



*NYSAPF is the advocacy voice of New York's humane societies, SPCAs, non-profit and municipal animal shelters*

## Memo in Support of A.216 (Paulin)/S.3828 (Metzger) Increasing the protection of animals in the care of pet dealers

Over time it has become more apparent that the companion animals sold by pet dealers come with a special set of circumstances—they might not be well groomed, have parasites such as fleas and diseases such as parvo in puppies.

It is imperative for these animals to get the proper care they need—care that is routinely provided at local humane societies, SPCAs, nonprofit and municipal animal shelters.

This bill will require pet dealers to regularly groom the animals in their care and to provide enhanced sanitary conditions for their animals including the cleaning of primary enclosures on a daily basis and sanitizing of those enclosures every two weeks.

This bill will provide increased protections for nursing and pregnant dogs. This bill would require pet dealers to provide nursing and pregnant dogs with a separate amount of floor space, apart from her whelping box, which ensures that she can safely and adequately nurse and care for her litter.

This bill would also require annual veterinary exams for all adult dogs or cats on a pet dealer's premises. Attending veterinarians would also approve exercise plans for these animals to make sure they are taken out of their cages, exercised and socialized.

It is essential that pet dealers must be held to standards that will promote the safety, good health, and overall well-being of the animals in their care. Not only is this a bill that would protect companion animals but will also help to ensure that families who buy animals from these dealers will be protected from purchasing a sick animal.

Time and again, we hear stories about companion animals purchased at pet shops that are brought home only to become sick quickly either costing the adopting family thousands of dollars in vet bills or the heartbreak of euthanizing their new dog or cat. These costs are on top of the hundreds, if not thousands of dollars, which the consumer spent to purchase the pet.

The New York State Animal Protection Federation supports the passage of this legislation that will help to strengthen NYS Agriculture and Markets law in order to enhance the standard of living for companion animals in the care of pet dealers.