

BILL NO. BL2018-1159 (MURPHY, ROBERTS, & OTHERS) – This ordinance would place restrictions on the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores. The ordinance defines “pet store” as a retail establishment where dogs or cats are offered for sale as pet animals to the general public at retail. “Animal care facility” is defined as an animal control center or shelter maintained by or under contract with a government entity that seeks permanent placements of animals in homes or with rescue organizations. “Animal rescue organization” is defined as a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) group that rescues animals to place in permanent homes.

Under this ordinance, pet stores would be permitted to sell only those dogs and cats obtained from or displayed in cooperation with an animal care facility or an animal rescue organization. Pet stores would also be prohibited from selling a dog or cat younger than eight (8) weeks old. Pet stores would be required to maintain records sufficient to document the source of each dog or cat the pet store acquires for at least one year from the date of acquisition. When pet stores offer dogs or cats for sale, they would be required to post in a conspicuous location a sign listing the name of the animal care facility or animal rescue organization from which each dog or cat was acquired.

Violations of this ordinance would be subject to a civil penalty of fifty dollars (\$50) per day, per violation. Each animal offered for sale in violation of this ordinance would constitute a separate offense.