

**SPONSOR: GILDA ORANGE**

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-0021**

**AN ORDINANCE FOR HUMANE PET STORES IN EAST CHICAGO, INDIANA**

**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.

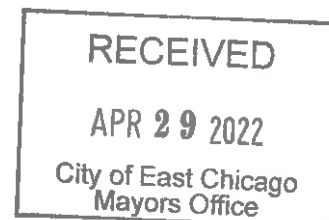
**WHEREAS**, the inhumane conditions in puppy and kitten mill facilities lead to health and behavioral issues in the animals bred in those facilities, which many consumers are unaware of when purchasing animals from pet shops due to both a lack of education on the issue and misleading tactics of pet 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 consumers.

**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**, due in large part to pet overpopulation, at least 920,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in animal shelters in the US annually, and it is believed there are over 6,000 dogs and cats without a home in Lake County, Indiana alone. Prohibiting the retail sale of puppies and kittens will likely reduce pet overpopulation and thus the burden on such agencies 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 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 City Council believes it is in the best interests of this City to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the City and its residents, protect the citizens of the City 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 City.

IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED AS FOLLOWS:

### **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 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. This term does not include any entity, which is, or is housed on the premises of, a breeder or broker, obtains dogs from a breeder or broker in exchange for payment or compensation, or resells dogs obtained from a breeder or broker and provides payment or compensation to such breeder or broker.

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

*Dog* means a member of the 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, rabbits, 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, 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 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.

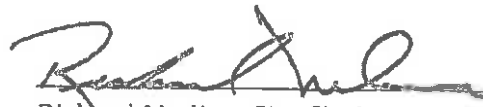
**Section 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective 90 days after passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of East Chicago, Lake County, Indiana on this 27 day of April, 2022.

  
Monica Gonzalez, President  
East Chicago Common Council


Attest:  
  
Richard Medina, City Clerk

PRESENTED by me to the Mayor of the City of East Chicago for his approval and signature on the 29 day of April, 2022.

  
Richard Medina, City Clerk

APPROVED and SIGNED by me on this 29 day of April, 2022.

  
Anthony Copeland, Mayor

ATTEST:  
  
Richard Medina, City Clerk

**FILED IN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**APR 29 2022**

**Clerk, East Chicago Common Council**