SUPPORT - AB 485 Pet Rescue & Adoption Act
Introduced by Assembly Members O'Donnell and Dababneh
Coauthors: Assembly Members Cervantes, Chavez, and Friedman,
Coauthors: Senators Galgiani and Monning

Promoting Adoption from Local Animal Shelters and Rescue Groups
In Local Retail Pet Stores and Saying No To Puppy Mills

Here’s what the bill does (taken directly from AB 485):
A pet store operator shall not sell a live dog, cat, or rabbit in a pet store unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or nonprofit, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, animal rescue or adoption organization that is in a cooperative agreement with at least one private or public shelter.

FACT: Over 200 counties and cities across the nation have banned the sale of puppy mill dogs and cats since 2006. Since 2008, 33 local jurisdictions in California have adopted a ban on the sales of commercially bred dogs and cats in their local retail pet stores including San Diego, Irvine, Los Angeles, Ventura County and San Francisco. Having one uniform statewide policy to regulate this area would make it easier for pet store companies to comply, rather than having to track and comply with an increasing number of additional local ordinances.

FACT: Approximately $300 million is spent annually by local animal shelters statewide to euthanize hundreds of thousands of dogs, cats, and rabbits. Having additional locations, including pet stores, to showcase these adoptable animals would greatly reduce the total number of animals euthanized in our communities. Ultimately, this will result in a reduction of the costs to local taxpayers and would free up financial resources for other essential local government services.

FACT: Being USDA or government inspected does not mean that the business is not a puppy mill, any more than having a driver’s license guarantees that an individual is a good driver. The USDA has minimal standards of food, water and shelter and it is extremely rare for the USDA to revoke commercial breeder’s license or even fine a puppy mill that has repeated violations. There are hundreds of USDA – licensed puppy mills in operation that have long lists of violations and problems associated with them and yet they still regularly sell to pet stores throughout the U.S.

Until recently, the USDA’s website allowed for pet store operators and pet owners to review these inspection reports, however, this information is no longer readily available other than through a public records request. In 2010, the Office of Inspector General released a scathing report criticizing the USDA’s history of lax oversight of dog dealers under the Animal Welfare Act.
FACT: The American Kennel Club (AKC), the world’s largest kennel club registration does not guarantee proper breeding conditions, health, quality or claims to lineage. AKC staff does not visit all breeders and facilities; instead, registration is done primarily through mailed forms.

FACT: Truly responsible breeders do not sell their puppies to pet stores, and instead want to meet their puppy buyers in person. The AKC’s model “Breeder Code of Ethics” includes a pledge not to sell their puppies to pet stores. Similar pledges are included in the Code of Ethics for many individual breed clubs as well.

FACT: The majority of pet stores in California are sourcing their puppies from high-volume breeders in the mid-west, making it impossible for the state to regulate these out-of-state businesses. California law requires pet stores to maintain records and disclose the person or entity where animals were acquired; including the person or business’s name, address, telephone number and the date the animal was acquired. The majority of these breeders are listed on Humane Society of United States (HSUS) Horrible Hundred list as regular suppliers to the Missouri-based mega-pet store broker, the Hunte Corporation.

FACT: The facilities, animal care requirements, and adoption procedures for local public animal shelters, shelters operated by a society for the prevention of cruelty and rescue organizations are regulated under the Food and Agricultural Code Section 17005 and Civil Code Section 1844-1845.

FACT: Many private pet store operators in California, including PetSmart and Petco have already adopted model business practices that enlist local rescue groups and shelters to showcase their adoptable animals in their stores, resulting in a reduction of the overall pet population in the local shelters. Less than 10% of registered pet stores in the state still traffic puppies, kittens, and bunnies into their stores from breeders.

For more information or to send your letter of support, please contact Christine Aurre, Office of Assembly Member O’Donnell, at Christine.aurre@asm.ca.gov or 916-319-2070.

Cities With Similar or Exact Ordinances to AB 485:
Aliso Viejo, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Carlsbad, Cathedral City, Chino Hills, Chula Vista, Colton, Dana Point, Del Mar, Encinitas, Garden Grove, Glendale, Hermosa Beach, Huntington Beach, Indio, Irvine, La Quinta, Laguna Beach, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oceanside, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Marcos, Solana Beach, South Lake Tahoe, South Pasadena, Truckee, Turlock, Ventura County (unincorporated areas), Vista, West Hollywood
# AB 485 Support List

(Sponsor) Social Compassion in Legislation  
Actors and Others for Animals  
Adopt A Saint, Saint Bernard Rescue  
AGWC Rockin’ Rescue  
Alicia Pet Care Center  
All About the Animals  
Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation  
Animal Protection & Rescue League  
Animal Rescue Recon  
Animal Rescuers Without Borders  
Animal Shelter Assistance Program  
ASPCA  
Best Friends  
Bow-Wows & Meows, Inc.  
Buckingham Cats  
Bunnies Urgently Needing Shelter  
Bunny World Foundation  
California Animal Control Directors Association  
Camp Cocker Rescue  
CatPAWS  
City of Antioch  
City of Carlsbad  
City of Colton  
City of La Quinta  
City of Long Beach  
City of Los Angeles  
City of Oceanside  
City of Sacramento  
City of San Marcos, Office of Mayor  
Jim Desmond  
City of Signal Hill  
City of San Francisco  
San Francisco County Supervisor  
Katy Tang  
City of Stockton Animal Shelter  
City of Turlock  
City of West Hollywood  
Assessor Jeffrey Prang, County of Los Angeles  
Councilmember Mona Rios, City of National City  
Councilmember Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, City of National City  
Councilmember Melissa Fox, City of Irvine  
Councilmember Paul Koretz, City of Los Angeles  
Davey’s Voice  
Dog Adoption & Welfare Group (DAWG)  
East Bay Rabbit Rescue  
Fix Long Beach  
Fresno Humane Animal Services  
Friends of Long Beach Animals  
Golden State Humane Society  
Harley’s Dream  
Healthy Spot  
Hope For Paws  
Humane Society Silicon Valley  
HSUS  
LA Animal Rescue  
Lab Rescuers of San Diego  
Last Chance at Life All Breed Rescue and Adoptions  
Last Chance for Animals  
Lobby For Animals  
National Animal Rescue Coalition  
Not One Animal Harmed  
Oakland Animal Services  
Passion for Paws Rescue, Inc.  
Peace for Animals  
Pearson Animal Hospital  
Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA  
Pet Adoption Fund  
Pet Assistance Foundation  
PETA  
Project Coyote  
Rabbit Rescue  
RESQCATS, Inc.  
Rockin Pets Foundation  
Sacramento SPCA  
San Diego Animal Advocates  
San Diego Humane Society  
San Diego House Rabbit Society  
Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter  
Shamrock Rescue Foundation  
Sirius Dog Training  
SoulPlayMates Dog Rescue & Advocacy  
Southern CA Bulldog Rescue, Inc.  
Southland Collie Rescue, Inc.  
Spay Neuter Action Project  
SPOT Rescue  
Starfish Rescue  
State Humane Association of California  
START Rescue  
Tailwaggers Foundation  
Take Me Home Rescue  
The David Toro Foundation  
The Dog Squad Rescue  
The Gentle Barn  
The Lucy Pet Foundation  
The Ozzy Foundation  
The Paw Project  
The Puppy Coalition Foundation  
The Rescue House  
The Rescue House – San Diego  
The Senior Dogs Project  
The Thrive Animal Shelter  
Volunteers in Defense of Animals  
Wagging Dog Rescue  

More than 400+ individuals