



Caryl Gates Gluck **Resource Center** | Howard Ash **Animal Wellness Center**  
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October 16, 2020

Dear Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for holding a public hearing to discuss Animal Welfare and including a discussion on SB 44, Victoria's Law PA's Pet Retail Sales bill introduced by Senators Tom Killion and Andy Dinniman and an additional 29 co-sponsors!

Animal Friends in Pittsburgh provides care and rehoming to approximately 2,500 companion animals each year, enforces their rights through our Humane Investigations Program, and provides low-cost and free veterinary care for animals whose owners are in financial need. We have seen firsthand the emotional and physical trauma suffered by the animals in commercial breeding facilities (puppy mills) as they adjust to the life of a companion animal.

Our current laws have done little to deter the inhumane practices at these mills. Animals continue to suffer in cramped and dirty quarters with little human contact, sparse and inadequate medical care, and being bred until their reproductive organs can no longer produce the money-making puppies.

In Western Pennsylvania, our leaders understood the need to enact Pet Retail Sales Bans. The City of Pittsburgh along with its close neighbors in the Boroughs of Sharpsburg, Bellevue, and Wilkinsburg were leaders in passing ordinances prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops. A Petland store in the East Liberty neighborhood of the City of Pittsburgh successfully transitioned to a Humane Pet Store Model proving the sale of puppy mill puppies wasn't necessary for the financial health of the store.

Animal Friends supports the passage of Victoria's Law and appreciates the committee's time in holding a public hearing.

Respectfully,

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