



Midwest Dachshund Rescue, Inc.

To: Milwaukee Common Council

Midwest Dachshund Rescue is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to rescuing, rehabilitating, and placing dachshunds and dachshund mixes who are in need of a home and medical care. Many of our wonderful foster homes, volunteers and adopters are in Milwaukee. As a rescue who has seen first-hand the cruel and inhumane treatment of dogs in puppy mills and backyard breeders, we respectfully ask the Common Council to enact an ordinance to restrict the sale of inhumanely bred companion animals in pet stores, many of which end of in our overcrowded, taxpayer-subsidized shelters.

Pet mills are in business to supply pet stores. The animals kept in these facilities often spend their entire lives in dirty, crowded cages for the sole purpose of producing as many offspring as possible. The dogs never feel grass, never experience the warmth of a caring human touch and are exploited for monetary gain.

The only way to stop the puppy mill business is to STOP selling dogs from the mills. Pet stores that obtain their animals are not as asset to our community. However, they could be part of the solution simply by stopping pet sales altogether (and focusing on other profitable components, such as grooming, daycare and pet supplies) or by changing to a business model that offers products, services and space for animal rescue groups to adopt out animals from their stores. There are thousands of successful examples of this model throughout the country, including many of the pet stores in Milwaukee that currently do not sell milled puppies, kittens or rabbits.

A retail pet sales ordinance would not preclude pet stores from staying in business, and would reduce the burden on shelters and rescue groups by increasing pet adoptions. It would also benefit local hobby breeders, who do not sell to pet stores, but could continue to provide responsibly bred animals to those who cannot find what they are looking for through adoption.

Please support the important reform to protect pets, consumers and taxpayers in Milwaukee by enacting an ordinance to restrict the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores.

Thank you.

Arlene Silveira

Midwest Dachshund Rescue, Inc. • 5760 Barbara Drive • Fitchburg, WI 53711
www.mwdr.org 608-516-8981