



CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

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CITY COUNCIL

LAUREN MEISTER
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Councilmember

JOHN J. Duran
Councilmember

LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Councilmember

May 5, 2017

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 2196
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell:

RE: AB 485, Pet store operators: dogs, cats, and rabbits – SUPPORT

The City of West Hollywood supports AB 485 that would prohibit the sale of a live cat, dog, or rabbit in a retail pet store unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from a public animal control agency or shelter or nonprofit animal rescue or adoption organization. On May 1, 2017, the West Hollywood City Council unanimously adopted Resolution #17-4945 in support of AB 485. The resolution is attached.

AB 485 takes two important steps in the fight to end inhumane practices that are present in animal breeding mills; banning the sale of animals bred in "puppy mills" and "kitty factories" and promoting the adoption of rescue animals as a statewide public policy. Thirty three cities and counties in California have also banned the retail sale of "puppy mill" dogs and "kitty factory" cats in their local pet stores. Additionally, many pet stores have instituted business practices to ensure their animals come from humane sources, demonstrating that it is possible to have a successful pet-related business without supporting these breeding mills.

Long a leader in adopting laws to protect animals from cruelty, the City of West Hollywood recognized the need to close a primary channel for the sale of dogs and cats produced in large-scale, commercial breeding facilities. In 2010, the City of West Hollywood became one of the first cities in the country to prohibit the retail sales of commercially bred dogs and cats at pet stores in its jurisdiction. In 2002, it amended its city code to refer to animals like dogs and cats as "companions" rather than "pets." In 2003, the City officially prohibited the declawing of cats, becoming the first city in the United States to implement such a ban. Several other California cities followed suit in 2009.

A statewide policy, as proposed in AB 485, will help end the abuse incurred on animals in these breeding operations and support animal rescue efforts.

Thank you for your leadership in assuring the protection of animals in California.

Respectfully,

Lauren Meister
MAYOR

Cc: Hon Benjamin Allen, SD 26
Hon Richard Bloom, AD 50



RESOLUTION NO. 17-4945

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD IN SUPPORT OF AB
485 (O'DONNELL), THE PET RESCUE &
ADOPTION ACT

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD DOES
HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, "Puppy mills" or "kitten factories" are commercial breeding facilities that mass-produce animals for sale to the public, primarily through retail pet stores; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, puppy mills house animals in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions without adequate food, water, socialization or veterinary care and animals bred in these facilities often face an array of health problems, including communicable diseases, behavioral issues and genetic disorders; and

WHEREAS, the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires breeders who sell puppies to pet stores to be licensed and inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), however, the standards that these breeders are required to meet by law are extremely minimal; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Member Patrick O'Donnell (D-Long Beach) introduced AB 485 as an attempt to curtail these operations by supporting access to pet rescue and adoption in California retail pet stores; and

WHEREAS, AB 485 prohibits a pet store operator from selling a live dog, cat, or rabbit in a pet store unless the dog, cat, or rabbit was obtained from a public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or nonprofit rescue or adoption organization that is in a cooperative agreement with at least one private or public shelter; and

WHEREAS, in light of the potential inhumane conditions, 33 cities and counties in California, including the City of West Hollywood, have banned the retail sale of puppy mill dogs and cats in their local pet stores; and

WHEREAS, the City of West Hollywood has a long history of supporting measures that promote the protection of animal rights, and the City is often recognized as one of the most animal-friendly cities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of West Hollywood hereby supports AB 485, the Pet Rescue and Adoption Act.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of West Hollywood at a regular meeting held this 1st day of May, 2017 by the following vote:

AYES:	Councilmember:	D'Amico, Duran, Horvath, Mayor Pro Tempore Heilman, and Mayor Meister.
NOES:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSENT:	Councilmember:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Councilmember:	None.



LAUREN MEISTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:


YVONNE QUARKER, CITY CLERK