



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

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

Date: July 8, 2024

Subject: Humane Pet Store Ordinance Discussion

Councilmember Dircks has asked that the City Council discuss the potential adoption of a Humane Pet Store Ordinance in Spring Lake Park.

The Humane Pet Store Ordinance aims to promote the humane treatment of animals, encourage the adoption of rescue pets, and prevent the sale of pets from inhumane breeding facilities.

The proposed ordinance prohibits pet stores from selling, delivering, offering for sale, bartering, auctioning, giving away or otherwise transferring or disposing of cats or dogs. Pet stores are allowed to collaborate with animal shelters, rescue organizations and animal control authorities to offer space for showcasing adoptable dogs and cats. The ordinance requires the pet store to post and maintain a Certificate of Source for each dog or cat in a conspicuous place near the animals kennel, cage or enclosure and to provide the Certificate to the adopter or any dog or cat. The ordinance allows the city to inspect pet stores, with prior notice, to ensure compliance.

The goals of the ordinance include 1) promoting animal welfare by reducing the demand for animals from inhumane breeding facilities by prohibiting the sale of cats and dogs sourced from such places and encouraging pet stores to collaborate with shelters to promote the adoption of homeless animals; 2) protect public health and safety by helping reduce the number of inhuman breeding facilities which can decrease the risk of zoonotic diseases and other health issues associated with poorly bred animals; and 3) supporting local shelters and rescues by promoting partnerships to help increase adoption rates and promote responsible pet ownership.

Seven cities in Minnesota have adopted Humane Pet Store Ordinances, including Roseville (2017), Eden Prairie (2018), St. Paul (2019), Carver (2020), Cloquet (2021), Minneapolis (2023) and Coon Rapids (2024). Nationwide, over 400 cities have adopted a similar ordinance.

There are currently no pet stores operating within the city, meaning that this ordinance would not affect any incumbent pet sellers within the City.

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