

From: [Puppy Mill Free Sparks](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: Please read for public comment today.
Date: Monday, October 12, 2020 1:05:53 PM

Dear Sparks Council,

When San Antonio regulates its six puppy selling pet stores to not sell animals from puppy mills, it will be the 417th jurisdiction to do so.

Puppy Mill Free Reno/Sparks/Washoe, and our vast constituency, is looking forward to Sparks becoming the 417th city to do the humane thing by ending reprehensible animal cruelty and consumer fraud as witnessed by the local puppy store's rating of "F" by the Better Business Bureau.

Article: San Antonio pet stores may soon be prohibited from selling dogs and cats provided by breeders

If San Antonio pet stores want to sell dogs and cats, they only would be allowed to provide animals from animal control agencies or rescue organizations.

Members of the council's Community Health and Equity Committee recently approved the changes, requiring that all pet shops within city limits get their cats and dogs from an animal rescue organization, an animal control agency or a county animal shelter.

"I think we're on the right track," said District 7 Councilwoman Ana Sandoval, who chairs the committee. "They're going to put us on a path to being a more humane community when it comes to pet welfare."

Several pet stores in the San Antonio area already provide only rescue cats and dogs to the public, often working with local animal groups to bring them out to the stores on weekends and for special events.

The changes would affect about a half dozen pet shops in town, Lefgren said, and could stop the flow of puppy mill animals.

"Puppy mill organizations are inhumane," Lefgren said.

Lefgren said these changes won't affect small breeders.

"What this does is, in addition to protecting the pets, it sets the standards going forward as for what we want our city to be," Lefgren said.

Animal Care Services conducted a survey in July 2019... Nearly 80 percent supported a

prohibition on the sale of cats and dogs that didn't originate from a shelter or rescue group.

Back in 2013, a mom and pop pet store in Universal City, Polly's Pets, decided to switch from selling locally-bred puppies to selling rescue dogs from Animal Care Services.

"We thought that long-term it was going to be better for us," said Randy Housely, the shop's owner.

With even the question of its puppies coming from puppy mills gone, the partnership produced a healthier business model for the store, he said. Plus, "it's going to be better for the puppies."

Since then, the shop has found homes for close to 1,000 puppies from ACS.

Lefgren sees the proposed ordinance changes as "aligning our values with best practices."

"What we are trying to avoid is the mass reproduction and the inhumane care," Lefgren said.

<https://www.lmtonline.com/news/local/article/San-Antonio-pet-stores-may-soon-be-prohibited-15634488.php>

We are asking you agendize a similar regulation ASAP.

Respectfully,

Billy Howard, Founding Organizer
Puppy Mill Free Reno/Sparks/Washoe
Speaking for thousands of local petition signers