



# **Detroit Pet Shop Ordinance**

**Public Health & Safety Standing Committee**  
**Jan. 27, 2025**

# The humane pet shop ordinance



## What this ordinance will do:

- Preventatively stops the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores
- Still allows pet stores to coordinate adoption day events with local shelters and rescues
- No impact to current pet supply businesses in Detroit

This is an intentionally narrow ordinance to address one issue.

Similar to laws in 8 states and nearly 500 localities across 32 states, including **11 in Michigan.**

# Benefits to Detroit

- ✓ Prevent weeks old puppies from being trucked in from Midwest puppy mills and stops the problem before it starts;
- ✓ Protect consumers from deceptive sales tactics, ending up with sick puppies, and puppy financing interest rates that are often much higher than disclosed;
- ✓ Protect the community from the ongoing antibiotic-resistant infection outbreak connected to pet store puppies;
- ✓ Support Detroit's existing pet stores that already don't sell puppies;
- ✓ Move the local pet market towards shelters, rescues and responsible breeders who only sell directly to the public; and
- ✓ Lessen the burden on local shelters and rescues.

# The puppy mill pipeline



- **Public records:** Since 2021, hundreds of puppies have been imported into Michigan to be sold in pet stores.
- Michigan pet stores have also sourced from **unlicensed breeders**.
- **Puppy mill brokers:** Many of the puppies were purchased from brokers—middlemen dealers—based in Indiana, Minnesota and Ohio.
- Using brokers adds additional leg of transport for young, stressed, and often neglected puppies.
- Reports of cages/kennels filled with feces, dogs with open wounds and matted hair, and more.
- Without this ordinance, nothing is stopping this pipeline from entering Detroit.

# Michigan pet stores & puppy mills

The reality of the puppy mill pipeline

Shiloh, OH 2021



Odon, IN 2019





# Pet shop ordinance impact

- This promotes a pet market that is better for animals and families.
- Residents can continue to get the pet of their choice from local shelter, rescue or responsible breeder.
- Detroit's market will remain open to a \$147 billion pet supply and service industry.