File No. 120623 Board Item No. 41

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Board of Supervisors Meeting **Date: June 12, 2012**

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Completed by: Annette Lonich **Date: June 7, 2012**

An asterisked item represents the cover sheet to a document that exceeds 25 pages.
The complete document is in the file.

Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

Time stamp
or meeting date

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

☐ 1. For reference to Committee: _____
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.

☒ 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee.

☐ 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee: _____

☐ 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor _____ inquires"

☐ 5. City Attorney request.

☐ 6. Call File No. _____ from Committee.

☐ 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).

☐ 8. Substitute Legislation File No. _____

☐ 9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).

☐ 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.

☐ 11. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on _____

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

☐ Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission ☐ Ethics Commission

☐ Planning Commission ☐ Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a different form.

Sponsor(s):

Supervisor Scott Wiener, David Campos

Subject:

Promoting the responsible acquisition of dogs in the City and County of San Francisco

The text is listed below or attached:

Resolution supporting the responsible acquisition of dogs in the City and County of San Francisco.

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: _____

For Clerk's Use Only:

120623

[Promoting the Responsible Acquisition of Dogs in the City and County of San Francisco]

Resolution supporting the responsible acquisition of dogs in the City and County of San Francisco.

WHEREAS, San Francisco is a leader in promoting and supporting the humane treatment of companion animals, and dogs are very important to the residents of the City and County of San Francisco and are an integral part of their community culture; and

WHEREAS, San Franciscans can choose to adopt dogs through animal shelters and rescue organizations or to purchase companion animals from pet stores or online breeders; and

WHEREAS, breeders who sell dogs to pet stores or to individuals online vary greatly in their care and treatment of animals and breeding practices; and

WHEREAS, responsible breeders are individuals who have focused their efforts on one or a select few breeds through historical research and ongoing study, and who provide dogs with adequate food, water, veterinary care, shelter and opportunity for exercise; and

WHEREAS, puppy mills are dog breeding facilities that place profits ahead of the welfare of animals, often resulting in serious violations of animal care standards; and

WHEREAS, documented problems at puppy mills include over breeding, inadequate veterinary care, poor quality of food and shelter, lack of human socialization and overcrowded cages, which often results in severe illness and behavioral problems for the dogs housed in these conditions; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these aforementioned issues, over one million dogs and cats enter California's shelters each year, and over half of them are euthanized due to a lack of available homes for the animals; and

WHEREAS, the national breeding rate of dogs exceeds the number of homes presently available to dogs, and thus puppy mills are significant contributors to pet overpopulation; and

WHEREAS, based on estimates from the California Department of Health Services and the City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services, local governments in California spend more than $250 million of taxpayer dollars each year to collect, house, control and euthanize unwanted animals; and

WHEREAS, key benefits to the residents of the City and County of San Francisco of refusing to support puppy mills include the protection of scarce taxpayer dollars through lower animal-control costs and reductions to risks to animal welfare and in public safety associated with pet overpopulation; and

WHEREAS, depriving puppy mills of such support also represents a critical step towards freeing the City and County of San Francisco and our nation more generally from cruel breeding practices that place greater value on profits than animal welfare and also reducing pet overpopulation; and

WHEREAS, despite San Francisco's commitment to animal rights, its residents often unwittingly support puppy mills because the large majority of dogs purchased from pet stores and online breeders come from puppy mills with deplorable living conditions; and

WHEREAS, if a San Francisco resident chooses not to adopt a dog from an animal shelter or rescue organization, and instead purchases a dog, the resident can and should help ensure that he or she is dealing with a responsible breeder by visiting the breeder's facilities and observing the behavior and level of socialization of a dog prior to purchase, thereby helping to hold breeders to a high standard of care and service to both animals and consumers; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco dog guardians should be supported by their community and their government promoting their ability to acquire dogs in a responsible manner; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That in order to contribute to the fight against animal cruelty and to recognize the huge social and monetary cost to taxpayers of pet overpopulation in our society, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors encourages those seeking pet companionship to adopt from local shelters and rescue organizations; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That when acquiring an animal, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors encourages consumers to educate themselves about the conditions in which dogs are bred and housed, in order to avoid puppy mills and to support reputable breeders who showcase their responsible practices and adhere to a high quality of care, commensurate with the valuable role that dogs play in the City and County of San Francisco; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby supports and encourages responsible and humane pet acquisition practices and affirms its commitment to pursuing policies that achieve political and social support for responsible breeding and that help ensure that all pets are bred and raised in healthy conditions.