



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: June 10, 2025

Subject: Humane Pet Store Ordinance

Over the past year, the City Council has discussed the potential adoption of a humane pet store ordinance. At the January 21, 2025 work session, the City Council directed staff to bring forward draft language that would prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores while allowing partnerships with animal rescues and shelters.

Staff has prepared a draft ordinance for City Council review. The ordinance:

- Establishes a definition for pet stores within the City, while specifically exempting hobby breeders not operating commercially, animal shelters, rescue organizations and animal control authorities.
- Prohibits pet stores from selling, bartering, auctioning, giving away or otherwise transferring dogs and cats.
- Allows pet stores to partner with animal shelters, rescue organizations and animal control authorities to showcase adoptable dogs and cats.
- Requires pet stores to post and present certificate of source for dogs and cats.
- Establish penalties for violation of the ordinance.

Staff is seeking City Council direction on the draft ordinance. If there is consensus on the ordinance, staff will send to the City Attorney for formal review and schedule the ordinance for consideration at the July 7, 2025 City Council meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.