

From: Kelly Erwin [<mailto:lovetoorganize@live.com>]
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2015 5:48 PM
To: Charles McClendon
Subject: Ordinance

Mayor Stan Henry
Mayor Pro Tem Gregory S. Pettis
Council Member John Aquilar
Council Member Mark Carnevale
Council Member Shelley Kaplan
City Manager Charlie McClendon
68700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

Re: Ordinance to ban the retail sale of commercially bred animals in Cathedral City, CA.

I am a resident of Cathedral City and am asking you to pass an **ordinance banning the retail sale of commercially bred dogs, cats, and rabbits in stores within the Cathedral City city limits**. On September 16th, 2015 the City of Palm Springs overwhelmingly voted to enact a ban becoming the second city in the Coachella Valley to do so, after Rancho Mirage, who adopted this legislation in March 2013 (Ordinance No. 1052, 6.80. 065).

These commercially bred animals are often raised and farmed in puppy mills and kitten factories. These facilities are unregulated and profit takes precedence over animal welfare. These animals sell for anywhere between \$1500 and \$3000, with all sales final regardless if the animal develops an illness or dies as a result of poor and excessive breeding. What is also shocking is there is no law stating these animals must be spayed or neutered upon sale, which only perpetuates our growing pet overpopulation crisis in the desert. The Coachella Valley Animal Campus (CVAC) in Thousand Palms is our only municipal shelter and euthanizes approximately 67% of puppies, kittens, dogs, and cats taken in each year. The Palm Springs Animal Shelter is the Valley's only 'no-kill' intake facility, but it only serves Palm Springs. The other desert cities' strays and owner-surrendered animals wind up by jurisdiction, at CVAC. Currently, the Palm Springs shelter has over 400 animals available for adoption and CVAC at any given time has hundreds as well. This problem will only get worse unless cities like ours take action.

Progressive cities such as Los Angeles, Burbank, Glendale, Phoenix, Ventura, and San Diego are just a few of the over 85 jurisdictions who have embraced these sanctions. There is no fiscal benefit from this type of establishment when taxpayers spend 250 million dollars annually in California alone to house and ultimately euthanize innocent animals. In fact, in an effort to bring attention and potential relief to the overburdened, overcrowded animal shelters, last month the State Legislature declared the Shelter Pet as the Official California State Pet (Resolution ACR56).

Please join these other forward-thinking cities in making Cathedral City a place to "Adopt, Not Shop" and be a humane example for other cities and counties to follow.

I appreciate your time and look forward to working with you on this important issue. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kelly Erwin