



2018 New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Committee Assignment: Senate 5

Bill #: S-33

1 **Sponsors:** Jingxuan Liu, Jessica Kemp, Aaron Mattupurath

2

3 **An Act To**

4 Amend Article 35-D of New York State General Business Law to add Section 756 to
5 prohibit the sale of animals in pet stores sourced from puppy and kitten mills

6

7 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and***
8 ***Assembly do enact as follows:***

9 **Purpose**

10 To ensure that animals sold in pet stores are sourced from rescue groups and
11 shelters that treat them humanely and to reduce the cruel treatment of animals
12 sold in the retail pet industry.

13

14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 **Section 1 Definitions:**

16 **Adequate care-** the responsible practice of good animal handling, production,
17 management, confinement, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation,
18 treatment appropriate for the age, species, condition, size and type of the animal
19 and the provision of veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering or
20 impairment of health.

21 **Animal-** shall mean a dog or a cat.

22 **Kitten Mills-** any institution breeding and raising cats for profit alone with little
23 attention paid to the health of the animals and keeping them in close quarters,
24 unsanitary conditions and without access to adequate care.

25 **Puppy Mills-** any institution breeding and raising dogs for profit alone, not paying
26 attention to the health of the dogs and keeping them in close quarters, unsanitary
27 conditions and without access to adequate care.

28 **Rescue group-** an organization dedicated to take unwanted, abandoned, abused, or
29 stray animals and attempt to find suitable homes for them.

30 **Pet store-** a retail establishment open to the public and selling or offering for sale
31 animals, including, but not limited to, animals for use as pets or animals intended
32 as food for other animals.

33 **Section 2:**

34 Amends Article 35-D of New York State General Business Law by adding Section
35 756 as follows:

36 **Section 756: A pet store operator shall not sell a live dog or cat in a pet store**
37 **unless the dog or cat was obtained from a public animal control agency or shelter,**
38 **society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter,**
39 **nonprofit or rescue groups that is in a cooperative agreement with at least one**
40 **private or public shelter mentioned above. Each pet store shall maintain records**



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1 sufficient to document the source of each animal the pet store sells. Additionally,
2 each pet store shall post, in a conspicuous location on the cage or enclosure of each
3 animal, a sign listing the name of the public animal control agency or shelter,
4 society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or
5 nonprofit and rescue groups mentioned above, from which each animal was
6 obtained. Public animal control agencies or shelters may periodically require pet
7 stores engaged in sales of animals to provide access to these records. A pet store
8 operator who violates this section shall be subjected to a civil penalty of five
9 hundred dollars (\$500). Each animal offered for sale in violation of this section shall
10 constitute a separate penalty.
11

12 **Justification**

13 In the United States alone there are an estimated 10,000 puppy mills, and of this
14 number, fewer than 3,000 are regulated by the US Department of Agriculture. Over
15 2 million puppies are bred in puppy mills in the United States each year. Puppy
16 mills are dog breeding operations that put the profit they make over the health of
17 the animals they raise. Kitten mills are similar institutions that also breed cats for
18 profit alone and do not take into account the health of the animals. Breeding
19 animals are kept in cages 24 hours a day, living in unsanitary, unsafe conditions.
20 When the animals are too old or otherwise unable to breed any longer, they are
21 killed or sold. Puppy and kitten mills treat the animals they breed and raise
22 inhumanely and allow them to suffer in unsanitary conditions. The passage of this
23 bill will significantly reduce the animal abuse suffered in puppy and kitten mills. In
24 addition, by prohibiting the sales of animals sourced from puppy and kitten mills,
25 more social awareness will be given to animal rescue as people are only given the
26 option of purchasing from one through pet stores. As a result, there will be more
27 resources and incentives to rescue animals, as the space and resources that would
28 be taken up by rescue animals that weren't adopted in favor of pets from puppy or
29 kitten mills, will now be free for additional stray animals.
30

31 **Fiscal Implications**

32 The fiscal implications of this bill will be negligible. Pet stores will not be buying any
33 additional animals, only shifting where they source the animals, from puppy and
34 kitten mills to rescue organizations and shelters.
35

36 **Effective Date**

37 The law will go into effect one year after passing.