

**RESOLUTION RESTRICTING SALES OF DOGS AND CATS AT PET SHOPS,
ENCOURAGING MUNICIPALITIES TO ADOPT ORDINANCES TO DO THE
SAME, AND AUTHORIZING ENFORCEMENT OF SUCH ORDINANCES BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

WHEREAS, a significant number of puppies and kittens sold at pet shops come from large-scale, commercial breeding facilities where the health and welfare of the animals are not adequately provided for (“puppy mills” and “kitten mills,” respectively); and

WHEREAS, according to The Humane Society of the United States, it is estimated that 10,000 puppy mills produce more than 2,400,000 puppies a year in the United States and that most pet shop dogs and cats come from puppy mills and kitten mills; and

WHEREAS, the documented abuses endemic to puppy and kitten mills include over-breeding; inbreeding; minimal to non-existent veterinary care; lack of adequate and nutritious food, water and shelter; lack of socialization; lack of adequate space; and lack of adequate exercise; and

WHEREAS, the inhumane conditions in puppy and kitten mill facilities lead to health and behavioral issues in the animals bred in those facilities, which many consumers are unaware of when purchasing animals from pet shops due to both a lack of education on the issue and misleading tactics of pet shops in some cases; and

WHEREAS, these health and behavioral issues, which may not present themselves until some time after the purchase of the animals, can impose exorbitant financial and emotional costs on consumers; and

WHEREAS, current Federal and State regulations do not adequately address the sale of puppy and kitten mill dogs and cats in pet shops; and

WHEREAS, restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens to only those that are sourced from shelters or rescue organizations is likely to decrease the demand for puppies and kittens bred in puppy and kitten mills, and is likely to increase demand for animals from animal shelters and rescue organizations; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Health in its 2014 Animal Intake and Disposition Survey has found that due in large part to pet overpopulation, more than 20,000 dogs and cats are euthanized in New Jersey animal shelters annually, including nearly 1,500 in the County of Camden. Restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens to only those that are sourced from animal shelters and rescue organizations will likely reduce pet overpopulation and thus the burden on such agencies and financial costs on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, across the country, thousands of independent pet shops as well as large chains operate profitably with a business model focused on the sale of pet services and supplies and not on the sale of dogs and cats. Many of these shops collaborate with local animal shelters and rescue organizations to offer space and support for showcasing adoptable homeless pets on their premises; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution will not affect a consumer's ability to obtain a dog or cat of his or her choice directly from a breed-specific rescue organization or a shelter, or from a hobby breeder where the consumer can see directly the conditions in which the dogs or cats are bred, or can confer directly with the hobby breeder concerning those conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Camden believes it is in the best interests of the County of Camden to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the County and its residents, protect the citizens of the County who may purchase cats or dogs from a pet shop or other business establishment, help prevent inhumane breeding conditions, promote community awareness of animal welfare, and foster a more humane environment in the County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Camden that pet shops in the County of Camden are prohibited from selling dogs or cats unless they obtain such dogs or cats from animal shelters or animal

rescue organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that municipalities in the County of Camden are encouraged to support and pass the attached Ordinance, establishing this policy into law in each municipality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, upon adoption of this Ordinance by a municipality in the County of Camden, the County of Camden will provide enforcement of such ordinance through the Department of Health & Human Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board is hereby authorized and instructed to forward this resolution to the 37 municipal clerks in the County of Camden.