



Important Notice: New Laws Affecting NYC Pet Shops Take Effect April 1, 2016

The New York City Council has made new laws. **The laws apply to *all* New York City pet shops that sell dogs, cats and/or rabbits.** The New York City Health Department will enforce the new laws.

Beginning April 1, 2016:

Pet shops **cannot**:

- Sell, give away, trade, display, transfer or deliver rabbits.

Pet shops **must**:

- Spay or neuter any dog or cat before it is sold if it is 8 weeks or older and weighs 2 pounds or more.
- Microchip any dog or cat before it is sold—and register the microchip with the purchaser’s contact information.
- Sell a New York City dog license with *every dog* sold, unless the buyer provides a written statement that the dog will live outside of New York City.
- Obtain dogs and cats only from a breeder that holds a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) “class A” license and has a good inspection history—find more details on breeder requirements by reading the full laws. *Dogs and cats cannot be obtained from breeders that have a USDA “class B” license. You will need to check the provider’s background information with the USDA online at <https://acisearch.aphis.usda.gov/LPASearch/faces/Warning.jspx>. Pet shops will be required to certify, under penalty of perjury, that they have not knowingly obtained a dog or cat from any source prohibited by the laws.*
- Inform buyers in writing about dogs’ and cats’ health and medical history, where the animals came from (the source), the breeder’s inspection history and other information, as detailed in the new laws.

Exceptions: These requirements and prohibitions *do not* apply to animals offered for adoption by an animal shelter or an incorporated, non-profit animal rescue group that uses a pet shop’s space. However, the laws *do* apply if the pet shop charges a fee to the shelter or rescue group for using the space—or if the pet shop owns the animals offered for adoption.

Beginning April 1, 2016, a pet shop that sells dogs or cats must have a New York City Health Department permit. This is in addition to any permit required by New York State.

In the coming months, the Health Department will share more information about how to follow these new laws. This Notice is to alert you of upcoming changes so you can begin to prepare. To read the new laws (Local Laws 5, 6, 7 and 8 of 2015), visit nyc.gov/health and search “animals and wildlife.”