



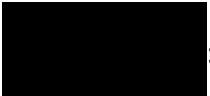
**Office of the New York State
Attorney General**

**Letitia James
Attorney General**

November 15, 2024



Re: New York State General Business Law Chapter 20, Article 35-D, § 753-f

Dear :

With the holiday season approaching, so too is the effective date of the Puppy Mill Pipeline Act. We write to remind you that as of December 15, 2024, New York pet stores will no longer be permitted to sell dogs, cats, and rabbits. Any dogs, cats, or rabbits sold before December 15, 2024, may not remain on the premises.

The Puppy Mill Pipeline Act, N.Y. General Business Law § 753-f, was signed into law by Governor Hochul in December 2022, giving impacted businesses two years to make necessary changes to ensure they comply with the new law. The purpose of this law is to prevent the buying and selling of animals from large-scale breeding operations known as “puppy mills.” The animals in these operations often suffer from health issues that can cost families thousands of dollars in veterinary care. Not only will the Puppy Mill Pipeline Act help protect animals, it will also help protect consumers from purchasing sick animals. Violators of the Puppy Mill Pipeline Act can be subject to an enforcement action by the Office of the Attorney General, which could result in monetary penalties.

Under the new law, pet stores may host adoption services in conjunction with animal shelters or rescue organizations to help connect New Yorkers with animals in need of a home. Pet stores are also permitted to charge shelters or rescues a reasonable rental fee to use their space for adoptions.

The Office of the Attorney General expects adherence to the law once it is in effect and will take reports of non-compliance seriously.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Martin

Kathryn Martin
Assistant Attorney General
New York State Office of the Attorney General
Westchester Regional Office
44 South Broadway
White Plains, New York 10601
Tel: (914) 422-8755 | kathryn.martin@ag.ny.gov

Encl.

McKinney's Consolidated Laws of New York Annotated
General Business Law (Refs & Annos)
Chapter 20. Of the Consolidated Laws
Article 35-D. Sale of Dogs and Cats (Refs & Annos)

McKinney's General Business Law § 753-f

§ 753-f. Sale of dogs, cats and rabbits prohibited

Effective: December 15, 2024

Currentness

1. A retail pet shop as defined in this article shall not sell, lease, offer to lease, offer to sell, barter, auction, or otherwise transfer ownership of any dog, cat or rabbit. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a retail pet shop from collaborating with the following entities to provide space to showcase dogs, cats or rabbits owned by such entities for the purpose of adoption; any duly incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, duly incorporated humane society, duly incorporated animal protective association or other duly incorporated animal adoption or animal rescue organization that:

(a) is exempt from taxes pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (c) of section 501 of the federal Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. 501, or any subsequent corresponding sections of the federal Internal Revenue Code, as from time to time amended;

(b) is registered with the department pursuant to section four hundred eight of the agriculture and markets law;

(c) is not affiliated with, or housed on the premises of a breeder or broker that does not obtain dogs, cats or rabbits from a breeder or broker in exchange for payment or compensation; and

(d) does not resell dogs, cats or rabbits obtained from a breeder or broker or provide payment or compensation to such breeder or broker.

2. This section shall not prohibit a retail pet shop from receiving a reasonable rental fee for space to showcase dogs, cats or rabbits for adoption at such retail pet shop.

Credits

(Added L.2022, c. 681, § 6, eff. Dec. 15, 2024. Amended L.2023, c. 35, § 1, eff. Dec. 15, 2024.)

McKinney's General Business Law § 753-f, NY GEN BUS § 753-f

Current through L.2024, chapters 1 to 443. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details.