

Introduced by Legislators Spencer, Schneiderman and Calarco

**RESOLUTION NO. 22 -2015, ESTABLISHING A BOARD TO AID
IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF SUFFOLK COUNTY'S PET STORE
LAWS**

WHEREAS, in 2014, New York State amended the Agriculture and Markets Law to authorize local governments to regulate pet dealers operating within their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Suffolk County enacted Local Law No. 16-2014, which places significant new requirements on the County's pet dealers to ensure the decent treatment of animals; and

WHEREAS, the County should seek assistance from the pet sales industry, as well as animal care and welfare organizations, to aid in the enforcement of the requirements of Local Law No. 16-2014; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Animal and Pet Advisory Board ("the Board") is hereby established to: 1) advise the Department of Labor, Licensing & Consumer Affairs in the enforcement of Local Law No. 16-2014, with a focus on animal health and welfare at pet stores in the County, breeders, the pet industry in Suffolk County and the enforcement of the County's laws regarding pets and animals, 2) advise the County on animal and pet welfare issues, and 3) update and maintain, in conjunction with the Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services, the County's comprehensive plan for the care and protection of pets during disaster situations; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that the Board shall be comprised of the following seven (7) members:

1. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor, Licensing & Consumer Affairs or his or her designee;
2. A veterinarian practicing in the County of Suffolk, to be appointed by the Chair of the Health Committee of the County Legislature;
3. A representative of the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SCSPCA);
4. A representative of one (1) Long Island based animal welfare organization, to be appointed by the County Legislature;
5. A representative of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council based on Long Island;
6. A resident of Suffolk County with intimate knowledge of the pet industry, to be selected by the County Legislature; and
7. A representative from a Long Island based pet groomer association or a pet groomer operating in Suffolk County, to be selected by the County Legislature;

and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the Board shall meet within thirty days of all members taking the oath of office for the purpose of selecting a chairperson and vice-chairperson; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that the members of the Board appointed by the County Legislature shall have two (2) year terms of office; and be it further

5th **RESOLVED**, that the chairperson shall serve as the primary contact for communication among all Board members; and be it further

6th **RESOLVED**, that four (4) members shall constitute a quorum for convening meetings and conducting the business of the Board; and be it further

7th **RESOLVED**, that the Board shall, at a minimum, meet once every quarter; and be it further

8th **RESOLVED**, that the Board shall meet with the Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs no less than twice a year to discuss the enforcement of Local Law No. 16-2014 and related issues; and be it further

9th **RESOLVED**, that the Board shall submit an annual report to the County Legislature and appear annually before the Legislature's Government Operations, Personnel, Housing and Consumer Protection Committee to detail the actions taken by the Board during the preceding year, describing ongoing issues of animal and pet welfare in Suffolk County, and provide recommendations to improve animal and pet welfare in the County; and be it further

10th **RESOLVED**, that this Resolution will take effect January 1, 2015, however, appointments to the Board may be made prior to this date; and be it further

11th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: February 3, 2015

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: February 17, 2015