

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REGULATION OF PUPPY (DOGS AND CATS) MILLS

WHEREAS, Animal shelters in Fort Bend County are constantly at capacity forcing adoptable pets to be cared for in a shelter environment or to be euthanized both at the tax payers expense; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 95% of puppies sold in pet stores or online are from a puppy mill that focus on increasing profit with little regard for the health and welfare of the animals; and

WHEREAS, Professional dog breeders carefully select ideal breeding dogs based on a well-documented history of health and temperament in the family line. They do not mass-produce puppies and business is driven by quality animal care and perpetuating healthy breed lines. These are not considered puppy mills; and

WHEREAS, The current Texas State Law, H.B. 1451 does not do enough to protect the welfare of dogs and cats; and

WHEREAS, Conditions in puppy mills are so poor that these animals often have serious health problems and eventually end up in a shelter; and

WHEREAS, Shelters often have dogs of all ages and genders, as well as purebred and mixed breeds of all kinds (an estimated 30% of dogs in rescues are purebred); and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that there are at least 10,000 puppy mills in the U.S., fewer than 3,000 of which are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Work with the Texas State Department of Health Services to enact a law similar to the Californian assembly Bill No. 485 stating that dogs and cats that are sold in stores and on-line are from shelters or rescues, protecting the welfare of dogs and cats and saving the tax payers money.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS:

THAT ON JANUARY 29, 2019, THE **FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**, MEETING AS A BODY IN RICHMOND, TEXAS, ADOPTS THIS RESOLUTION AND URGES THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO ENACT STRONGER LAWS TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF DOGS AND CATS IN FORT BEND COUNTY.

SIGNED THIS 29TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2019

K.P. GEORGE
COUNTY JUDGE

VINCENT MORALES
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

ANDY MEYERS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

JAMES "GRADY" PRESTAGE
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

KEN R. DEMERCHANT
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

ATTEST:

LAURA RICHARD, COUNTY CLERK