



MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott R. Niehaus, Village Manager

FROM: Trevor Dick, FAICP, LEED AP
Director of Economic Development and Planning

DATE: November 18, 2025

SUBJECT: Recommendation for a Temporary Moratorium and Possible Text Amendment – Pet Shop Use Clarification

Staff is requesting Board approval to establish a short-term (120 days), Village-wide moratorium on new retail uses involving the sale of live dogs (“Retail Dog Sales Uses”) within the Village of Lombard. This pause will allow Village staff and the Plan Commission the necessary time to study and evaluate the land use impacts of these uses to prepare possible text amendments to Chapter 155 (Zoning Ordinance) for the Village Board’s consideration.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Village’s ongoing efforts to maintain and improve Chapter 155, staff recently reviewed the Zoning Ordinance’s treatment of pet shops and other retail animal uses in connection with a zoning inquiry.

The Zoning Ordinance currently lists “**pet shop**” as a use category in certain commercial districts but does not define the term or expressly distinguish between (1) pet shops that sell live dogs to the public; and (2) pet shops that sell other animals and pet supplies without live dog sales.

Historically, staff has administered the “pet shop” use category to include retail dog-selling operations. However, because “pet shop” is undefined, there is potential for future disagreement and uncertainty about how uses involving the retail sale of live dogs should be classified and regulated under the Zoning Ordinance.

At the same time, changes in state-level animal-welfare regulations and licensing practices have drawn renewed attention to retail dog sales as a distinct business model. These developments underscore the value of ensuring that Lombard’s zoning regulations clearly and independently address the land-use impacts of such uses (e.g., sanitation, ventilation, noise, deliveries, animal housing, neighborhood compatibility), separate and apart from state licensing labels.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board:

1. Adopt a temporary, narrowly tailored moratorium on new Retail Dog Sales Uses, and
2. Direct staff to study and prepare possible text amendments to clarify the zoning treatment of pet shops and Retail Dog Sales Uses.
3. If a change to the code is recommended, the process would be as follows:
 - a. Petition by the Village
 - b. Public Hearing held by the Plan Commission
 - c. Final Vote by the Village Board

The attached ordinance would establish a 120-day moratorium during which the Village would not accept, process, or approve applications that would newly authorize a Retail Dog Sales Use at a location where such a use is not lawfully established today. For purposes of the ordinance:

“Retail Dog Sales Use” means any retail establishment in which live dogs are offered for sale or adoption, with or without charge, to members of the public, whether or not other animals or pet supplies are also sold on the premises.

ACTION REQUESTED

Please place this item on the November 20, 2025 Village Board agenda.