



## MARYLAND VOTES FOR ANIMALS

PO Box 10411  
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February 27, 2020

To: Senate Finance Committee  
From: Lisa Radov, President and Chairman, Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc.  
Re: Retail Pet Stores – Transportation of Cats and Dogs by Common Carrier – Prohibition -SB 626 – SUPPORT

Chairman Kelley, Vice Chairman Feldman, members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Lisa Radov. I am the President and Chairman of Maryland Votes for Animals, Inc. We champion humane legislation to improve the lives of animals in Maryland. On behalf of our board of directors and our thousands of members across the State of Maryland, I urge you to support Retail Pet Stores – Transportation of Cats and Dogs by Common Carrier – Prohibition -SB 626.

SB 626 would prohibit retail pet stores from transporting into or within the State, by common carrier or other for-hire transportation service, cats or dogs for sale or transfer in the State.

Why do we need this legislation? Unfortunately, transporting dogs and cats from outside of Maryland is happening, a response to the historic legislation that we passed in 2018 with the help of this committee to stop the flow of unhealthy dogs and cats into Maryland from puppy mills. In other words, this is another backdoor method to entice unsuspecting Maryland consumers to buy puppies sourced from puppy mills.

The few pet stores that are trying to get around the 2018 Maryland law resist. They are in the minority, with only a handful of stores. The majority of Marylanders find their pets at shelters, reputable breeders, and/or pet adoption events the many pet stores that do not sell puppies or kittens. They thrive selling pet food, supplies, and services, all with the advice of knowledgeable employees. They build relationships with local clientele who are repeat customers and through referrals. The same can be said for local breeders. They serve Marylanders and stay in business by raising puppies and kittens in optimal humane conditions.

We need to be vigilant about not allowing puppies and kittens from out-of-state puppy mills into Maryland and ensure that Marylanders are not supporting a cruel industry that treats puppies and kittens like inventory ----- and not our best friends.

**Let's continue make Maryland a state with NO profit from Puppy Mills!**

I would like to thank Senator Kramer for his sponsorship of SB 626 and urge a favorable report.

*Let Kindness Reign, Vote Humane*

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