



SCIL
Social Compassion
in Legislation

Media Contact:

Simone Reyes

Vice President of Communications

Social Compassion in Legislation

Email: simone@socialcompassion.org

Phone: 917-859-3155

www.SocialCompassionInLegislation.org

SOCIAL COMPASSION IN LEGISLATION ANNOUNCES PERMANENT BAN ON MILL-BRED ANIMALS IN LOS ANGELES PET SHOPS.

Permanent Ban of Mill-Bred Dogs, Cats and Rabbits in the City of Los Angeles

Los Angeles, Calif., - April 20, 2016 – Social Compassion in Legislation (SCIL), a California nonprofit organization devoted to providing solutions for animal welfare and protection issues, **announced the vote to permanently ban commercially bred dogs, cats and rabbits from pet stores, retail businesses or other commercial establishments in the City of Los Angeles.** The law requires that the dogs, cats and rabbits offered for sale must be obtained from an animal shelter or a humane society located in the City of Los Angeles, or a non-profit rescue and humane organization registered with the Department of Animal Services.

SCIL spearheaded the effort in 2011, when the ban was first proposed. However, it was a temporary moratorium that finally was enacted in November of 2012, becoming effective for three years, beginning in mid-2013. Today, the council voted to make that moratorium a permanent law in the City of Los Angeles.

"This action finally accomplishes what we always intended, which is a permanent ban on mill-bred animals being sold in pet shops," said Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz. "And it's justified by the progress we've made in the last three years in choking off that supply line. There's more work to be done for sure, but this was an important step," Councilmember Paul Koretz said.

Pet shops selling live animals have traditionally been a sales outlet for young dogs and cats bred in "puppy mills" and "kitten mills," both with the United States and abroad. These mills are medium- and large-sized "factory farms" where breeders have been known to produce thousands of puppies and kittens annually under conditions that lend themselves to a variety of abuses, from straightforward cruelty to inbreeding- and abuse-inspired health and personality issues.

The result is a very lucrative interstate and international market in these innocent animals that provides pet shops with very profitable stock. Unfortunately, the puppies and kittens that are not sold to consumers end of being dumped in animal shelters, where they become statistics in an ongoing tragedy. The overworked, abused parents often suffer comparable fates.

Growing sentiment nationally against puppy and kitten mills has led a number of states and communities to adopt legislation regulating the mills and the stores that provide an outlet for the dogs and cats bred in their substandard conditions. Curbing the market for these unfortunate animals can also play a role in addressing the problem. With thousands of puppies and kittens being euthanized in the City's animal shelters annually, there is growing sentiment in Los Angeles to find ways to break the link between the mills and pet shops.

"Now, shelter and rescued animals have a better chance of finding their forever home by getting out of the shelters and into store fronts. We need more avenues to get these beautiful animals adopted, instead of putting them to death only because we have failed to find them a home," said Judie Mancuso, President of Social Compassion in Legislation, who led the initial effort.

"This new law brings us into the 21st Century. There is no excuse for breeding and selling dogs when millions of healthy, adoptable dogs are being killed simply because they have no homes. What happens in LA spreads to the rest of the nation and the world. This is a lifesaving law. Congrats LA!" said Jane Velez-Mitchell.

"Every time a person goes to purchase a mill bred animal at a pet shop another shelter animal loses his or her life. The only way to ensure we get a leg up on the pet overpopulation crisis is to follow Los Angeles' lead to ban the sale of commercially bred animals," said Simone Reyes.

"It is a true milestone that pet shops selling live animals from breeders and puppy mills will finally be a thing of the past. We can celebrate the chance to save thousands of more lives by adopting animals from pet shops that would normally be euthanized at your local shelter," said Katie Cleary.

Participants at the Los Angeles press event included Los Angeles City **Councilmember Paul Koretz**, **Simone Reyes**, Vice President of Communications, SCIL, Director of Television Development Russell Simmons' Def Pictures, **Katie Cleary**, SCIL board member, Executive Producer "Give Me Shelter" on Netflix, and World Animal News founder, and **Jane Velez-Mitchell**, New York Times bestselling author, TV journalist, JaneUnChained.com founder, and internationally known animal advocate.

Social Compassion in Legislation (SCIL) is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit animal welfare organization that is dedicated to finding solutions for the welfare, protection, and rights of all animals. For more information, visit www.SocialCompassionInLegislation.org

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