

## **RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, investigations by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) have shown that thousands of dogs and cats in the United States have been housed and bred at substandard breeding facilities known as “puppy mills” and “kitten factories,” that mass-produce animals for sale to the public, and many of these animals are sold at retail pet stores; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the lack of proper animal husbandry practices at these facilities, animals born and raised there are more likely to have genetic disorders, lack adequate socialization, are subjected to inhumane housing conditions and are indiscriminately disposed of when they reach the end of their profitable breeding cycle; and

**WHEREAS**, a review of USDA inspection reports from more than 100 breeders who sold animals to the nation’s largest retail pet store chain revealed more than 60 percent of the inspections found serious violations of basic animal care standards, including sick or dead animals in their cages, lack of proper veterinary care, inadequate shelter from weather conditions, and dirty, unkempt cages that were too small; and

**WHEREAS**, responsible breeders do not sell their animals to pet stores because the United Kennel Club (UKC) and the American Kennel Club (AKC) both ask all of their member breeders to agree to a code of ethics which includes a pledge not to sell their puppies to pet stores or wholesalers; and

**WHEREAS**, the HSUS estimates that more than 90 percent of pet store animals originate from puppy mills and kitten factories; and that there are many reputable dog and cat breeders who refuse to sell through pet stores and who work carefully to screen families and ensure good, lifelong matches; and

**WHEREAS**, people who buy cats and dogs from retail pet stores cannot see the conditions under which the cats and dogs were raised; and

**WHEREAS**, the Austin Animal Advisory Commission approved a motion on July 14, 2010, “to recommend to Council that an ordinance be enacted to ban the retail sales of dogs and cats in Austin pet stores”; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently no retail businesses selling cats or dogs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council recently passed the No-Kill Implementation Plan which was enacted to further the goal of Austin becoming a no-kill city; and that the sale of dogs and cats from retail pet stores is in conflict with that goal; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

The City Manager is hereby directed to work with the City's Legal Department to develop an ordinance to ban the retail sales of dogs and cats in Austin pet stores within 90 days.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2010

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk