



**SCIL**  
Social Compassion  
in Legislation

**Save Abandoned Pets, Vote YES on AB 485**



**SUPPORT - AB 485 Pet Rescue & Adoption Act**  
Introduced by Assembly Members O'Donnell and Dababneh  
Coauthors: Assembly Members Cervantes, Chavez, and Friedman,  
Coauthors: Senators Galgiani and Monning

## **Promoting Adoption from Local Animal Shelters and Rescue Groups In Local Retail Pet Stores and Saying No To Puppy Mills**

### **Here's what the bill does (taken directly from AB 485):**

*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.*

**FACT:** Over 200 counties and cities across the nation have banned the sale of puppy mill dogs and cats since 2006. Since 2008, 33 local jurisdictions in California have adopted a ban on the sales of commercially bred dogs and cats in their local retail pet stores including San Diego, Irvine, Los Angeles, Ventura County and San Francisco. Having one uniform statewide policy to regulate this area would make it easier for pet store companies to comply, rather than having to track and comply with an increasing number of additional local ordinances.

**FACT:** Approximately \$300 million is spent annually by local animal shelters statewide to euthanize hundreds of thousands of dogs, cats, and rabbits. Having additional locations, including pet stores, to showcase these adoptable animals would greatly reduce the total number of animals euthanized in our communities. Ultimately, this will result in a reduction of the costs to local taxpayers and would free up financial resources for other essential local government services.

**FACT:** Being USDA or government inspected does not mean that the business is not a puppy mill, any more than having a driver's license guarantees that an individual is a good driver. The USDA has minimal standards of food, water and shelter and it is extremely rare for the USDA to revoke commercial breeder's license or even fine a puppy mill that has repeated violations. There are hundreds of USDA – licensed puppy mills in operation that have long lists of violations and problems associated with them and yet they still regularly sell to pet stores throughout the U.S.

Until recently, the USDA's website allowed for pet store operators and pet owners to review these inspection reports, however, this information is no longer readily available other than through a public records request. In 2010, the Office of Inspector General released a scathing report criticizing the USDA's history of lax oversight of dog dealers under the Animal Welfare Act.

**FACT:** The American Kennel Club (AKC), the world’s largest kennel club registration does not guarantee proper breeding conditions, health, quality or claims to lineage. AKC staff does not visit all breeders and facilities; instead, registration is done primarily through mailed forms.

**FACT:** Truly responsible breeders do not sell their puppies to pet stores, and instead want to meet their puppy buyers in person. The AKC’s model “Breeder Code of Ethics” includes a pledge not to sell their puppies to pet stores. Similar pledges are included in the Code of Ethics for many individual breed clubs as well.

**FACT:** The majority of pet stores in California are sourcing their puppies from high-volume breeders in the mid-west, making it impossible for the state to regulate these out-of-state businesses. California law requires pet stores to maintain records and disclose the person or entity where animals were acquired; including the person or business’s name, address, telephone number and the date the animal was acquired. The majority of these breeders are listed on Humane Society of United States (HSUS) Horrible Hundred list as regular suppliers to the Missouri-based mega-pet store broker, the Hunte Corporation.

**FACT:** The facilities, animal care requirements, and adoption procedures for local public animal shelters, shelters operated by a society for the prevention of cruelty and rescue organizations are regulated under the Food and Agricultural Code Section 17005 and Civil Code Section 1844-1845.

**FACT:** Many private pet store operators in California, including PetSmart and Petco have already adopted model business practices that enlist local rescue groups and shelters to showcase their adoptable animals in their stores, resulting in a reduction of the overall pet population in the local shelters. Less than 10% of registered pet stores in the state still traffic puppies, kittens, and bunnies into their stores from breeders.

**For more information or to send your letter of support, please contact Christine Aurre, Office of Assembly Member O’Donnell, at [Christine.aurre@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Christine.aurre@asm.ca.gov) or 916-319-2070.**

**Cities With Similar or Exact Ordinances to AB 485:**

Aliso Viejo, Beverly Hills, Burbank, Carlsbad, Cathedral City, Chino Hills, Chula Vista, Colton, Dana Point, Del Mar, Encinitas, Garden Grove, Glendale, Hermosa Beach, Huntington Beach, Indio, Irvine, La Quinta, Laguna Beach, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oceanside, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Marcos, Solana Beach, South Lake Tahoe, South Pasadena, Truckee, Turlock, Ventura County (unincorporated areas), Vista, West Hollywood

## AB 485 Support List

<p>(Sponsor) Social Compassion in Legislation  Actors and Others for Animals  Adopt A Saint, Saint Bernard Rescue  AGWC Rockin' Rescue  Alicia Pet Care Center  All About the Animals  Animal Hope and Wellness Foundation  Animal Protection &amp; Rescue League  Animal Rescue Recon  Animal Rescuers Without Borders  Animal Shelter Assistance Program  ASPCA  Best Friends  Bow-Wows &amp; Meows, Inc.  Buckingham Cats  Bunnies Urgently Needing Shelter  Bunny World Foundation  California Animal Control Directors Association  Camp Cocker Rescue  CatPAWS  City of Antioch  City of Carlsbad  City of Colton  City of La Quinta  City of Long Beach  City of Los Angeles  City of Oceanside  City of Sacramento  City of San Marcos, Office of Mayor Jim Desmond  City of Signal Hill  City of San Francisco  San Francisco County Supervisor Katy Tang  City of Stockton Animal Shelter  City of Turlock  City of West Hollywood</p>	<p>Assessor Jeffrey Prang, County of Los Angeles  Councilmember Mona Rios, City of National City  Councilmember Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, City of National City  Councilmember Melissa Fox, City of Irvine  Councilmember Paul Koretz, City of Los Angeles  Davey's Voice  Dog Adoption &amp; Welfare Group (DAWG)  East Bay Rabbit Rescue  Fix Long Beach  Fresno Humane Animal Services  Friends of Long Beach Animals  Golden State Humane Society  Harley's Dream  Healthy Spot  Hope For Paws  Humane Society Silicon Valley  HSUS  LA Animal Rescue  Lab Rescuers of San Diego  Last Chance at Life All Breed Rescue and Adoptions  Last Chance for Animals  Lobby For Animals  National Animal Rescue Coalition  Not One Animal Harmed  Oakland Animal Services  Passion for Paws Rescue, Inc.  Peace for Animals  Pearson Animal Hospital  Peninsula Humane Society &amp; SPCA  Pet Adoption Fund  Pet Assistance Foundation  PETA  Project Coyote</p>	<p>Rabbit Rescue  RESQCATS, Inc.  Rockin Pets Foundation  Sacramento SPCA  San Diego Animal Advocates  San Diego Humane Society  San Diego House Rabbit Society  Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter  Shamrock Rescue Foundation  Siruis Dog Training  SoulPlayMates Dog Rescue &amp; Advocacy  Southern CA Bulldog Rescue, Inc.  Southland Collie Rescue, Inc.  Spay Neuter Action Project  SPOT Rescue  Starfish Rescue  State Humane Association of California  START Rescue  Tailwaggers Foundation  Take Me Home Rescue  The David Toro Foundation  The Dog Squad Rescue  The Gentle Barn  The Lucy Pet Foundation  The Ozzy Foundation  The Paw Project  The Puppy Coalition Foundation  The Rescue House  The Rescue House – San Diego  The Senior Dogs Project  Thrive Animal Shelter  Volunteers in Defense of Animals  Wagging Dog Rescue</p> <p>More than 400+ individuals</p>
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