

RESOLUTION # 2016 – 194

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, SUPPORTING ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN MORRIS COUNTY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO BAN THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACILITIES

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); and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, the documented abuse 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; and

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 this issue and misleading tactics of pet shops in some cases; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, current federal and state regulations do not adequately address the sale of the puppy and kitten mill dogs and cats in pet shops; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Health, in its 2014 Animal Intake and Disposition Survey, found that in large part due to pet overpopulation, more than 20,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in New Jersey animal shelters annually, and restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens to only those 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; and

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, and 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; and

WHEREAS, this resolution 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 condition in which the dogs or cats are bred, or can confer directly with the hobby breeder concerning those conditions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington as follows:

1. The Borough of Mount Arlington urges and encourages all thirty-nine (39) municipalities in the County of Morris to take immediate steps to ban the sale of dogs and cats that come from large scale commercial breeding facilities ("puppy mills" and "kitten mills").

2. The Borough of Mount Arlington hereby joins with other New Jersey counties and municipalities in calling on elected officials serving New Jersey at all levels of government to work in concert to regulate sales of dogs and cats that come from large scale commercial breeding facilities ("puppy mills" and "kitten mills").

3. The Borough Clerk shall forward a certified copy of this resolution to the thirty-nine (39) municipal clerks in the County of Morris.

I HEREBY CERTIFY this to be a true and correct Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of Borough of Mount Arlington, adopted on December 20, 2016.



Linda DeSantis, RMC, Borough Clerk