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San Diego Humane Society Cites Pet Stores for Illegal Puppy Sales

Pups & Pets and Broadway Puppies Must Suspend All Sales of Puppies, Kittens and Rabbits

San Diego – San Diego Humane Society’s Humane Law Enforcement issued a citation to Pups & Pets in Santee today for seven violations of Health and Safety Code, section 122354.5, California’s ban on the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits (commonly referred to as AB 485). Officers found Pups & Pets in violation of law that requires pet stores to only sell dogs, cats and rabbits from an animal shelter or rescue organization that is entered into a cooperative agreement with at least one private or public shelter. During the inspection, Humane Officers also issued a notice to correct to Pups & Pets for selling unaltered puppies, and issued a citation for a violation of signage requirements.



Humane Officers cited a second pet store, Broadway Puppies in Escondido, for eight violations of failing to partner with a rescue that has a valid cooperative agreement with at least one public or private shelter. Both Broadway Puppies and Pups & Pets must suspend all sales of pets until they are sourcing animals from a California shelter or rescue group with a valid cooperative agreement.

“San Diego Humane Society is deeply concerned about the sale of puppies from puppy mills,” said Humane Law Enforcement Chief Bill Ganley. “Our officers are enforcing current laws, but sadly the law as it is written today does not allow us to legally stop these stores from importing puppies from outside the State of California.”

Since AB 485 was enacted in 2019, most pet stores in California with a questionable supply chain have shut down, but unfortunately some have found loopholes in the law to continue importation of mill bred puppies. Buyers should be aware that some of the animals in these pet stores may come from out-of-state puppy (or kitten) mills. They’re born from overbred mothers housed in inhumane conditions. As a result, the animals are often unhealthy, leading to heartbreaking discoveries once in the home.

San Diego Humane Society is committed to strengthening laws and is actively working on legislation that will fix the existing loopholes. SDHS is sponsoring AB 2152, “Bella’s Act,” to officially end the retail sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in California.

Body cam video and photos can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2M5iLk6>

Suggested Tweet: [@sdhumane](https://twitter.com/sdhumane) cites pet stores for illegal puppy sales. Pups & Pets in Santee and Broadway Puppies in Escondido must suspend all sales of puppies, kittens and rabbits until they can show proof of sourcing animals from a shelter/rescue with a valid cooperative agreement.

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 located in Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego. For more information; please visit sdhumane.org.

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