



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

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

Date: July 2, 2025

Subject: Humane Pet Store Ordinance

At the January 21, 2025 work session, City Council asked staff to draft an ordinance prohibiting the sale of puppies and kittens in pet stores while allowing partnerships with animal rescues and shelters for consideration at a future work session. Staff drafted the ordinance and presented it to the City Council for its review and comment at its June 16, 2025 work session.

The proposed ordinance is similar to the ordinance approved in Coon Rapids and other cities. There is one significant difference, which was based on City Council discussion over the past year. The proposed ordinance specifically exempts “hobby breeders” from the definition of a pet store, to allows residents to sell animals exclusively from their residence, produces no more than 2 litters per year across all breeds and does not operate as a commercial enterprise.

There are no pet stores, as defined by the ordinance, in operation within the city limits of Spring Lake Park. This ordinance would regulate any potential future pet stores that locate in Spring Lake Park.

The City Council reviewed this draft and found it acceptable. The Council’s consensus after review was to 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.