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New Law to End Retail Sale of Dogs, Cats and Rabbits in Effect Jan. 1, 2021 *Bella's Act will put an end to the sale of animals who have been bred in puppy mills.*

San Diego — [Bella's Act \(AB 2152\)](#), which completely prohibits the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in California, takes effect on Jan. 1, 2021. The legislation aims to end the practice of selling animals who have been bred and raised in unhealthy, inhumane conditions in out-of-state puppy mills.

San Diego Humane Society sponsored AB 2152, written by California State Assemblymember Todd Gloria, now mayor of San Diego, to crack down on the illicit and inhumane puppy mill industry that supplies pet stores in our state. The animals are raised in deplorable conditions and are often unhealthy, leading to heartbreaking discoveries once in homes.

Bella's Act was named for Bella, a corgi who was bred in one of these puppy mills. Bella was advertised as a rescue dog in a San Diego pet store and sold for thousands of dollars — *this was billed as her "adoption fee."* During this experience, Bella was declawed and developed a severe case of bronchitis. It cost her owner thousands of dollars in prolonged veterinary care to get her healthy.

Bella's Act officially closes a loophole in AB 485, which took effect in January 2019 and made important progress, but allowed those seeking to continue to profit from imported mill-bred animals to circumvent the intent of the law. These store owners exploited a provision in the law that allowed them to sell dogs, cats and rabbits if they entered into a cooperative agreement with a shelter or rescue organization by partnering with insincere "rescues" or unsuspecting shelters. San Diego Humane Society's Humane Law Enforcement officers ended up citing several stores for various violations including improper signage and not having a valid cooperative agreement.

"With Bella's Act going into effect, we'll be able to end the inhumane retail sales of dogs, cats and rabbits in California once and for all," said San Diego Humane Society Chief of Humane Law Enforcement Bill Ganley. "Pet stores will still be allowed to provide space for shelter or rescue animals and adopt them out, as long as they are sterilized and the adoption fee does not exceed \$500. It is a win-win. We'll help animals in shelters who need homes, while stopping the inhumane supply of mill-bred animals."

The ASPCA, Best Friends Animal Society, the California Animal Welfare Association, Humane Society of the United States, San Francisco SPCA and Companion Animal Protection Society also supported Bella's Act.

To set up an interview with SDHS Humane Law Enforcement, contact Nina Thompson at 619-372-0916.

Photos and b-roll for media use can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2Hi5GF7>

Suggested Tweet: Bella's Act [#AB2152](#), which completely prohibits the retail sale of dogs, cats & rabbits in California, takes effect on Jan. 1, 2021. [@sdhumane](#) sponsored the law to end the practice of selling animals bred and raised in unhealthy, inhumane conditions in out-of-state puppy mills.

About San Diego Humane Society

San Diego Humane Society's scope of social responsibility goes beyond adopting animals. We offer programs that strengthen the human-animal bond, prevent cruelty and neglect, provide medical care, educate the community and serve as a safety net for all pet families. Serving San Diego County since 1880, San Diego Humane Society has campuses in El Cajon, Escondido, Oceanside, Ramona and San Diego. For more information, please visit sdhumane.org.

