



Memorandum

Date: February 14, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

Via: Francisco Rios
Interim City Manager

From: Edgard K. Estrada
Code Compliance Director

Subject: **Ordinance Retail Sale of Dogs and Cats**

Introduction

According to the Humane Society of the United States, more than a million dogs and cats in the United States are housed and bred each year at substandard breeding facilities known as “puppy mills” or “kitten factories,” that mass-produce animals for sale to the public. As such, the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) monitors dog breeding facilities for compliance with the Animal Welfare Act, and its inspection reports and enforcement records document problems found at puppy mills and kitten factories including: (1) sanitation problems leading to infectious disease; (2) large numbers of animals overcrowded in cages; (3) lack of proper veterinary care for severe illnesses and injuries; (4) lack of protection from harsh weather conditions; and (5) lack of adequate food and water.

Background

Section 5-10 of the Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, known as the "Miami-Dade Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Ordinance", regulates the retail sale of dogs and cats in the County and provides for minimum standards. In addition, any municipality may adopt or enforce additional regulations governing the sale of animals within the boundaries of such municipality, provided that any such municipal regulation shall not be less restrictive than the provisions of this chapter, and that the costs of the enforcement of such additional municipal regulations shall be borne by the municipality.

The City of Doral's Animal Welfare Committee has recommended to the City Council that the City adopt its own Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Ordinance, to which Council agreed.

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact on this item.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the City Council adopt the County's regulations governing the sale of dogs and cats in the City will allow for additional enforcement by the City, promote community awareness of animal welfare, foster a more humane environment, and encourage pet consumers to adopt dogs and cats from shelters, thereby saving animals' lives and reducing the cost to the public of sheltering animals.