

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mueller, Gene" <Gene.Mueller@kingcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Fairwood Pet Center / Concern & Question KC<0029000723
Date: June 1, 2017 at 3:24:12 PM CDT
To: 'Patia Eaton' <patia.eaton@gmail.com>
Cc: "Ellison-Morales, LLuvia" <LLuvia.Ellison-Morales@kingcounty.gov>

Good afternoon Patia,
I hope you had a great holiday!

I was able to brief my Division Director, Norm Alberg, today about the issue you raised concerning animal sources for pet shops.
He has asked that I draft an informational document about the issue for his use in briefings to gain an understanding of what appears feasible.
I believe we should have better insight through these briefings by next Friday.

I wonder if you had the bandwidth to reach out to the ASPCA and/or the HSUS on this issue to identify who would be their regional contacts for Washington State on this topic? (I would guess it is the same staff as advocating in California).

On that front, I saw the work happening in Sacramento with the proposed ban state-wide on commercial source dogs, cats , and rabbits. I have acquired the proposed language and included for briefings.

California proposed bill excerpt
AB-485 Pet store operators: dogs, cats, and rabbits.

SEC. 2.

Section 122354.5 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

122354.5.

A pet store operator shall not sell 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, as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, animal rescue or adoption organization that is in a cooperative agreement with at least one private or public shelter pursuant to Section 31108, 31752, or 31753 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

“A similar measure requiring pet stores to acquire dogs, cats and rabbits from animal shelters was adopted by the city of Los Angeles in 2012. Since then, 31 California cities have replicated the Los Angeles ordinance, according to the nonprofit organization Social Compassion in Legislation.”
(source: <https://calcoastnews.com/2017/04/california-bill-ban-selling-pets-bought-breeders/>)

More soon!
Gene

From: Patia Eaton [<mailto:patia.eaton@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 10:43 AM
To: Mueller, Gene

Cc: Ellison-Morales, LLuvia
Subject: Re: Fairwood Pet Center / Concern & Question KC:0029000723

Great, thank you! Looking forward to connecting.

Patia

On May 25, 2017, at 10:41 AM, Mueller, Gene <Gene.Mueller@kingcounty.gov> wrote:

Thank you Patia. That is wonderful. Let us plan on an initial phone meeting. But first, let me gather information about that business. Pet shops as a business are regulated by Public Health (just as they regulate our animal shelter). I will reach out about what information Pet Stores are required to have (e.g. source), and what is required to be provided to potential adopter/public.

I will email you next week after I gather this first pass of info. Please feel free to ping me by email if you do not hear back (but you will). ☺

I have also cc'd our communications leader, Lluvia, as we will want her help on this.

More soon.

Thanks!

Gene

From: Patia Eaton [<mailto:patia.eaton@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2017 9:13 AM

To: Mueller, Gene <Gene.Mueller@kingcounty.gov>

Subject: Re: FW: Fairwood Pet Center / Concern & Question KC:0029000723

Hi Gene,

Thank you for your response. I am definitely interested in meeting to discuss this further and would happily involve myself as an advocate. I have never been a part of something like this and have no idea what the process looks like.

That said, I was raised in Kent, then Renton/Fairwood area, but now live in Los Angeles. I am a TV writer, so my schedule is fairly flexible and I do have the resources to travel. My family still lives in Renton/Fairwood. I do not have my next trip on the books, yet, but could jump on the phone before that if it would be helpful. When I was home recently, I saw that this was still going on at Fairwood Pet Center, and that's what made me want to reach out.

In the mean time, I wonder if there is a way to verify the source of their puppies? That, at the very least, they are sourcing from licensed breeders? (I highly doubt it)

Thank you,

Patia

On Thu, May 25, 2017 at 9:01 AM, Mueller, Gene <Gene.Mueller@kingcounty.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Eaton,

Thank you for reaching out about your concern regarding the source of animals at a local pet store.

I want to invite you to meet, at your convenience, to talk about how such a rule or ordinance can be moved forward.

Developing public and political support for such proposed changes is critical. Your help and advocacy would be awesome.

Would you be interested in discussing?

I am pretty flexible in being able to meet in Kent, Seattle or your choice of location.

Thank you! I look forward to meeting if possible.

Gene

Gene E. Mueller, DVM, MPH

Manager – Regional Animal Services of King County

-- Original Message

From: Patia Eaton [<mailto:patia.eaton@gmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 9:44 AM

[To: kceexec@kingcounty.gov](mailto:kceexec@kingcounty.gov)

Subject: Fairwood Pet Center / Concern & Question

Hello Mr. Constantine,

I have a question regarding regulations and/or law in King County surrounding the sale of puppies in pet stores. I believe that Fairwood Pet Center, which has a Renton address, but is located in unincorporated King County, is selling puppies from unlicensed breeders in their store. They claim that these puppies are from licensed breeders, but refuse to disclose where specifically, when asked. Additionally, the puppies are mixed breed, often with overbites/underbites, poor confirmation, etc. — all indicators that great care was not taken in their breeding.

To add to this, I would like to see King County become a place that does not allow the sale of puppies in pet stores at all. Instead, I would like us to adopt the rule that the only dogs and/or puppies available in pet stores are from legally recognized rescue organizations and local shelters. Purchasing an animal should never be an impulsive decision, as dogs long outlive their puppy stage.

I commend you for your efforts to reduce euthanasia rates at King County shelters and the progress that has already been made. I simply feel that the next step, and one we are morally bound to take, is to limit the exploitation of animals for breeding. Responsible, registered breeders are not the problem and I do not mean to make them out to be. But backyard breeders and the sales of dogs and puppies and pet stores perpetuate a vicious cycle of irresponsible breeding and neglect.

Please let me know what action I can take to see forward motion here. Thank you in advance for your time.

Very best,

Patia Eaton

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Patia Eaton
253.293.0937

