TEXAS HUMANE LEGISLATION NETWORK®

SB 56 Author: Senator Judith Zaffirini
HB 1120 Author: Representative Jared Patterson

SUPPORT ETHICAL PET SALES

Promote Transparency and Humane Practices

The Ethical Pet Sales Bill is a vital piece of legislation designed to protect dogs, cats, and consumers in Texas. By regulating the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores, the bill aims to shut down the pipeline of puppies and kittens from inhumane breeding operations, known as puppy mills, while promoting transparency and ethical practices in the pet industry.

The Problem: Pet stores that sell puppies and kittens primarily source from out-of-state puppy mills, where they are bred in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. These puppies and kittens frequently arrive in Texas stores sick, dehydrated, and carrying diseases, resulting in unsuspecting buyers facing high veterinary costs and emotional distress when their new pets fall ill or die shortly after purchase.

Key Provisions of the Ethical Pet Sales Bill:

- **Retail Pet Stores CAN:** Collaborate with animal care facilities or rescues to showcase dogs and cats for adoption.
- **Retail Pet Stores CANNOT:** Sell dogs or cats for profit.
- **Consumers CAN:** Source purebred or designer pets through licensed breeders or hobby breeders within Texas.
- **Penalties for Non-Compliance:** Stores that violate these regulations face a civil penalty of up to $500 per animal, enforceable by the Texas Attorney General.

The Impact:

- **Consumer Protection:** This bill ensures that Texans can purchase pets with confidence, knowing their new companions come from reputable sources.
- **Animal Welfare:** This bill directly combats the cruelty of puppy mills by cutting off their market access in Texas.
- **Supporting Reputable Breeders:** Texans who prefer purebred or designer pets will continue to have access to these animals through ethical breeders who prioritize the health and well-being of their animals, ensuring a safe and responsible purchase.

Support this legislation to protect our pets and consumers, stand up against the exploitation of dogs and cats for profit, and ensure a humane and transparent pet market.

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