



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael Gianaris

## Actress Edie Falco Joins Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal, State Senator Michael Gianaris & Advocates At Rally In Support Of Statewide Ban On The Sale Of Puppy Mill Dogs In Pet Stores

MICHAEL GIANARIS April 26, 2019

| ISSUE: **PUPPY MILLS, RETAIL PET STORES, ANIMAL WELFARE**

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NEW YORK, N.Y. - Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF-Manhattan) and State Senator Michael Gianaris were joined by renowned award-winning actress and lifelong New Yorker Edie Falco at a press conference in support of A.6298/S.4234, legislation to prohibit the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores across New York State. Photos from today's event are available here: <https://bit.ly/2UGoQT4>. Video is available here:

<https://youtu.be/BbTisGEuyjU>.

Falco, who is the proud parent of a rescue dog named Sami, has been recognized by the ASPCA for her work to protect animals and end the abuses at puppy mills.

The legislation will allow pet stores to make space available to shelters and rescues to feature animals that are available for adoption.

“We must end the pet mill-to pet store pipeline. Ending the sale of pet store animals will help to end the pet mill industry that supplies the stores,” said **Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal (D/WF-Manhattan)**. “Shelters and rescues statewide are bursting at the seams with healthy animals in need of ‘fur-ever’ homes, there is no reason for New Yorkers to spend thousands on ailment-ridden pets.”

“With so many good animals in need of homes, there is no need for puppy mills to supply pet stores,” said **Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris**. “Our four-legged companions should be treated with respect, not like commodities.”

Many of the animals available for sale in pet stores across the country and in New York come from dog, cat and bunny mills. The animals kept in the mills are subject to horrific conditions: Many are locked in filthy cages that are too small to accommodate them; they do not have regular access to food or clean water and are denied routine medical care; they are bred repeatedly, forced to churn out litter after litter for profit.

The offspring from mill animals are often saddled with a host of congenital issues. These animals are the cute kittens, puppies and bunnies one finds in the pet store. Unsuspecting customers take them home and fall in love with them only to find that they are sick and in need of expensive veterinary care.

Commercial pet breeders and stores are regulated under the Animal Welfare Act by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). For years, advocates have pushed the USDA for a more robust inspection and enforcement regime. Instead, a recent investigation by the Humane Society of the United States revealed that under the Trump administration, USDA inspectors documented an astounding 60% fewer violations at facilities that house animals in 2018 in comparison to 2017. In addition, the USDA is issuing fewer serious violations that would ordinarily trigger swift follow-up action by the agency.

“Time after time, the pet industry has demonstrated that it is not interested in ensuring the welfare of the dogs it churns out, nor is it interested in transparency or public accountability,” said **Bill Ketzer, senior director of state legislation for the ASPCA, Northeast region.** “These badly-regulated commercial dog breeders have only one goal: breed the highest volume of puppies possible at the lowest cost for the retailer. In turn, pet stores do everything in their power to sell these dogs, conveniently excluding well-documented health and behavior risks in their pitch to buyers who believe they are going home with a healthy, well-bred puppy. We are grateful that Senator Gianaris and Assemblymember Rosenthal are moving the needle forward with this bill to protect pets and consumers, and we thank Edie Falco for speaking up for animals to support this lifesaving legislation.”

“We applaud Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal and Senator Michael Gianaris for taking a strong stand against puppy mill cruelty with the introduction of this legislation,” said **Brian Shapiro, New York senior state director for the Humane Society of the United States.** “New York will become a more humane state when mass produced puppies, kittens and bunnies can no longer be sold in pet stores.”

“The public is disgusted by the reality of puppy mills and the predatory practices of the

retailers it supports,” said **Libby Post, executive director of the New York State Animal Protection Federation**. “The Federation is pleased to support this measure, and work with our animal welfare partners statewide to fight animal homelessness and help end the cycle of misery of mill-owned breeding dogs.”

According to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, the state agency tasked with regulating pet dealers like pet stores, there are 80 pet stores registered to do business throughout the state, and New York State ranks at the top of the list of states with the most pet stores in the country.

Assemblymember Linda B. Rosenthal is the Chair of the Assembly Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. She represents the 67th Assembly district, which includes the Upper West Side and parts of the Hell’s Kitchen neighborhoods in Manhattan.

Senator Michael Gianaris serves as Deputy Majority Leader and represents western Queens in the New York State Senate.

### **About the ASPCA®**

Founded in 1866, the ASPCA® (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals®) was the first animal welfare organization in North America and continues to serve as the nation’s leading voice for animals. More than two million supporters strong, the ASPCA is committed to its mission of providing effective means for the prevention of cruelty to animals throughout the United States. As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, the ASPCA is a national leader in the areas of anti-cruelty, community outreach and animal health services. For more information, please visit [www.ASPCA.org](http://www.ASPCA.org), and be sure to follow the ASPCA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

### **About the Humane Society of the United States**

The Humane Society of the United States is the most effective animal protection organization, as rated by our peers. For more than 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We and our affiliates are the nation's largest provider of hands-on services for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our advocacy campaigns. Read about our more than 60 years of transformational change for animals and people. HumaneSociety.org Subscribe to Kitty Block's blog, A Humane Nation. Follow The HSUS Media Relations department on Twitter for the latest animal welfare news.

### **About New York State Animal Protection Federation**

The New York State Animal Protection Federation is the voice of all the non-profit and municipal animal shelters, humane societies and SPCAs across the state. The Federation serves as an educational and policy-development resource and through a united voice, promotes favorable legislative initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.nysapf.org](http://www.nysapf.org) and follow us on Facebook. You can also download our app on New York State's animal laws at <http://www.nysapf.org/nys-animal-law-app>.

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#### RELATED LEGISLATION

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### **2019-S4234**

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- Introduced

- ○ In Committee Assembly
  - In Committee Senate
  
- ○ On Floor Calendar Assembly
  - On Floor Calendar Senate
  
- ○ Passed Assembly
  - Passed Senate
  
- Delivered to Governor
  
- Signed By Governor
  
- 

Prohibits the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits by retail pet shops; authorizes space for adoption

March 05, 2019

In Assembly Committee

Sponsored by **Michael Gianaris**

Do you support this bill?