



Outlook

Please support ordinance LR31.072

From Peter Shields <petershields360@gmail.com>

Date Thu 11/6/2025 11:20 AM

To BOR_AllReps <BOR_AllReps@StamfordCT.gov>

Please SUPPORT ordinance LR31.072, which would block the puppy mill-to-pet shop pipeline in Stamford by banning the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops. This ordinance would stop pet shops from selling puppy mill puppies, protect consumers from deceptive sales tactics, sick puppy sales, and predatory lending, and promote humane businesses and responsible pet acquisition. No pet shop needs to sell puppies to be profitable and no resident needs a pet shop to find the pet of their choice.

Thank you,
Peter Shields

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PLEASE VOTE YES ON LR31.072

From Christina Velgot <cvelgot@benderplumbing.com>

Date Thu 11/6/2025 11:54 AM

To BOR_AllReps <BOR_AllReps@StamfordCT.gov>

These poor animals deserve a better life and so many animals lose their life for no reason because of overpopulation.

Sending on behalf of my Mom who lives in Stamford – Marianne Ochsendorf at 30 Buena Vista Street

Thanks,

Christina Velgot
Customer Service Representative



235 Westport Avenue, Norwalk CT 06851

P: 203.847.3865 x751

Direct: 203-445-6107

F: 203.847.7971

www.benderplumbing.com

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Thank You for Standing Up for Animals: LR31.072, Stamford's Humane Pet Shop Ordinance

From Kristen Roeckle <kroeckle@luckydogrefuge.com>

Date Thu 11/6/2025 2:55 PM

To BOR_AllReps <BOR_AllReps@StamfordCT.gov>; Sherwood, Nina <NSherwood@StamfordCT.gov>

Cc Kirstin Mende <km@luckydogrefuge.com>; Jessica Barnes <Jessica@luckydogrefuge.com>; Matt Witek <mattw@luckydogrefuge.com>; John Louizos <jlouizos@wrkk.com>; maclovello@gmail.com <maclovello@gmail.com>; leonorhlopez@yahoo.com <leonorhlopez@yahoo.com>; jenner1026 <Jenner1026@gmail.com>; montanari.gianmarco@gmail.com <montanari.gianmarco@gmail.com>; kristinarazza@gmail.com <kristinarazza@gmail.com>; Volpettig19@gmail.com <Volpettig19@gmail.com>; Nicholas DiNino <nickdinino@gmail.com>; Geena.chiacu@gmail.com <Geena.chiacu@gmail.com>; Meaghan Conway <meaghan.b.conway@gmail.com>; taylorleach1202@gmail.com <taylorleach1202@gmail.com>; lauren.y.marvin@gmail.com <lauren.y.marvin@gmail.com>; jill_luciani@yahoo.com <jill_luciani@yahoo.com>; Amanda.erb@gmail.com <Amanda.erb@gmail.com>; Diane Holcombe <Dmholcombe@gmail.com>; Animals-R-Family <animalsrfamilyinc@gmail.com>; cooperman.rebecca@gmail.com <cooperman.rebecca@gmail.com>

 1 attachment (153 KB)

Issue Briefing_ Support of Ordinance LR31.072 (1).pdf;

Dear Members of the Stamford Board of Representatives,

Last night, Stamford made history. We want to thank you for your overwhelming support of this ordinance. With your vote to ban the sale of live animals in pet stores, our city can become the first in Connecticut to take this compassionate and courageous step. This is what leadership looks like — choosing progress over convenience, conviction over fear, and humanity over profit.

You showed every resident what it means to serve with integrity and to truly listen to your community - as we have demonstrated, the Stamford community wants this change. You also know we need systemic change, and you chose to do something about it rather than telling us to “keep picketing”. Being first is not easy. It takes strength to lead, and it takes courage to act when others have not yet done so. You showed that fear of a lawsuit is not a reason to turn away from morals or become paralyzed with inaction. This ordinance is not just a policy; it's a statement about who we are as a community, and your Stamford community thanks you for representing us all by voting yes.

We also want to take a moment to recognize Representative Nina Sherwood for her exceptional leadership. She has been a voice of reason and integrity throughout this process, and her role in setting the tone in the room last night cannot be overstated. Stamford is lucky to have leaders like Nina who act with courage and conscience — her absence will be deeply felt, but her impact will be lasting.

As you know, one step remains: Mayor Simmons must approve this ordinance. We urge you to encourage her to take this final action. The discussions last night — about moral responsibility, compassion, and doing what's right for the animals and citizens of Stamford — were powerful and should be shared. Mayor Simmons needs to hear from you directly about the overwhelming support this ordinance received, both in your vote and from the public. You can assure her that the community is behind her and that she has the backing of not only the Humane World for Animals (Annie Hornish in CC), who are prepared to provide legal support if needed, but also the unwavering support of Lucky Dog Refuge and the other rescue organizations represented on this note.

At Lucky Dog Refuge, we are ready to stand beside you and the Mayor every step of the way. We have more than 1,300 active Stamford residents as volunteers. We host weekly community and corporate events, engage tens of thousands of local followers through social media, and are regularly featured in local press, radio, and television. We are woven into the fabric of this

city — and we will continue to activate, educate, and mobilize the community to ensure public sentiment remains firmly supportive of the ban.

From all of us at Lucky Dog Refuge, thank you.

With deep appreciation and hope,

Kristen Roeckle
Board Member, Lucky Dog Refuge
36 Pulaski Street, Stamford, CT

Supporters in Cc:

1. Kirstin Mende, CEO, Lucky Dog Refuge located at 36 Pulaski Street Stamford, CT
2. Matthew Witek, Board of Directors, Lucky Dog Refuge and Stamford Run Club Liaison
3. John Louizos, Board of Directors, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
4. Jessica Barnes, Executive Director, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
5. Maria Lovello, Volunteer and Rescue Foster, Stamford Animal Control (Stamford resident)
6. Leonor Lopez, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
7. Jen Volker Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
8. Gian Marco Montanari, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
9. Kristina Razza, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
10. Gabbie Volpetti, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
11. Nicholas DiNino, Volunteer, Lucky Dog Refuge (Stamford resident)
12. Geena Chiacu, Lucky Dog Refuge Adopter (Stamford Resident)
13. Meaghan Conway, Lucky Dog Refuge Adopter (Stamford Resident)
14. Taylor Leach, Animal Advocate (Stamford Resident)
15. Lauren Marvin, Animal Advocate (Stamford Resident)
16. Rebecca Cooperman, Animal Advocate, Beagle Freedom, Lucky Dog Refuge, NYACC (Stamford resident)
17. Jill Luciani, Volunteer, CT Dog Gone Recovery and Save a Lab, Labrador Retriever Rescue (Stamford resident)
18. Amanda Erb, Founder, Hazels House Rescue (Stamford resident)
19. Diane Holcombe, Founder, Red Leash Rescue (Stamford resident)
20. Nicole Bruck, Founder, Animals R Family (Stamford resident)

On Oct 30, 2025, at 5:40 PM, Kristen Roeckle <kroeckle@luckydogrefuge.com> wrote:

Dear Members of the Stamford Board of Representatives,

On behalf of the Board of Directors at Lucky Dog Refuge, a Stamford-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, **we urge you to vote YES next Wednesday the 5th on Ordinance LR31.072**, which would ban the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in Stamford pet stores. I have copied 20 Stamford residents, rescue leaders, and advocates, who all share this sentiment.

This legislation represents a compassionate, practical, and community-driven step toward protecting animals, consumers, and our city's resources. A ban on the sale of live animals in pet stores will:

- Disrupt the puppy mill—to-pet shop pipeline, a well-documented and inhumane supply chain.
- Protect consumers from deceptive sales tactics and predatory lending practices.
- Reduce animal relinquishment to municipal shelters and local rescues, conserving limited community resources.
- Align Stamford with progressive states and cities that have enacted similar humane laws, like neighboring New York State.

Attached for your review is an issue brief outlining the ties between pet stores and puppy mills, local examples of the burden on animal rescues, and the positive outcomes expected should this ordinance be passed.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to a humane Stamford community.

For the Dogs,
Kristen Roeckle
Board Member, Lucky Dog Refuge

Supporters in Cc:

1. Kirstin Mende, CEO, Lucky Dog Refuge located at 36 Pulaski Street Stamford, CT
2. Matthew Witek, Board of Directors, Lucky Dog Refuge and Stamford Run Club Liaison
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20. Nicole Bruck, Founder, Animals R Family (Stamford resident)

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Outlook

Thank you!

From Maria Lovello <maclovello@gmail.com>

Date Fri 11/7/2025 7:42 AM

To BOR_AllReps <BOR_AllReps@StamfordCT.gov>

I too want to join in saying Thank You for all of those who voted to ban the sale of live pets in Stamford. We can be the first progressive City in Connecticut to do so! We can stop the endless supply and abuse of animals by cutting the sales and I will continue to do my part to help the unwanted pets that end up in our City's shelter.

Thank you again,

Maria Lovello

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Thank You for passing the Humane Pet Shop ordinance!

From Annie Hornish <ahornish@humaneworld.org>

Date Fri 11/7/2025 8:34 AM

To BOR_AllReps <BOR_AllReps@StamfordCT.gov>

Dear Rep. Sherwood and Honorable Members of the 31st Stamford Board of Representatives,

On behalf of the Stamford-based supporters of Humane World for Animals, I am writing to thank you for your overwhelming support of the Humane Pet Shop ordinance (LR31.071), which passed Wednesday night 35-1-1!

Under your innovative, bold, and compassionate leadership, Stamford is forging a path forward for other municipalities to emulate.

Please encourage Mayor Simmons to sign this bill. I have reached out to Mayor Simmons to ask her to host a bill signing in celebration of the Humane Pet Shop ordinance, and if this happens, I hope to see you all there!

With heartfelt gratitude,
Annie

Annie Hornish

Connecticut State Director, State Affairs

Pronouns: she/her

C 860-966-1819

humaneworld.org



Formerly called the Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International. Together, we tackle the root causes of animal cruelty and suffering to create permanent change. Stay up to date with our work to help animals and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), [YouTube](#) and subscribe to our [blog](#).

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Ban the sales of Dogs and Cats - LR31.072 - Public testimony

From David @ Eyes Of Steel <davidmichel74@gmail.com>

Date Fri 10/31/2025 3:47 PM

To Board of Representatives <bdreps@StamfordCT.gov>; Fedeli, Mary Lisa <MFedeli@StamfordCT.gov>; Sherwood, Nina <NSherwood@StamfordCT.gov>; de la Cruz, Virgil <VdelaCruz@StamfordCT.gov>

Cc David M <davidmichel74@gmail.com>

 1 attachment (319 KB)

Hurlburt Kowalski emails re Stamford (1).pdf;

🐾 Good evening Honorable President of the Board Nina Sherwood, Majority Leader Virgil De La Cruz, Minority Leader Mary Fedeli, and to the rest of the honorable members of the Board,

My name is David Michel, former State Representative for Stamford's 146th District, and I am testifying in strong support of the ordinance banning the sale of dogs and cats from USDA-registered breeding facilities, which are, by every practical measure, puppy mills operating under outdated and inadequate standards.

For more than a decade, the Connecticut General Assembly has failed to pass a statewide ban, even though hundreds of municipalities across the country have already done what we are attempting tonight. While the large chains such as Petco and PetSmart have modernized their business model to partner with rescues and adoption programs, fewer than twenty small independent shops in Connecticut continue to rely on animals supplied through brokers from industrial breeding operations.

These facilities are not humane. Their standards permit dogs to live their entire lives in cages just inches larger than their bodies, often stacked on top of each other, with no requirement for solid flooring. They live surrounded by waste, suffer untreated infections, and display psychological trauma from endless confinement. There have been documented cases of severe injury and neglect. When those animals' offspring are sold, it becomes cruelty not only to them, but also to the families and children who bring home a puppy only to discover that it is sick, traumatized, or dying.

In 2019, Stamford attempted to enact this same ordinance, yet it was derailed by interference from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture after a lobbyist for the

pet-shop industry contacted the Commissioner directly. As reported by the Stamford Advocate, the Commissioner's attorney called our City's Corporation Counsel on the eve of the public hearing, warning that the state might preempt municipal action. That single call, prompted by a lobbyist, silenced the will of our residents.

This was never about legal authority, it was about political will. The Department of Agriculture should not act as a shield for commercial cruelty. It should protect the animals and consumers of Connecticut, not lobbyists.

If Stamford must now take the lead again, let us do so proudly. If this ordinance ends up in court, it will not reflect poorly on Stamford, it will reflect poorly on those who tried to stop us from doing what is right.

Members of the Board, this is not a question of jurisdiction, it is a question of conscience. The State has failed to act, so the responsibility falls to us. We can be the city that leads Connecticut forward, the city that shows compassion is stronger than commerce.

Please have the courage to vote yes, and protect our four-legged friends, and the families who love them.

Thank you.

David Michel
4 Rockledge Drive
Stamford CT 06902

P.S. I: Just so you know these attempts have been tried for way over ten years. The reason why it does not pass is because some legislators in high ranking positions have some of those pet shops in their districts. One senator can block a bill from ever seeing the light of day, just like if a speaker is against a bill, it will never see the light of day when it comes from the same side of the aisle.

P.S. II: I am attaching a link to the CAPS investigation, and also the link that explains what happened in 2019. Petco did not threaten to sue, neither did the state, it was just CT new commissioner of DoAG at the time who was a lobbyist shortly prior to this event who responded to the lobbyist for pet shops, and had his corp counsel tell Stamford's Corp Counsel that the state "MAY" pre empt. No threats were mad, it was more of a poker move. Am also adding an email I sent in my capacity as a State Rep on March 10th 2020 that includes hyperlinks including the news 12 coverage. Also you will find attached the exchange where the lobbyist explains to the commissioner the shop would have to close, in ref to Safari Stan's who thankfully is no longer in Stamford.

. [Undercover with CAPS: An Investigation of Connecticut Pet Shops on Vimeo](#)

. <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/rm4bvzhqym81mmo6z12dl/ALVk5tOxnPbn6OnhSOIgA54?rlkey=60af8acsuoiar3q4h2f3vu11c&st=2uchv7ij&dl=0>

with the back up material for the video

. No puppy-sale ban in Stamford — for now

. The email: That year I am pretty sure we were doing both the general state ban in the Environment Committee, while we were also proposing to give the ability to municipalities to vote on it, in the Planning & Development Committee. This email was addressed to my chair of P&D at the time.

<Dear Mme Chair McCarthy Vahey,

Thank you very much to you and the screening committee for raising this bill. To be drafted and giving it a chance to a public hearing. I had promised you more information and material and some explanations, and I believe it is summed up below.

Here is the link to a recap of an undercover video from CAPS (Companion Animal Protection Society)

Undercover with CAPS: An Investigation of Connecticut Pet Shops

This is an exposé made on all our CT pet shops currently selling dogs and cats, and the reason why we need this bill to have a chance to have a life in our legislature.

Additionally here are the reports that helped make this video with more detailed explanations.

We are not attempting to close any CT Business as we value small businesses. The ask is that within a specific amount of time they change their business model from this one that feeds the Puppy Mill pipeline to the one matching hundreds of pet stores that sell the accessories and foods etc and also showcase rescue animals for adoption and ends financing this cruel dog and cat farming. The puppy mills are USDA registered facilities with very low standards..and are cited violations like dismembered puppies to crumbling cages..unsanitary conditions.. and these puppies really never get much interaction and are often seen pacing which is not normal behavior.

The city of Stamford attempted to ban the sales of dogs and cats from retail. The lobby for the pet shops (Kowalski) sent a letter to newly appointed DOAG commissioner Hurlburt to ask him to stop the city from trying to close a pet shop, which was clearly not the goal. You will see below the communications w Carol Briggs and the emails between Ms Linda Kowalski & Commissioner Hurlburt. He mentioned that following receiving this email he asked his in-house counsel to contact K Emmett who is the corporate counsel of the city of Stamford. The communications was described to me by both Commissioner Hurlburt and Counsel Emmett as DOAG saying the might pre-empt on this case. It froze the legislative process.

Here is the City Of Stamford Resolution NO. 4018 that came from this ordeal, that did upset Stamfordites.

***Here* is News 12 coverage prior to the Stamford hearing.**

***Here* is Sep 16th 2019 CT Insider / Stamford Advocate's coverage by Angela Carella**

Here is the article mentioning how it happened on the Stamford Advocate, by Angela Carella

We trust this is sufficient material (and a lot more if needed) to validate this potential piece of legislation as well as giving "municipal powers" to the municipalities of our state. Any of those municipalities would then be able to launch democratic processes if needed and requested by their constituency.

Kind regards,

Rep Michel
1-914-843-7545>

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