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**May 12, 2014 Statement by  
Libby Post, Executive Director  
New York State Animal Protection Federation**

The New York State Animal Protection Federation represents all the humane societies, animal shelters and animal welfare organizations throughout New York. We are heartened to see so many Albany County Legislators coming together to sponsor Local Law C which would regulate pet sellers in Albany County. We look forward to testifying at the proposed May 27<sup>th</sup> hearing.

This proposed legislation is exactly the outcome we were hoping for when Governor Cuomo signed the Pre-Emption Bill last year.

True to the mission of the state bill, Albany County is taking the humane step forward in considering and deliberating a local law that would make it tougher for unscrupulous backyard breeders and pet sellers to do business. In no way are we against responsible breeding and the business that comes from that. We are against irresponsible breeding where dogs spend their lives in tiny, cramped, wire-floored cages that are stacked on top of each other, often outdoors with no protection from the elements. These dogs are kept for one purpose and one purpose only—to breed puppies for sale to unsuspecting consumers.

We saw first-hand the horror of a puppy mill just northwest of here in the Montgomery County hamlet of Sprakers, NY. A Border Collie breeder was finally brought to justice for not providing adequate shelter and care for his dogs—including puppies—as the polar vortex bore down on the Capital Region this past winter. We all remember the sub-zero temps and the snow. Now, imagine living through that in a plastic shelter with just straw for insulation.

We should no longer let dogs and puppies suffer so inhumanely. Local Law C is the first step toward realizing that goal.

Thanks again to Legislators Bryan Clenahan and Gary Domalewicz for introducing the bill and to their colleagues Frank Commisso, Shawn Morse, Sean Ward, Doug Bullock, Nicole Kinsch, Alison McLean Lane, Justin Corcoran, Joseph O'Brien, Dennis Feeney and Michael Mackey for co-sponsoring.

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