



CITY OF CLOQUET

ORDINANCE CREATING AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENSE FOR THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS BY A RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT – FIRST READING

MOTION: Councilor moved and Councilor seconded the motion to approve **ORDINANCE NO. 495A, CREATING AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENSE FOR THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS BY A RETAIL ESTABLISHMENT**. The motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Section 1. City Code Amendment. That the Cloquet City Code, be amended by adding a new Section 8.7 to Chapter 8, to read as follows:

Section 8.7: Sale of Dogs and Cats by Retail Establishment

8.7.01. Background. A significant number of puppies and kittens sold at pet stores come from large-scale, commercial breeding facilities where the health and welfare of the animals are not adequately provided for. The documented abuses endemic to mass breeding facilities 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; lack of adequate exercise; no or limited screening of genetic diseases; inadequate transportation and shipping protocols of puppies and kittens; and indiscriminate disposal of breeding dogs and cats who have reached the end of their profitable breeding cycle.

The inhumane conditions in mass breeding 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 stores due to both a lack of education on the issue and misleading tactics of pet stores 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 consumers.

Current Federal and State regulations do not properly address the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. Due in large part to pet overpopulation, numerous dogs and cats are euthanized. Restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens is likely to increase demand from animal shelters and rescue organizations, which will likely reduce the burden on such agencies and reduce financial costs on local taxpayers.

Across the country, thousands of independent pet stores 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 commercially bred dogs or cats. Many of these stores collaborate with local animal shelters and rescue organizations to offer space and support for showcasing adoptable homeless pets on their premises.

This Ordinance will not affect consumers' ability to obtain a dog or cat of their choice directly from an animal shelter, or breed-specific rescue organization, or from a breeder where the consumer can see directly the conditions in which the dogs or cats are bred or can confer directly with the breeder concerning those conditions.

The City Council for the City of Cloquet believes it is in the best interests of the City of Cloquet to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the City and its residents, protect the citizens of the City who may purchase dogs or cats from a pet store or other business establishment, help prevent inhumane breeding conditions, promote community awareness of animal welfare, and foster a more humane environment in the City.

8.7.02 Pet Stores

A. No pet store shall sell, deliver, offer for sale, barter, auction, give away, or otherwise transfer or dispose of cats or dogs.

B. Nothing in this section shall prohibit pet stores from collaborating with animal shelters, animal rescue organizations, and animal control authorities to offer space for such entities to showcase adoptable dogs and cats inside pet stores. Such animals shall not be younger than 8 weeks old.

C. A pet store shall post and maintain a Certificate of Source in a conspicuous place on or within three feet of each dog's or cat's kennel, cage, or enclosure.

1. A Certificate of Source shall be provided to the adopter of any dog or cat.

2. Certificate of Source records for each dog or cat shall be maintained by a pet store for at least one year from the last date that a dog or cat appeared in the store.

3. Pet stores shall make Certificates of Source immediately available for review upon the request of a peace officer or animal control authority, or a humane agent pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 343.06 acting on behalf of the City.

4. Falsification of a Certificate of Source shall be deemed a violation of this section.

D. A violation of this section shall constitute an Administrative Offense under Chapter 15 of City Code and subject the Pet Store Operator to the to the procedures and penalties contained therein.

Section 2. Effective Date: This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication in accordance with the law.