

ORDINANCE NO. 15982

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL NO. 7-2023

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INTRODUCED BY

February 7, 2024

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AN ORDINANCE

Amending Article III, Retail Pet Shops, by prohibiting the sale of guinea pigs by pet shops.

SECTION ONE: That Article III, Retail Pet Shops be amended to include the prohibition of the sale of guinea pigs and read as follows;

Article III  
**Retail Pet Shops**

**[Adopted 10-19-2022 by Ord. No. 15848]**

**§ 163-33 Prohibition on sale of dogs, cats and rabbits or guinea pigs by pet shops.**

A. It shall be unlawful for a pet shop, as defined in § 163-1, to sell or offer for sale a dog or cat or rabbit or guinea pig.

B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a retail pet shop from providing space to either an animal shelter or to an animal rescue organization, whether such shelter or organization is located within or outside the State of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of displaying dogs or cats or rabbits available for adoption.

**§ 163-34 Prohibition on shelters and rescues purchasing dogs, cats and rabbits.**

It shall be unlawful for an animal shelter or animal rescue organization to, in exchange for payment or other compensation, obtain a dog, cat, or rabbit from a person who breeds animals, resells animals from a person who breeds animals, or sells dogs at auction.

**§ 163-35 Definitions.**

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATION**

A nonprofit organization incorporated under the law of any state and exempt from federal taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code, as amended, and whose principal purpose is the prevention of cruelty to animals and whose principal activity is to rescue sick, injured, abused, neglected, unwanted, abandoned, orphaned, lost, or displaced animals and to adopt them to

good homes.

**ANIMAL SHELTER**

A facility operated by or under contract with a political subdivision of any state for the impoundment and care of seized, stray, homeless, abandoned, unwanted, or surrendered animals.

**CAT**

Any member of the species *Felis catus*.

**DOG**

Any member of the species *Canis familiaris*.

**GUINEA PIG**

Any *Cavia porcellus* rodent.

**OFFER FOR SALE**

To display or proffer for acceptance by another person.

**RABBIT**

Any member of the species *Oryctolagus cuniculus domesticus*.

**SELL**

To exchange for consideration, adopt out, barter, trade, lease, or otherwise transfer.

**§ 163-36 Violations and penalties; enforcement.**

- A. A retail pet shop that sells or offers for sale a dog or cat or rabbit in violation of § 163-33 or an animal shelter or rescue organization that purchases dogs, cats or rabbits in violation of § 163-34 commits a violation punishable by a fine of \$600. Each unlawful sale or offer for sale of each dog or cat or rabbit shall constitute a separate violation.
- B. The City Police Department shall be empowered to enforce any and all parts of this article upon notification of such violation. A record of the violation shall be kept on file in the City Police Department.

SECTION TWO: That this Ordinance will take effect ten (10) days after final passage.

SECTION THREE: That all Ordinances inconsistent with the above provisions are repealed to the extent of their inconsistency.

**AMENDMENT TO ADD BETTA FISH IN SECTION A. OF § 163-33 PROHIBITION ON SALE OF DOGS, CATS AND RABBITS OR GUINEA PIGS BY PET SHOPS, FAILED 3 - 3.**

	Yea	Nay
Candida Affa	X	
Ce-Ce Gerlach	X	
Daryl Hendricks	X	
Santo Napoli	X	
Natalie Santos	X	
Ed Zucal	X	
Cynthia Y. Mota, Pres.		
TOTAL	6	0

**I hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance was passed by City Council on March 20, 2024 and signed by the Mayor on March 22, 2024.**

*Michael P. Hall*

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CITY CLERK