

From: Lisa [REDACTED]

To: Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor)

Mon 5/18/2026 8:48 AM

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Good morning Commissioner Torres,

I've emailed the attached letter to the SF Supervisors, and the mayor and city administrator. I wanted to send this to you separately as well in case you want to add it to the public comments on the commission website.

I am glad to learn about the proposed ban. Thank you and the other commissioners for following through on this!

Best regards,

Lisa [REDACTED]

May 18, 2026

To: San Francisco Supervisors, Mayor Lurie, and City Administrator Chu

Cc: Michael Angelo Torres, Chairperson, S.F. Commission of Animal Control & Welfare

Fr: Lisa [REDACTED] SF resident and voter

Re: Proposed ban on retail sales of pets

Dear Mayor Lurie, City Administrator Chu, and S.F. Supervisors,

I would like to advocate for a ban on retail sales of all companion animals (pets) in San Francisco. This issue was recently discussed by the S.F. Commission of Animal Control & Welfare and I thank them for bringing it forward.

As a long-time resident of San Francisco, a 16-year volunteer at San Francisco Animal Care & Control, and a 5-year board member of the Friends of SFACC, I am acutely aware of how beyond capacity animal shelters are in the bay area, the state, and the nation. Pets are often purchased and then abandoned, neglected, or surrendered by people who underestimate the time and expense required for their care. They can languish in shelters for months.

I have seen animals for sale in S.F. pet stores that are sick, stressed, and sometimes dead. They suffer. Pet stores make most of their profits from pet supplies and services (training classes, grooming, etc.). If sales of animals are banned, pet stores would still benefit from hosting adoption events, where rescue experts can advise on best care practices and supplies (which can be conveniently purchased in their store). This would help alleviate shelters, and save the stores money/staff time while giving them more shelf space for products. Rescue organizations that are full to capacity would greatly benefit.

In California, bans on selling cats, dogs, gerbils, hedgehogs, and sugar glides already exist, but the current law does not include birds, fish, reptiles, small mammals (rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, rats, chinchillas), or amphibians. Let's fix that by expanding the current ban to include all companion animals.

I urge you to support the proposed ban on all retail sales of live animals for the pet trade in San Francisco.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Lisa [REDACTED] SF resident and voter