

Sponsors:
Senate: Addabbo/S1262
Assembly: Rosenthal/A1731



LOHV League of Humane Voters of New York

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Establishes Home Rule for regulating sales of pets

Statement of Problem:

Currently, NYS Agriculture & Markets Law and NYS General Business Law prohibits "home rule" on the regulation of pet dealer/pet store law. In two instances in 2011 in Amherst, NY and Suffolk County, NY, enhanced pet dealer law was proposed, but was prohibited and subsequently overturned by current NYS pet dealer law which does not allow localities to enact more stringent laws regulating pet dealers. Enhanced pet dealer law would only occur in instances when municipalities feel the pet dealer's business may be inhumane or undesirable in the community. As an example, certain communities may not want to allow baby chicks to be rented out or sell rabbits during the Easter season, but current NYS law prohibits any community from enacting a local ordinance to ban such pet dealer activities



Summary Proposal:



This law would allow municipalities, like 47 other U.S. states, to allow "home rule" on pet dealer law only when they are applying more stringent law. The enhancement of the pet dealer law will allow for more humane treatment of pet store animals in communities who desire to enact such ordinances and reduce animal cruelty and euthanasia rates of unwanted pets. Baby chicks are fragile and are returned injured and domesticated rabbits are often turned over to rescue organizations or released in the wild where they cannot survive.

Detailed Proposal:

This law, if enacted, would create an environment in our communities of improved awareness of the importance of the responsibility of companion pet ownership and enhance the education of our children regarding compassionate and humane pet ownership. We are also asking for an amended version to include all municipalities regardless of population size.