

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 893**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*Bruce J. Ayers*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to the sale of dogs and cats in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>Bruce J. Ayers</i>	<i>1st Norfolk</i>	<i>1/15/2025</i>
<i>Margaret R. Scarsdale</i>	<i>1st Middlesex</i>	<i>11/18/2025</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 893**

By Representative Ayers of Quincy, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 893) of Bruce J. Ayers relative to the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits in pet shops. Environment and Natural Resources.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 747 OF 2023-2024.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to the sale of dogs and cats in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 Chapter 129 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 39A the  
2 following section:

3 Section 39A½. A pet shop operator shall not sell a live dog, cat or rabbit in a pet shop  
4 unless the dog, cat or rabbit was obtained from a publicly owned animal pound, public animal  
5 control agency or shelter, society for the prevention of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society  
6 shelter or rescue group that is in a cooperative agreement with at least 1 private or public  
7 shelter. Each pet shop shall maintain records sufficient to document the source of each dog, cat or  
8 rabbit that the pet shop sells or provides space for, for at least 1 year. Each pet shop shall post, in  
9 a conspicuous location on the cage or enclosure of each animal, a sign listing the name of the  
10 publicly owned animal pound, public animal control agency or shelter, society for the prevention

11 of cruelty to animals shelter, humane society shelter, or rescue group from which each dog, cat  
12 or rabbit was obtained. Publicly owned animal pound and public animal control agencies or  
13 shelters may periodically require pet shops engaged in the sale of dogs, cats or rabbits to provide  
14 access to said records.

15 A pet shop operator who violates this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of \$500.

16 Each animal offered for sale in violation of this section shall constitute a separate violation.