Resolution No. 102 - 03/22

Supporting the Need for Statewide Efforts for Enhanced Regulation and Enforcement Prohibiting Puppy Mills

Moved/Sponsored by: Executive Committee

WHEREAS, the existence of puppy mills, breeding environments in which puppies are bred primarily in pursuit of profit and are cared for only minimally, is unconscionable for reasons including, but not limited to, the way animals are treated and the significant consumer risks related to unhealthy animals; and,

WHEREAS, the federal Animal Welfare Act, which governs the humane treatment of animals bred for purposes of sale, is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, has been highly ineffective in stopping puppy mills due to limited authority and lax enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, 2009 Wisconsin Act 90, which took effect on June 1, 2011, and is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and which was intended to protect dogs and the people who buy or adopt them, also suffers from limited scope and insufficient enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, the lack of oversight and enforcement at the federal and state levels has resulted in a rise in advocacy for local ordinances banning pet shops from sourcing puppies from anywhere besides a rescue organization, which ordinances are too narrow in scope and too limited in geographical application to ever dramatically reduce the mistreatment of puppies and dogs involved in the wholesale and retail trade industry; and,

WHEREAS, consistent, uniform, statewide application of enhanced animal welfare statutes and significantly increased enforcement of such statutes is essential to effectively address the multitude of negative impacts from puppy mills, the multiple sources of breeders who mistreat animals, and the multiple ways in which bad breeders mistreat animals, which includes, but is not limited to, over-breeding; inbreeding; minimal veterinary care; lack of socialization, exercise, and enrichment; lack of adequate food, water, and shelter; and lack of sanitation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors hereby encourages the State of Wisconsin to enhance its animal welfare laws related to the regulation of dog breeders, sellers, and facility operators; to significantly increase its enforcement efforts and resources to stop puppy mills in the State of Wisconsin and to stop the inflow of puppies into Wisconsin from puppy mills outside of Wisconsin; and to create a consistent, uniform, statewide approach for curtailing puppy mills, protecting consumers, and preventing animal abuse and mistreatment related to puppy mills.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Walworth County Clerk is directed to distribute a copy of this resolution to each state legislator representing Walworth County and to the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration in their legislative platform.

Vancy Russell		2	Kimberly S. Bushey County Clerk	
County Board Chair		County Clerk		
County Board Meeting	Date: March 8, 202	2		
Action Required:	Majority Vote X	Two-thirds Vote	_ Other	
Policy and Fiscal Note is a Reviewed and approved p		of the Walworth County Code of Ordin	ances:	
-		of the Walworth County Code of Ordin Jessica Conley Finance Director	ances: Date	
Reviewed and approved p Michael P. Cotter	oursuant to Section 2-91 o	Jessica Conley		

Policy and Fiscal Note Resolution No. 102 – 03/22

I.	1.1	orting the Need for Statewide Prohibiting Puppy Mills	e Efforts for Enhanced Reg	ulation and			
II.	Purpose and Policy Impact Statement: The purpose of this resolution is to support the need for statewide efforts for enhanced regulation and enforcement prohibiting puppy mills. The Executive Committee and County Zoning Agency, both considered if local legislation would be the best approach. Ultimately, the Executive Committee recommends encouraging a uniform, state wide solution. This resolution addresses that goal.						
III.	Budget and Fiscal Impact: Passage of this resolution will not have any fiscal impact the County budget.						
IV.	Referred to referral:	Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:					
	Committee:	Executive Committee	Meeting Date:	February 14, 2022			
	Vote:	5-0					
	County Board	d Meeting Date: March 8, 2	022				
		nas been reviewed and approved an passage of the attached resolution		obable policy and fiscal			
1	ael P. Cotter oration Counsel	Date	Jessica Conley Finance Director	Date			
1	W. Luberda ty Administrator	Date					