



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD

February 4, 2020

Dear Mayor Chirico and Members of the Naperville City Council,

It is my understanding that you are planning to debate two different proposals related to the sourcing and sale of animals at your February 4, 2020 council meeting. As a Member of the DuPage County Board representing part of Naperville, I write to kindly encourage you to restrict the retail sale of puppies and kittens by pet shop operators to only those sourced from shelters, humane or rescue organizations.

In recent years, nearly 2,220 animals entered DuPage County's open admission animal shelter, with dogs and cats representing the two largest animal populations. Unfortunately, many of the dogs coming to the shelter were sick or arrived with severe behavioral problems due to overbreeding and the lack of humane care by irresponsible commercial breeders (puppy mills). According to the Humane Society, over 100 puppy mills exist in Illinois. In fact, nearly 99% of puppies sold in pet stores come from a puppy mill. Many of these puppy mill facilities trap dogs in stacked cages with little or no veterinary care and often suffer from genetic defects. Many of these animals eventually are surrendered to the county shelter due to illness or injury and are often difficult to place with permanent homes due to behavioral problems and health care costs. The mistreatment of these animals also can lead to serious public health consequences for humans. In 2019, 30 people were infected with the dangerous outbreak strain of *Campylobacter jejuni* across 13 states. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, epidemiologic and laboratory evidence indicate that contact with puppies in commercial pet stores was the likely source of this outbreak.

Considering the evidence above, it is my belief that local governments must take a stand to prioritize animal welfare in our communities. For this reason, I urge the Naperville City Council to consider voting for an ordinance that would protect the health and safety of our residents and our cherished animals.

Sincerely,

Greg Hart
DuPage County Board Member
District 3