

**ORDINANCE NO. 19-O-11**

**ENACTING REGULATIONS GOVERNING  
THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS IN PET SHOPS**

WHEREAS, a significant number of puppies and kittens sold at pet shops come from large-scale, commercial breeding facilities which do not adequately care for the health and welfare of the animals;

WHEREAS, the documented abuses endemic to these breeding facilities include over-breeding, inbreeding, minimal to non-existent veterinary care, lack of adequate and nutritious food, water and shelter, lack of socialization, lack of adequate space, and lack of adequate exercise;

WHEREAS, these inhumane conditions and abuses lead to health and behavioral issues in the animals bred in those facilities, and many consumers are unaware of these concerns when purchasing animals from pet shops, and the health and behavioral issues resulting from their breeding conditions may not present themselves until sometime after the purchase of the animals and can impose exorbitant financial and emotional costs on consumers;

WHEREAS, restricting the retail sale of puppies and kittens at pet shops to only those that are sourced from shelters or rescue organizations is likely to decrease the demand for puppies and kittens bred in these inhumane and abusive conditions and is likely to further the public interest by increasing demand for animals from animal shelters and rescue organizations, which may otherwise be euthanized or present costs and burdens on the community;

WHEREAS, the City Council believes it is in the best interests of this City to adopt reasonable regulations to reduce costs to the City and its residents, protect the citizens of the City who may purchase cats or dogs from a pet shop or other business establishment, help prevent inhumane breeding conditions, promote community awareness of animal welfare, and foster a more humane environment in the City;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council for the City of Anniston, Alabama as follows:

Section 1. The Council hereby enacts and codifies in Chapter 4, Article I, Section 4.26 of "The Code of the City of Anniston, 1981" to state in its entirety as follows:

**Section 4.26 – Sale of Animals in Pet Shops**

- (a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the meaning ascribed herein:
- (1) *Animal care facility* means 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 significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes or rescue organizations.

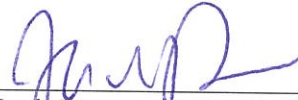
- (2) *Animal rescue organization* means any not-for-profit organization which has tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, whose mission and practice is, in whole or in significant part, the rescue and placement of animals in permanent homes, and which does not obtain animals from a breeder or broker for profit or compensation.
  - (3) *Cat* means a member of the species of domestic cat, *Felis catus*.
  - (4) *Dog* means a member of the species of domestic dog, *Canis familiaris*.
  - (5) *Offer for sale* means to sell, offer for sale or adoption, advertise for the sale of, barter, auction, give away or otherwise dispose of a dog or cat.
  - (6) *Pet shop* means a retail establishment where dogs and cats are sold, exchanged, bartered or offered for sale as pet animals to the general public at retail. Such definition shall not include an animal care facility or animal rescue organization, as defined.
- (b) *Restrictions on the Sale of Dogs and Cats.* A pet shop located within the city may offer for sale only those dogs and cats that the pet shop has obtained from or displays in cooperation with either an animal care facility or an animal rescue organization. A pet shop shall not offer for sale a dog or cat that is younger than eight weeks old.
- (c) *Record Keeping and Disclosures.* A pet shop located within the city shall maintain records stating the name and address of the animal care facility or animal rescue organization that each cat or dog was obtained from for at least two years following the date of acquisition. Such records shall be made available for immediate inspection by the city's designated representative upon its request. Each pet shop shall display on each cage a label stating the name and address of the animal care facility or animal rescue organization of each animal kept in the cage.

Section 2. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall be declared invalid for any reason whatsoever, such decision shall not affect the remaining portions of this Ordinance which shall continue in full force and effect, and to this end, the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

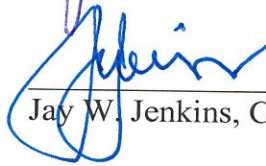
Section 3. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and publication one (1) time in The Anniston Star, a newspaper of general circulation published in the City of Anniston, Alabama, and the City Clerk is hereby ordered and directed to cause a copy of this Ordinance to be published one time in said newspaper.

**PASSED** and **ADOPTED** this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
ANNISTON, ALABAMA



\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Draper, Mayor



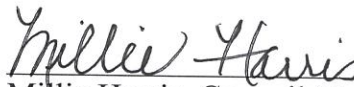
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay W. Jenkins, Council Member

abstain

\_\_\_\_\_  
David E. Reddick, Council Member

abstain

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ben Little, Council Member



\_\_\_\_\_  
Milie Harris, Council Member

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Skyler Bass, City Clerk