

From: [Jessica Barnes](#)
To: [Simmons, Caroline](#); [BOR AllReps](#)
Subject: The Mayor's Choice to Veto of Humane Pet Stores and Opportunity to Overturn
Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025 11:11:55 AM

Mayor Simmons,

Thank you for your response regarding Ordinance LR31.072. As a Stamford resident who cares deeply about humane policy and consumer protection, I would appreciate clarification on several points referenced in your email. I will be an active voice in helping to overturn your veto and this will help me better understand your perspective.

1. Are you aware of the hundreds of Stamford residents who wrote to the Board of Representatives to express their desire to pass this ordinance?
2. Which specific Connecticut statutes or legal precedents does the City believe would expose Stamford to liability if LR31.072 were enacted?
3. What state laws would Stamford be failing to abide by if the ordinance moved forward?
4. I understand that Humane World for Animals offered pro-bono legal support to the City should a lawsuit arise. I am also aware that they have supported other municipalities in similar situations. Could you please clarify why this is not seen as an acceptable option by your administration to support the city of Stamford?
5. Given that hundreds of municipalities across over 30 states and Washington, DC have successfully enacted humane pet-store laws, how does Connecticut differ in a way that prevents Stamford from doing the same?
6. How does the humane pet-store ordinance differ from other municipal actions that deviate from state-level allowances? For example, the city of Stamford enacted a stricter plastic bag ordinance than state law without receiving preemption. In addition, other municipalities like Fairfield and Greenwich have taken similar approaches regarding sale of cannabis, which is permissible at the state level but not permitted at a municipal level. How is this situation uniquely different from those examples?
7. You noted that the state level is the appropriate venue for this issue. Since a similar bill died on the floor last session, what steps do you intend to take to help move it forward this year, given the strong interest expressed by hundreds of Stamford residents?

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your response.

Jessica Barnes

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From: [Maria Lovello](#)
To: [BOR AllReps](#); [Mayor's Office](#); [Simmons, Caroline](#)
Subject: Mayor's veto on Pet Store ban
Date: Thursday, December 11, 2025 3:32:12 PM

Well, needless to say, I was not happy to hear that Mayor Simmons vetoed the ordinance to ban pet stores within Stamford. There are many more questions to be answered and I know you're receiving emails from other animal advocates doing cut and paste of the questions we want answered - so I'll refrain from posting the same ones here.

We know that other municipalities have deviated from State allowances - so it just seems that this isn't a fight the mayor actually feels is worthy. YES - we are so very grateful that she budgeted for the new shelter - which is well OVERDUE and kudos for her for doing this.....we do see a number of abandoned dogs come in from the pet stores that are allowed to operate.

I'm wondering if the rescues who take in these dogs from pet stores, who are either surrendered to them DIRECTLY FROM THE PET STORE or from people who purchased dogs from them and now can't afford them because they are unhealthy, were to charge the CITY OF STAMFORD the costs of getting these pet's healthy, if that would change anything. When Rescues, who mainly survive on the generosity of their donors, have vet bills in the thousands because our town won't ban the sale of dogs...maybe that's the answer...make the City of Stamford responsible for their care and cost.

I hope the new Board of Representatives stand with the votes of the outgoing board and overturn this veto and that we can have the State of Connecticut follow the lead of Stamford in saying NO MORE!!!!!!!

Maria Lovello

8 Middle Ridge Road
(Current Stamford Animal Care & Control Volunteer)

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