

**RESOLUTION NO. 113 -2014, AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 894-2011 TO EXPAND THE “PUPPY AND DOG PROTECTION RATING PROGRAM”**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Suffolk is a leader in promoting the humane treatment of animals; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 894-2011 established the “Puppy and Dog Protection Rating Program” to ensure that animals sold in pet stores are treated in a healthy and safe manner, using a voluntary rating system; and

**WHEREAS**, many animal owners use pet groomers to maintain their animal’s physical appearance; and

**WHEREAS**, some pet groomers do not use generally accepted practices when grooming animals; and

**WHEREAS**, some pet groomers place animals in crates of insufficient size, use products that may harm animals or leave animals in areas with unsafe temperatures; and

**WHEREAS**, consumers should be able to obtain information about the animal groomers they use; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 894-2011 should be amended to create a voluntary rating system and rating criteria for pet groomers to be administered by the existing rating board; now, therefore be it

**1st RESOLVED**, that the following 1st RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**1st RESOLVED**, that the [Puppy and Dog] Animal Protection Rating Program is hereby established under which any pet store located in Suffolk County that sells [puppies] animals or any pet groomer that operates in Suffolk County can voluntarily provide information about its business and practices, with supporting documentation, to the Suffolk County [Pet Store] Animal Protection Rating Board; and be it further

and be it further

**2nd RESOLVED**, that the 2nd RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**2nd RESOLVED**, that this program will rate stores and pet groomers to reflect the quality of care provided to [puppies and dogs] animals by the pet store or pet groomer as well as sourcing breeders; and be it further

and be it further

**3rd RESOLVED**, that the 12th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**12th RESOLVED**, that a Suffolk County [Pet Store] Animal Protection Rating Board is hereby established to analyze and verify information provided by participating pet stores and pet groomers and to rate each pet store or groomer based on their adherence to local, state and federal laws, regulations and humane standards on the care and treatment of [puppies and dogs] animals in their store, [and] at the breeders they purchase [puppies and dogs] animals from, or while grooming animals [as set forth in the criteria established by the Criteria Committee]; and be it further

and be it further

**4th RESOLVED**, that the 13th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**13th RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County [Pet Store] Animal Protection Rating Board shall consist of the following five (5) members:

- 1) the Commissioner of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs, or his or her designee;
- 2) a representative from the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- 3) a representative of a Long Island-based animal welfare organization, to be selected by the County Legislature;
- 4) a veterinarian practicing in the County of Suffolk, to be appointed by the Presiding Officer of the County Legislature; and
- 5) a representative of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, or designee.

and be it further

**5th RESOLVED**, that the 17th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**17th RESOLVED**, that no member of said Board shall have a financial relationship with any pet store, pet groomer, or offer pets or pet products for retail sale in the County of Suffolk; and be it further

and be it further

**6th RESOLVED**, that the 19th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**19th RESOLVED**, that the Board shall review rating applications, perform site visits of pet stores and pet groomers and establish ratings for individual pet stores and groomers based upon the criteria set by the Criteria Committee for pet stores, which encompasses local, state and federal regulations and humane standards on the breeding, transportation and sale of puppies and dogs, the criteria set for pet groomers in Exhibit B, as well as their care and treatment from birth through sale, for the purpose of evaluating pet stores and pet groomers that seek a rating; and be it further

and be it further

**7th RESOLVED**, that the 20th RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**20th RESOLVED**, that pet stores and pet groomers operating in Suffolk County shall be eligible to voluntarily submit information regarding their businesses and business practices on an annual basis to the Board and receive a rating on a scale to be established by the Suffolk County [Pet Store] Animal Protection Rating Criteria Committee for pet stores which compares said practices with local, state and federal regulations, humane standards, and considerations established herein and the criteria set forth in Exhibit B for pet groomers; and be it further

and be it further

**8th RESOLVED**, that the 21st RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**21st RESOLVED**, that the Board shall provide a brief explanation of the reason a pet store or pet groomer has received the rating selected; and be it further

and be it further

**9th RESOLVED**, that the 22nd RESOLVED clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**22nd RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs shall post a list of all pet stores in Suffolk County that sell [puppies] animals and shall include the rating for each participating pet store or a statement that a non-participating pet store has chosen not to undergo review under the Rating Program; and be it further

and be it further

**10th**            **RESOLVED**, that Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended by the addition of a new 23rd **RESOLVED** clause which shall read as follows:

**23rd** **RESOLVED**, that the Suffolk County Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs shall post a list of pet groomers in Suffolk County and shall include ratings for each participating groomer, or a statement that a non-participating pet groomer has chosen not to undergo review under the Rating Program; and be it further

and be it further

**11th**            **RESOLVED**, that the 23rd **RESOLVED** clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**[23rd] 24th** **RESOLVED**, that any pet store owner or operator or pet groomer dissatisfied with the rating assessed by the Board shall have the right to update the information provided to the Board and seek a review of their rating within thirty (30) days of receiving their original rating assessment. No rating shall be published on the Department of Consumer Affairs website until after the rating has been finalized by the Board; and be it further

and be it further

**12th**            **RESOLVED**, that the 24th **RESOLVED** clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**[24th] 25th** **RESOLVED**, that all pet stores and pet groomers who choose to participate in this program shall post the rating received from the Board in a prominent location within the store, as well as on a window in close proximity to the store's main entrance; and be it further

and be it further

**13th**            **RESOLVED**, that the 25th **RESOLVED** clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is hereby amended as follows:

**[25th] 26th** **RESOLVED**, that the Board shall investigate any allegations of fraudulent submission of information by a pet store or pet groomer and may revoke a store's or groomer's rating for a period of one year if the Board determines that the pet store or groomer made material misrepresentations in seeking same; and be it further

and be it further

**14th**            **RESOLVED**, that the 26th **RESOLVED** clause of Resolution No. 894-2011 is renumbered as the 27th **RESOLVED** clause; and be it further

**15th**            **RESOLVED**, that Resolution No. 894-2011 shall be amended to include a new Exhibit B, attached hereto; and be it further

**16th**            **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.

[ ] Brackets denote deletion of language.  
\_\_ Underlining denotes addition of new language.

DATED: March 4, 2014

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone  
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 20, 2014

## Exhibit "B"

### Pet Groomer Rating Criteria

#### Rating Standards

1. Yes – approval, and complies with laws and regulations where applicable.
2. Needs Improvement – does not comply with laws and regulations where applicable, but violations or issues are minor enough to warrant a 60-day window to rectify the issue(s) found by the inspector(s).
3. No – non-approval, and does not comply with the laws and regulations where applicable.
4. Automatic Failure – occurs if a violation or other issue is found by the inspector(s) that endangers the health and/or well-being of the animals in the pet groomer facility.

#### Definition of Term(s)

Appropriate – refers to the varying characteristics of the animals within each pet groomer and commonly-accepted practices for caring for the particular type of animals being groomed. The groomer's passage of some of the criteria questions, along with the general criteria, is dependent on these practices.

Inspector(s) – refers to the Suffolk County Animal Protection Rating Board as established by Suffolk County Resolution No. 894-2011, consisting of the following individuals:

1. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor, Licensing and Consumer Affairs, or his or her designee;
2. A representative from the Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
3. A representative of a Long Island-based animal welfare organization, to be selected by the County Legislature;
4. a veterinarian practicing in the County of Suffolk, to be appointed by the Presiding Officer of the County Legislature;
5. a representative of the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, or designee.

#### Section I – Standards of Care

- Are the pets in the grooming process kept individually in structurally sound cages that are large enough for the pet to make normal postural adjustments, including turning around?
- Does the pet have access to sufficient clean drinking water?
- Does the pet groomer maintain indoor facilities at a healthy, comfortable temperature for the pet?
- Is there sufficient lighting for the cleaning and grooming of pets in the grooming area?
- Is the pet grooming facility clean and sanitary?
- Does the pet groomer use outdoor facilities? If so, are they only used during appropriate seasons in ambient weather conditions?
- Prior to grooming, does the pet groomer ask the pet owner about the pet's veterinarian and any special needs the pet may have?
- Is the pet groomer or an employee thereof attending to pets at all times while in the pet grooming facility?
- Does the pet groomer properly dry animals in his or her care? Drying cages should not be used.

- Is the pet groomer properly insured to cover liability for any negligence on the groomer's part?

## **Section II – Recordkeeping**

- Does the groomer keep and maintain records on each pet it cares for and their owner?
  - Records should include the name and address of the pet owner, the pet's veterinarian and the dates of service by the pet groomer.
- Does the groomer maintain said records on each pet for a minimum of 2 years?