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## New Law to End Retail Sale of Dogs, Cats and Rabbits in Effect Jan. 1, 2021

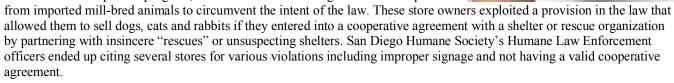
Bella's Act will put an end to the sale of animals who have been bred in puppy mills.

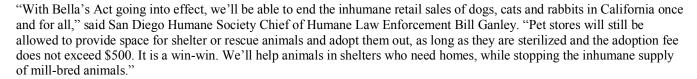
San Diego — <u>Bella's Act</u> (<u>AB 2152</u>), which completely prohibits the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in California, takes effect on Jan. 1, 2021. The legislation aims to end the practice of selling animals who have been bred and raised in unhealthy, inhumane conditions in out-of-state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





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.