters annually, including nearly 300 in the County of Union. 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.

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 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.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council believes it is in the best interests of this Borough to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the Borough and its residents, protect the citizens of the Borough 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 Borough.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fanwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, as follows:

Section 1. the Code of the Borough of Fanwood, County of Union, State of New Jersey, is hereby supplemented and amended by inclusion of Chapter 119 Operation of Commercial Pet Shops as follows:

Section 119-1. 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 or rescue organizations.

Animal rescue organization means any not-for-profit organization which has tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, whose mission and practice is, in whole or in significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes.

Cat means a member of the species of domestic cat, Feliscatus.

Dog means a member of the species of domestic dog, Canisfamiliaris.

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 119-2. Restrictions on the Sale of Animals

- (1) A pet shop may offer for sale only those dogs and cats that the pet shop has obtained from or displays in cooperation with:
 - (a) An animal care facility; or
 - (b) An animal rescue organization.
- (2) A pet shop shall not offer for sale a dog or cat that is younger than eight weeks old. Section 3.

Section 119-3. Record Keeping and disclosure

A pet shop shall maintain records stating the name and address of the animal care facility or animal rescue organization that each cat or dog was obtained from for at least two years following the date of acquisition. Such records shall be made available, immediately upon request, to Borough police and submitted annually, and no later than May 1 of each year, to the Borough of Fanwood. Each pet shop shall display on each cage a label stating the name and address of the animal care facility or animal rescue organization of each animal kept in the cage.

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.

Section 3. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect immediately as provided by law.

Introduced: September 19, 2016

Adopted:

Colleen Mahr, Mayor

Attest:

Eleanor McGovern, Borough Clerk