

VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD
ORDINANCE NO. 3553

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 105 OF THE CODE
OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD, ENTITLED "ANIMALS" TO CREATE A
NEW SECTION TO REGULATE/BAN THE SALE OF DOG AND CAT MILL
ANIMALS IN PET SHOPS

WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood, Bergen County, New Jersey, recognizes that a significant number of puppies and kittens sold at pet shops come from large scale, commercial breeding facilities (puppy mills and kitten mills) where the health, care, safety and welfare of the animals is compromised for commercial profit, and;

WHEREAS, the documented abuses endemic to puppy mills and kitten mills include, but are not limited to, over breeding, inbreeding, non-existent to minimal veterinary care, lack of sustaining food and water , lack of shelter and lack of adequate space and exercise; and

WHEREAS, banning the sale of dogs and cats from mills and properly regulating the retail sale of dogs and cats to only those which are sourced from shelters or rescue organizations is likely to decrease the demand for puppies and kittens bred in the mills and is likely to increase the demand for animals from animal shelters and rescue organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is not the intent of the Village Council to negatively impact the ability of a consumer to obtain or purchase a dog or cat from a rescue or shelter organization or from a hobby breeder where a consumer can visually appreciate the conditions in which the animals are bred and raised prior to sale; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council wishes to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the Village and its residents and protect those persons in the Village who wish to purchase a dog or cat from a pet shop or other enterprise and at the same time, help prevent inhumane treatment and breeding conditions of animals and promote greater awareness of animal welfare in the Village.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of the Village of Ridgewood, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that the following definitions and regulations shall apply to the sale of dogs and cats in the Village:

ADD:

ARTICLE IX:

SALE OF DOGS AND CATS:

SECTION ONE:

Definitions:

Animal Care Facility: An animal control center or animal shelter, maintained by or under contract with any state, county or municipality, whose mission and practice is, in whole or in part, the permanent rescue and placement of animals in homes or other rescue organizations;

Animal Rescue Organization: any non-profit organization which has tax exempt status pursuant to Section 501 © (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, whose mission and practice is, in whole or in part, the permanent rescue and placement of animals in homes or other private residential living structures;

Kennel, Pet Shop or Pound: any business, shop, establishment, property or place which harbors, keeps or maintains five or more dogs, cats or similar animals that can be kept as pets or offers to sell any of the aforesaid animals to the general public at retail. Such definition is not inclusive of an animal care facility or and animal rescue organization defined above

SECTION TWO:

1. Any pet shop may offer for sale only those dogs and cats that the pet shop has obtained from or displays in cooperation with;
 - (a) An animal care facility;
 - (b) An animal rescue organization.

2. Any pet shop shall not offer for sale any dog or cat that is younger than eight weeks old.

3. No dog kept in a kennel, pet shop dog shelter or pound shall be permitted off such premises except on a leash or in a crate or under safe control.

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FOR AFFIRMANCE: Councilmembers: Hache, Sedon, Voigt, Walsh
and Mayor Knudsen

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE


ABSTAIN: NONE

RECUSE: NONE

Introduction Date: September 14, 2016

Adoption Date: October 12, 2016

Effective Date: November 1, 2016



Susan Knudsen, Mayor

ATTEST:



Heather A. Mailander, Village Clerk