

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: MJ Jimenez <keviah195@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, December 09, 2023 11:08 AM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Ordinance 2542

You don't often get email from keviah195@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good morning!

I'm writing to you as a Commerce City resident and volunteer with the Colorado Japanese Chin Rescue. As a foster mom and volunteer, the first dog that ever came to my home was a rescue from a puppy mill. She was less than 5lbs. and had been bred until she was 9 years old, then discarded as trash. As I worked to rehabilitate her, it became apparent that she had never walked on grass, had rarely if ever been outside, and had never been shown love. She was barely alive. She did not know how to walk up or down stairs, had only 2 teeth left which fell out at the vet on her first visit, was terrified of people, and didn't even know how to rest. For the entire first day at my house, she paced and paced until we picked her up and laid her on a bed and then she slept for an entire day. It took over two weeks for her to wag her tail for the first time and months for her hair to grow back. Lucy was not an exception, but the norm for puppy mill rescues, as I would come to learn that the males are treated even worse and all of them are used up and then abandoned.

Please vote for compassion in our city. There are so many animals out there like Lucy, living a life of misery so that pet shops can be supplied with puppies. You can be a part of the solution to this heartbreaking reality.

I'm attaching the first blog I ever wrote about Lucy, who I ended up adopting and who passed away after 7 years of love after a lifetime of tragedy.

 [Fostering a Pet](#)

Sincerely,

MJ Jimenez

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: Jiminikiz <jiminikiz@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 10, 2023 7:13 PM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Ordinance 2542 Regarding Pet Stores

You don't often get email from jiminikiz@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mr. Gibson,

I am a Commerce City resident living in the Stillwater Community

My address is 11572 E 118th Pl, Henderson (Commerce City), CO 80640.

Sending you this message to voice my support in banning the sale of puppies and kittens from puppy and kitten mills at Pet Stores through Ordinance 2542.

Really hoping there is a great wave of support for this initiative as I have some personal experience in recovering animals from mills in the past and those animals deserve better.

Thanks for taking the time to read this message.

Venture forth and be awesome,
-- Brandon Jimenez

Gibson, Dylan - CM

From: roland@covotersforanimals.org
Sent: Sunday, December 10, 2023 9:32 PM
To: Gibson, Dylan - CM
Subject: Colorado Voters for Animals Support of Proposed City Ordinance 2542
Attachments: Colorado Voters for Animals Support of Ordinance 2542.pdf

You don't often get email from roland@covotersforanimals.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members of Commerce City,

Attached please find my letter in support of proposed ordinance 2542, to be heard before the Council on Monday, December 11th, that would prohibit pet stores from selling commercially bred puppies and kittens that come from puppy and kitten mills.

I apologize for not being able to attend in person.

Respectfully,

Roland Halpern
Executive Director
Colorado Voters for Animals



Colorado Voters for Animals
A Voice for the Voiceless and a vote for the Vote-less®

December 10, 2023

City Council of Commerce City
7887 E. 60th Ave.
Commerce City, CO 80022

Dear Commerce City Mayor and City Council Members:

My name is Roland Halpern, and I am the executive director of Colorado Voters for Animals, an all-volunteer nonprofit animal advocacy organization representing over 45, 000 Coloradans, 332 of whom reside in Commerce City.

What many people miss in the puppy and kitten mill debate, and what the breeders don't want the public to know, is the fate of the breeding mother and father animals, used merely as machines. Confined to cages their entire lives, stacked cage upon cage, receiving little or no veterinary care, and forced to produce litter after litter for as long as they are capable.

And then, when they are no longer productive, a few may be adopted out, but many are killed or left on the doorsteps of shelters and rescues, which are then forced with the difficult decision of sometimes spending thousands of dollars for rehabilitative veterinary care and treatment, or resorting to euthanasia if the animals are medically or financially too far gone to save.

Although PACFA, the Colorado Pet Animals Facilities Act, has some control over breeders in Colorado, most states have limited, if any regulations or controls, and this is why pet stores frequently buy from out of state breeders where the only entry requirement into Colorado is a VCI; veterinarian certificate of inspection, stating the dog does not have rabies¹ but there is no requirement the animal be free of obvious signs of disease or injury.

In 2022, 5,006 puppies were imported into Colorado from other states. Of that number 738 puppies were from breeders on the Humane Society of the United States "Horrible Hundred"² list, representing the breeders with the most egregious and deplorable kennel conditions. For 2022, every Colorado pet store selling puppies had made purchases from at least one breeder with USDA violations.

¹ <https://ag.colorado.gov/dogs>

² <https://www.humanesociety.org/horriblehundred>

While pet stores often claim they only buy from USDA licensed breeders, it may help to know that on average there are only 100 USDA inspectors charged with inspecting almost 15,000 facilities nationwide.³ The list includes breeders, zoos, aquariums, sanctuaries, veterinary schools, circuses, transporters, and research facilities that experiment on animals.

While research facilities are required to be inspected annually, all other facilities are subject to a risk-based inspection system⁴, which usually means that unless a complaint has been filed against a facility, such as a breeder, there may be no inspections at all. This has been found to be particularly true with puppy mills⁵.

A 2017 exposé by Rolling Stone Magazine entitled: *The Dog Factory: Inside the Sickening World of Puppy Mills*, noted:

The USDA has exactly one law to govern the care and housing of commercial dogs. The Animal Welfare Act (AWA), enacted in 1966, sets down the barest standards for breeders. Dogs, per the AWA, can be kept their entire lives in crates inches bigger than their bodies. They can be denied social contact with other dogs, bred as many times as they enter heat, then killed and dumped in a ditch whenever their uterus shrivels. We have millions of dogs on our streets, put down two million of them every year – and impose no limits on the number of dogs millers can breed.⁶

Adding to the tragedy is that Colorado shelters and rescues are overcrowded with dogs and cats that could be adopted out⁷ but may miss that opportunity when a dog or cat is purchased from a pet store. When animals cannot be adopted out a backlog can occur, and the only solution may be euthanizing otherwise healthy dogs or cats to make room for new arrivals.

According to PACFA data⁸, in 2021, 5,251 cats in shelters did not have “positive outcomes” meaning they were euthanized, and for dogs the number was 3,868. While the data does not indicate how many of these animals were euthanized because of illness or other issues, it appears the majority were otherwise adoptable but didn’t have homes to go to.

³ <https://aphis.my.site.com/PublicSearchTool/s/> - click on: List of persons licensed or registered under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA)

⁴ https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/awa/ct_awa_risk_based_inspection_system

⁵ <https://www.aspc.org/news/usda-letting-puppy-mills-operate-without-inspections>

⁶ <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/the-dog-factory-inside-the-sickening-world-of-puppy-mills-112161/>

⁷ <https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/animal-activists-push-puppy-sale-ban-shelters-fill-colorado-denver-aurora/>

⁸ <https://www.nokillcolorado.org/2021-pacfa>

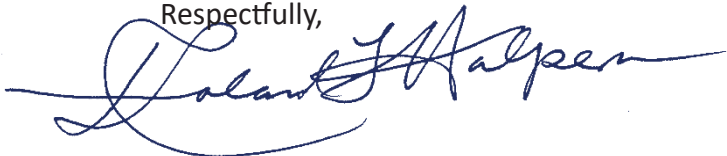
An August 27, 2023, article published in Axios entitled: *Denver Animal Shelter euthanasia hit a five-year high*⁹ comments on this problem. While there were several factors involved in the euthanasia decisions, not having new homes to go to is certainly among them.

The bottom line is we do not need Colorado pet stores selling puppies and kittens when there is an overflow of dogs and cats waiting to be adopted. And we should not allow the puppy mill pipeline into Colorado when within that pipeline flows a tale of misery for the breeding dogs and cats, for the puppies and kittens themselves, and for the consumers who may be faced with financial burden and hardship after buying an animal that may have become sickened because of poor breeding practices.

Consumers would still have the opportunity to purchase dogs and cats from responsible breeders that are PACFA inspected. Unlike pet store sales, responsible breeders will make sure the breed of puppy or kitten is a match for the prospective buyer, which often includes a physical inspection of the property the animal would be going to. In addition, sales contracts typically require a buyer wishing to relinquish an animal, for whatever reason, to return it to the breeder and not surrender it to a shelter, sold online, or transferred through some other arrangement.

Fountain, Berthoud, Breckenridge, Frisco, Dillon, Eagle, Fairplay, Alma, Silverthorne, Vail, Superior, Minturn, Mancos, Aurora, and Johnstown, have all passed ordinances prohibiting pet stores from selling commercially bred puppies and kittens. I would urge the City Council of Commerce City to vote in support of Ordinance 2542 and join the list of Colorado cities that have placed morals over money.

Respectfully,



Roland Halpern
Executive Director
Colorado Voters for Animals



Colorado Voters for Animals
191 University Blvd., #345
Denver, CO 80206

⁹ <https://www.axios.com/local/denver/2023/08/30/denver-animal-shelter-euthanasia-rates-high>