

# BUILDING A BETTER ULSTER COUNTY



**COUNTY EXECUTIVE MICHAEL P. HEIN**

## **Proposed Local Law Establishing the Ulster County Animal Abuse Registry**

- Creates the Ulster County Animal Abuse Registry which is an online registry that will contain the names of any person living in Ulster County who is convicted of an Animal Abuse Crime.
- Animal Abuse Crime is defined to include various offenses under the Agriculture and Markets Law and the Penal Law.
- Ulster County District Attorney authorized to contract with animal protection or rescue organizations to establish and maintain the registry.
- Registration requirements:
  - Applies to anyone 18 years or older, convicted of specified Animal Abuse Crime;
  - Must register within 10 days of release from incarceration or conviction, if not incarcerated;
  - Must report change in address within 10 days of moving;
  - Remains on registry for 15 years following release from incarceration or conviction, if not incarcerated;
  - Remains on registry for life if subsequent Animal Abuse Crime conviction;
  - \$100 fee payable upon initial registration.
- Penalties:
  - Failure to register guilty of a violation with fine between \$100.00 and \$250.00, up to fifteen days imprisonment, or both.

## **Proposed Local Law for the Regulation of Pet Sellers**

- Applies to:
  - **Pet Sellers**
    - Sells or offers for sale more than 9 dogs or cats per year, or
    - Breeds for sale more than 1 litter of dogs or cats per year
    - Breeder who sells or offers to sell for profit less than 9 dogs or cats per year, and dogs or cats born and raised on breeder's residential premises, exempted
  - **Dog Source Breeders**
    - Any person who sells dogs bred on his or her own premises for resale by a Pet Seller
- Pet Sellers must obtain a free permit from the Ulster County Department of Health to display, offer for sale, sell, barter or exchange for nominal consideration any dog or cat in Ulster County
- Pet Seller required to check Ulster County Animal Abuse Registry and not sell to anyone on the registry
- Imposes minimum standards of care upon Pet Sellers and Dog Source Breeders:
  - Housing
  - Sanitation
  - Feeding and watering
  - Handling
  - Veterinary care
  - Exercise requirements
- Consumer Protection Requirements:
  - Right to refund or exchange and cost of veterinary service if animal purchased is certified by veterinarian of consumer's choosing to be unfit for sale
  - Information statement provided to consumer with breeder/broker information, date of birth, immunizations, medical history and treatment
- Record keeping requirements for Pet Sellers
  - Information regarding the pet seller's acquisition of dog or cat
  - Description of animal
  - Name and address to whom animal sold
- Pet Seller Permit may be revoked or suspended for violation of requirements of this local law or for conviction under Agriculture and Markets Law, or violation of any state or federal law pertaining to the care, treatment, sale, possession, or handling of animals.
- Violations of the provisions of this local law are civil violations, punishable by a fine of between \$150.00 and \$1000.00.