



**KATY TANG**  
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**\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\***

**SUPERVISOR TANG ANNOUNCES LEGISLATION TO PROHIBIT PET STORES  
FROM SELLING DOGS AND CATS FROM BREEDERS**

*Amendment to the Health Code will make it illegal for pet stores to sell dogs or cats not obtained from animal rescue organizations or puppies and kittens under eight weeks old*

Today Supervisor Katy Tang announced legislation at the Board of Supervisors that would amend the Health Code to prohibit the sale of domestic dogs and cats not obtained from rescue organizations. It would also prohibit the sale of puppies and kittens under eight weeks old. This ordinance will not affect a person's ability to obtain a dog or cat from a breed-specific organization or shelter, or directly from a breeder following humane guidelines.

"It is not uncommon across the country to find puppies and kittens sold at pet stores that come from commercial breeding facilities," said Supervisor Tang. "San Francisco is setting an example that this practice is not welcome here and that animals are members of our family and not commodities to be sold for profit."

This new law will address a problem that is not adequately covered by state or federal law. Many jurisdictions across the country have already enacted local legislation including Los Angeles and San Diego. Many shelters, including San Francisco Animal Care and Control, experience overpopulation which costs taxpayers money.

"San Francisco Animal Care and Control promotes responsible pet guardianship, and we are pleased to be joining other municipalities in taking a stand for our animals," said Virginia Donohue, Executive Director of San Francisco Animal Care and Control. "If you want to bring a puppy or kitten into your family, we encourage adoption. In fact, at our shelter we have more than one thousand wonderful kittens available annually for adoption. If you decide that purchasing is a better choice for you, it's important that you visit the breeder to examine the conditions and see the breeding pair so you can select a healthy pet."

The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 10,000 puppy mills produce more than 2,300,000 puppies a year in the United States and that a large portion of dogs and cats found in pet stores are from these inhumane mills. While there are no known pet stores in San Francisco selling cats or dogs currently, there are many stores that partner with rescue organizations and local shelters to match potential adopters with adoptable animals.



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“We want to decrease the demand for these types of pets and remind people that our shelters and rescue organizations always have wonderful, adoptable animals,” said Brandy Kuentzel of the San Francisco SPCA. “There are also so many independent and chain pet stores that operate profitably by selling services and supplies, and without selling commercially bred dogs or cats.”

“People interested in adopting a pet should consider where their pet comes from because inhumane conditions can create health and behavioral issues that guardians are not aware of until they become a problem,” said Supervisor Tang. “My family adopted our first dog from San Francisco Animal Care and Control. We have had such a great experience become guardians to our Maltese, and I want other families to feel the same joy that comes from adopting a homeless animal in need.”

For more information, please contact Supervisor Katy Tang’s office at (415) 554-7460 or [Ashley.Summers@sfgov.org](mailto:Ashley.Summers@sfgov.org).

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