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OVERVIEW

Jill and Rachel Scott, owners of the Noble Paw pet shop located at 2468 SE Federal Highway, Stuart, Fl. 34994, ask that the City of Stuart opt out of the county ordinance just passed by the Martin County Commission banning pet store sales of dogs, cats and rabbits.

In September 2021, Delray Pet Life, owned by Jill Scott, signed a 5-year lease at 2486 SE Federal Highway in Stuart, Florida with the purpose of opening a pet store which sold dogs and cats. The store was opened under the name of "The Noble Paw."

My understanding from watching the County Commission footage is that The Noble Paw nor Jill or Rachel Scott received any notice from the county that they were considering an amendment to Chapter 9, banning pet store sales of dogs, cats and rabbits. It was stated that a member of the humane society talked to the commissioners about this ordinance (banning the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits), who then began a flawed investigation into puppy mills. The Noble Paw was never visited by the humane society, a veterinarian from the county or any inspectors finding any violations of the standard of care for the dogs at The Noble Paw.

The ordinance, which was passed by the County on June 6, 2022, gives the owners of The Noble Paw six (6) months to stop the sale of dogs, cats and rabbits and to reformat their stores.

The County Commission decided based upon a knee-jerk reaction to a 20-year-old slogan repeated over and over again that all pet stores dogs come from puppy mills. The purpose of this statement is to cause those who hear the propaganda to immediately feel anger and sympathy. This is why PETA shows the same dog in a cage in all of its commercials to raise money while the song Angel is sung by Sara McLachlan.

They did not want to hear from Jill and Rachel Scott who would have discussed their pet store and how their breeders are selected (See section 3 of this notebook).

The Noble Paw does not sell dogs from puppy mills. In fact, the breeders selected by Jill and Rachel are completely vetted, including visits to their kennel facility.

1. Jill Scott has been the owner of Petlife Animal Hospital & Pet Center located in Palm Beach County since 2013.
2. A Senior Veterinarian from Petlife Animal Hospital visits The Noble Paw on a weekly basis examining every animal.
3. The breeder's name is on the documents provided to the client upon purchase. These breeders have a personal long-standing relationship with Jill Scott.
4. Each prospective client is given a pre-purchase questionnaire and a contract (See sections 4 & 5). The contract allows each purchaser to go to a veterinarian of their choice within 72 hours of purchase or goto Petlife Veterinary clinic for a free health Check. If the puppy has a serious condition a full refund will be given.
5. Not a single purchaser from The Noble Paw has claimed a serious medical condition with a puppy.
6. No dogs sold at The Noble Paw come from puppy mills.
7. The Noble Paw is kept clean and sanitized at all times. No dogs are left in cages to soil themselves.
8. The Noble Paw has 7 full-time and 1 part-time employee.
9. They also employ a full-time groomer (Javares Willingham, whose story is in section 9.

10. Jill Scott is the guarantor of the 5-year lease for The Noble Paw. The lease called for a deposit of \$12,084.00; The build out of the space and signage cost \$55,000.00; Inventory, website and advertising costs were ~~\$110,000.00.~~ **\$220,000**

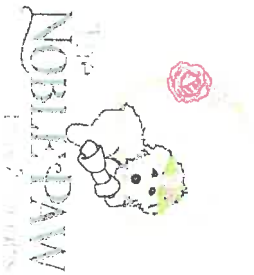
11. Jill and Rachel Scott have made a huge investment in the city of Stuart.

However, the “puppy mill” fear, the high emotions those words cause, the horror stories told over and over again to gain the anger and zealous desire to stop them, have gotten out of control. Accusing anyone of the above, who works in the pet industry, and participates in the ethical and responsible breeding and sale of canine companions, without a shred of evidence of wrongdoing, is tantamount to a crime.

The Noble Paw, Jill and Rachel Scott, should be judged on their own merits and not the generalizations tossed around by those who wear blinders. We welcome anyone of you or all of you to visit the store and talk to us about our love of animals.

The question here is not about puppy mills. In fact, the County Commission heard no evidence that the dogs sold at The Noble Paw were born at a puppy mill. So, will the banning of sales of healthy puppies, that come with a contract and guarantee, place a burden on the non-profit rescue associations in the City of Stuart. The answer is absolutely not! Anyone who spends money on certifiable pure-bred or exotic mixed breed is not turning that dog into a shelter.

With no choice left, the citizens of Stuart will be forced to buy dogs from a so-called breeder on Craig’s list. These dogs do not come with a health certificate or guarantee. Who looks out for these purchasers, The Noble Paw & owners, Jill and Rachel Scott.



The Noble Paw
2468 SE Federal Hwy
Stuart, FL 34994
772-348-0800
www.TheNoblePaw.com

Principles: Ms. Rachel Scott
Ms. Jill Scott

History: The Store opened for business in Stuart, Florida, on November 19, 2021

Services: Grooming Salon, Retail Pet Supplies Store, Sale of Canine Pets, Adoption of Rescued Pets (Canine, Felines) from a variety of circumstances, mainly from our animal hospital in West Palm Beach, animals who have been abandoned or surrendered, some with special needs, or in need of medical or surgical care.

Mission : To Provide an ethical, responsible and safe option for the neighbors in our Stuart community, that wish to purchase a specific breed, or type of breed of young canine pet, and have confidence that all animals offered for sale are sourced from reliable, responsible breeders, most of whom we have had long-term experience or relationship with, and whose breeding program & practices, and the every-day life of both the parents, as well as the off-spring of the pets they breed are exceptionally cared for.. Some of our Breeders are taking part in the Purdue University Certification of Canine Care Program. All of our breeders will be required to obtain this certification.

Such basic acceptable practices for our ethical program include, but are not limited to: We will not work with any professional breeder who does not provide daily exercise, socialization that is needed by canines; receives a high standard of routine quality veterinary care; and the adult dogs are humanely offered for adoption, if/when such time that the parent dog ages out of breeding or will no longer be used in their breeding program. It is our goal to work only with Breeders who are licensed by the USDA, and who have not failed inspections in their history for a minimum of three years in the past.

It is our goal to offer rescued animals in our Retail store front, as they become available, or as they are healthy enough to be assigned to a foster home or pre-adoption home care, pending surgical services, or medical care, from our sister-animal hospital. Rescued animals that require prolonged or very costly medical or surgical care, or require care that our Animal Hospital cannot provide, will be provided daily boarding and care until such time as funds are

raised to provide the next level of care that is needed. It is an important goal for The Noble Paw to equally participate in responsible rescue of animals that are adult, and in need of permanency. The income derived from our Retail Store and Animal Hospital will support any special needs animals receiving the medical care they need, and the adoption program.

Long-term Goals:

- 1- Our organization has intended to identify/locate appropriate property on the Treasure Coast, preferably not further than a 30 minute driving distance from The Noble Paw location, that can serve as a "Rescue Ranch" so that our rescued animals can have a facility that will allow them time out of a boarding pen to have exercise and free-time.
- 2- Our organization will also keep all pets that come to us for sale, in our alternate location to afford us an appropriate "isolation time" up to one week period, prior to offering any animal for sale, to be sure the animal is not incubating any communicable illness. This time also allows us to become familiar with each animal, prior to matching with prospective new family.
- 3- It has always been the policy of The Noble Paw to require any potential purchaser, of any pet, to complete a comprehensive pre-purchase application which needs to be approved by either Jill Scott or Rachel Scott, and to let it be known on all our paperwork that we "reserve the right, and we exercise the right, to refuse any purchase of a pet, where we feel it is not in the best interest of the animal of interest. To date, The Noble Paw has refused prospective pet families due to the concern that the placement was not in the best interest of either the animal, or the prospective family. *In most cases when we must deny an application, we offer to provide education, provide the prospective family with potential resources, and/or guide the family to a better placement for their individual situation. The other situations that have arisen have been declined due to the age of the potential purchaser, or, due to the living situations not having proven permissions from the homeowner or landlord or parent of an adult child, to bring in a pet.*
- 4- The Noble Paw believes we provide one of the most comprehensive Warranties & Guaranties programs, which protects the people who purchase a pet from us, and who may later test positive that the pet has been incubating illness but had yet to become symptomatic prior to sale. Although we make every effort to sell the healthiest animals, in any situation dealing with live animals, there is always the possibility that the animal came into contact with something communicable, i.e. kennel cough, etc. yet did not show clinical symptoms until sometime after purchase by a client.

In every situation where this scenario has occurred, to date, as of eight months since our inception, The Noble Paw has taken responsibility, both financial and medically,

and either extended the health care needed by the animal, at no cost to the buyer, or, has reimbursed the client for expenses that they paid to be provided. There have been no exceptions to this statement.

5- Our Sales Contract requires all buyers to agree at the time of purchase:

- 1- If an animal becomes ill within 14 days of purchase, the Buyer agrees that The Noble Paw will take responsibility for all health care, medication, or hospitalization required, and such care will be provided by our Veterinarian in West Palm Beach, at no expense to the Buyer.
- 2- Buyer agrees, at the time of purchase, if at any time throughout the life cycle of the animal, the Buyer must re-home the animal, the Buyer agrees they must first contact The Noble Paw and surrender the animal to The Noble Paw for re-homing. The purpose behind this contractual obligation of the Buyer, is so that The Noble Paw can assure that the animals we serve will never end up in a shelter, or on the street, and we can assure ourselves and the Breeder who has entrusted us to represent the animal, that the animal will always come back to us, if need be, or must be surrendered by the Buyer. No surrendered animal will be re-sold, it will be spay/neutered if not already, and placed for adoption.

3. The Noble Paw gives the Buyer three options to be made whole, if after purchase, they determine they made a mistake, if it is determined the animal is not a good fit, or if they regret their purchase, for any reason, so that our Buyer's incur no loss in this situation, and that no animal is in a home that does not want it, or is not happy with the animal they chose. Any animal in such a circumstance, we deem, to be at inherent risk, and we give Buyer's three options to opt-out of a situation they are not happy with.

We, the co-owners of The Noble Paw, entered this profession, and decided to launch The Noble Paw, and we do what we do, because of our great and life-long love of animals. We believed our long-term experience in the pet health care profession would help us be uniquely prepared and capable of taking superb care of the animals in our care, and serve and protect our clientele, and this was sorely needed in this industry. We believed that our loyalty to the animals, not motivated by the dollar, and our personal integrity was what was needed, and today we still believe that we can best serve prospective new pet families, honorably and faithfully. We absolutely believe and we have seen and heard that we have been the "change" that this pet industry and neighbors in our community sorely needed.

We have absolute confidence that our true love of the animals, our dedication to them, and our personal ethics steer us through the stress and challenges of

day-to-day operations, without ever compromising our ethics, in an industry fraught with high emotions, and living creatures! It has been our core policy, which we choose and honor with our personal integrity, and we live and every day.....that we have never, and will never, put any dollar, over the best interest and wellbeing of any animal. We will never compromise our own deep seated personal integrity where it comes to the best interest of the animals, and not just the puppies we sell, but the parents that create them!

We will never put a client's interests and desire for a pet, above the best interest of the animal and long-term wellbeing of that animal, i.e. When a very senior client wishes to purchase a very small, young pet, we have concerns, and feel that they may not be physically or mentally capable of handling the day to day needs of that animal. We say no! We help them find an alternative, if in our power to do so.

We have spoken to and arranged with some of our breeders to consider re-homing adult breeding animals, when retired, to the home of a senior citizen, who dearly want and needs the companionship, that a canine companion can bring to their lives, but is not a good candidate for a young puppy. We can help our senior neighbors who have been unsuccessful in the rescue community, in finding the right pet for their lifestyle. Our Breeders have been very receptive to the concept and like the idea that one of their breeding animals will find a beautiful and caring senior with whom they can live out their retirement years. For those Breeders that will send us their retirees, we are prepared to work with those animals, and have a professional pet trainer who is willing to work with us and with Senior pets. We would like to build a Senior-for-Senior adoption program, as we feel Seniors have some very specific lifestyle needs, most of which, according to all the literature, can be vastly improved with an appropriate canine companion joining their lives.

The Noble Paw will also continue to place surrendered animals and medical special needs animals that have been abandoned to our clinic in West Palm Beach.

For the Record:

- 1- We deal with only reputable breeders from whom we purchase a puppy;
- 2- We have never and will never knowingly work with any breeder or any other entity in the "puppy mill trade"
- 3- Because "puppy mill" is a very emotional, overused and subjective term, we will memorialize here below, what we believe a "puppy mill" is, and why we will not work with any Breeder or Broker who we know, or have reason to believe is a "mill", nor will we work again with a breeder with whom we have had a previous problem;

- a. Breeders whose breeding adults do not have a good and happy quality of life of their own, and simply keep being bred;
- b. A breeder who does not legitimately care about the wellbeing, and a quality-of-life day to day, for their breeding animal;
- c. A Breeder who does not provide quality health care for the adult animals that they breed; or one who does not provide quality health care for the puppies prior to selling them; or may have a history of not properly vaccinating or deworming, or failing to provide a high standard of quality care;
- d. A breeder who indiscriminately breeds mixed-breed dogs, to obtain interesting "designer breeds" yet puts no comprehensive plan or rationale for mixing those breeds, in place,
- e. A breeder who breeds strictly for the profitability, not for the love of the animals or for the improvement of the breed;
- f. A breeder that does not follow the standard of care, as we believe it should be;
- g. A breeder that will breed adults that have either a hereditary abnormality, or will breed an adult that has had health issues with puppies from those adults in the past;
- h. A backyard breeder who is not licensed, and operates under the radar of the law, does not meet the requirements, etc.

The Noble Paw was established for one reason, first and foremost, because the owner's believed they could and would create a positive, safe and ethical option for those who wish to add a pet to their family, and have not found that pet they dream of, who is appropriate for their lifestyle, age, health status, living conditions, etc. within the rescue/shelter community. We believe we offer a safe, ethical option for our community members to find their new pet.

However, The Noble Paw does not manufacture pets, we are not able to create a pet we wish to sell, and roll it off the manufacturing line, perfect and free of any wrinkle! Pets are living creatures. Animals get sick, even with the absolute best care possible. Animals, like children in a kindergarten, can pick up a bug or virus any time that multiple pets are located in the same facility and under one roof, just as we know Animal Care and Control, and every local rescue and not-for-profit kennel will experience, and has, from time to time.

However, although we can't always avoid an occasional bug, we do stand solidly behind each and every pet we sell. We have earned the right to say this, and we can, at the very least, prove that in our initial 7-months of operations, we have stood behind and taken care of any pet who has gotten sick after the time of purchase, when no clinical symptoms were seen prior to sale.

We state this with absolute confidence and honor. We have put in place our daily practices in such a way that we do everything in our control to operate our facility in a manner that

reduces the incidence of illness spread, and we do everything in our power, including having each and every animal examined by a Florida Licensed Veterinarian, each and every week they are in our care. We take every available step to identify any illness as early as possible, then to isolate and treat , to best control the spread of illness within our facility.

We personally believe that as long as ethically and responsibly sourced, our neighbors deserve to have varied options, when it comes to choosing our family pet.

There are many families that have special requirements when it comes to choosing the family pet, i.e. some deal with allergies, some households have elderly residents whose balance is not what it once was, nor is their strength, and they want and need to have a pet that won't physically overpower them. There are also many families with young children who prefer to gain a trust and confidence in the family pet by assuring they know the animal well, from puppyhood, and the safety of young children is part of their consideration, when looking for a new pet. These facts should not restrict a family from having a pet.

Jill A. Scott
17710 Litten Drive
Boca Raton, FL 33498
561.212.6415

Resume

Born & raised in Hauppauge, New York, and moved to Florida in February 1980 to await entrance into Broward County Nursing Program.

Graduated: Broward County Nursing Program 1982

Achieved: Florida State Nursing Boards

Worked multiple jobs in Nursing field from 1982 ~ 1987

1987 – 1994 ~ Criminal Certified Guardian Ad Litem – Palm Beach County District 15

I was recruited while in nursing school by PBC District to use my Nursing skill to evaluate children's injuries for criminal child abuse cases. I attained my Criminal Certification in 1988

1998-2007- Founder and Director of Adoptions for Adoption Source, Inc.

Developed an International Program to work within the territories of the former Soviet Union to identify orphaned children. I additionally, completed the foreign family law / adoption requirements, completed the U.S.A. Immigration process, and ultimately placed foreign born orphaned children with families here in the United States. Our agency became the "official international child placing agency of the Jewish Child Care Association of New York and as such, we participated in placing approximately 2,000 foreign born children with families here in the United States. Following the formal adoption approval, our agency was responsible to follow the successful placement of the children by supervising and completing post-placement reporting for five years to the Russian government.

In 2004 Adoption Source, under my supervision and leadership attained U.S. Accreditation for continued work under the Hague, upon ratification by the United States.

2009-2012 ~ Purchased an existing Pet Center My Whole Pet Market-

Owned and operated a 10,000 sq ft pet supplies store which had been located in Wellington Florida for a period of approximately 27 years, originally owned and operated by a local Veterinarian. Working with pets again brought back memories from my childhood and my families business operating pet centers.

January 2013 ~ Present ~ PetLife Animal Hospital & Pet Center

PetLife – a full service animal hospital, retail pet supply store, boarding and grooming salon. Our goal was to combine all pet services needed by the average pet family under one roof, thus keeping our fees low, to keep pet owner's pet services expenses affordable.

PetLife thrives today, still under my leadership. We moved the Retail store and Grooming Salon to Stuart Florida in 2021. The advent of the online pet supplies stores made keeping our doors open and competitive difficult. Moving to Stuart was a decision borne from finding more affordable retail space, because the partners in The Noble Paw were moving their personal residences to Stuart, and we felt Stuart was a good opportunity to assist the community in finding both puppies as well as rescued animals.

PetLife remains open and thriving in the West Palm Beach area of Palm Beach County, and we continue to serve the canine and feline pet families with high quality pet medical, dental, surgical and diagnostic care, at an affordable cost.

November 2021 ~ Present ~ The Noble Paw- Retail Pet supplies, Grooming Salon & Pets

Finding healthy, available puppies, kittens and rescued pets for our neighbors in our Community,

RACHEL SCOTT – CO-OWNER OF THE NOBLE PAW

I am Rachel Scott, born in Russia. I spent two years of my life in a Russian orphanage, until I was adopted by my parents. I have had a full life with three wonderful older brothers and about every pet you could think of from turtles to a monkey. I now enjoy my life with my 6 dogs, 3 rescues and 3 pure breeds.

My love for animals was apparent from a very young age. From animals we kept as pets to business ventures we took with them. I always knew I was destined to work with animals, I just wasn't sure where life would take me. I attended Saint George Veterinary school, transferred to college in Missouri and ultimately ended up in Florida Atlanta University majoring in Agriculture business/ Animal Science and minoring in Pre-Vet. During this time in college my mother opened a veterinary clinic where I would assist as my busy college schedule allowed.

It was after all these paths I came to my mom with the idea of opening a puppy store. I knew that with my knowledge of business and love of animals this would be a great match. We knew from the beginning the importance of quality breeders, healthy pets, and vetting owners properly were things that we never would compromise. It was with that we began our extensive research with finding and vetting breeders. This was the beginning of many great relationships we established with reputable breeders that shared our philosophies on quality and humanity. We agreed we wanted our customers experience to be different than any other pet store.

The Noble Paw would create a safe place for animal lovers alike to purchase a pure-bred dog without compromising quality or integrity of the animal. I to have 3 rescue dogs. I understand firsthand the challenges that can come with an animal whose background you don't know. Knowing that I understand that each family should have the knowledge and choice to decide what is the best fit for their family.

Since establishing clientele and breeding relationships we have grown a large customer base. As an advocate for these animals and owner of this store I take my job very seriously. This includes the matching process. I educate all future pet owners on the pet's lifestyle requirements, grooming, diet, exercise, and any medical concerns any specific breed could be prone to. This information along with any information relevant to the dogs' breeding history is included in all of our care packages that go home with each puppy.

If for any reason after vetting a potential owner, we determine that this is not a good fit, we reserve the right and have declined to sell a puppy.

I was very honored and pleased to find that many of my clients will and have followed me to Stuart, but I know I have much work to do ahead to build my reputation in my new community, and I must do that so I can continue to support my family as I have these last years.

Last week I was informed by Jill and Rachel that the County voted to close this business down. They cant survive here by grooming and by adopting charity animals, if they cant do what they started this business to do. I have been devastated. My new baby daughter was just born about one month ago, and we were waiting for the arrival of this second child, before moving our home to our new community. I love my job, I love what I do, in the past two months since moving my business in with Jill and Rachel, I have helped them in the store as I worked to grow my own clients. We keep our store and the animals immaculate, they are always our number one priority, and the thought that someone would accuse us of something else is beyond my understanding.

I know we are not one of the bad people who take advantage of animals, we love the animals, and I respect that my future and the wellbeing of my son and new daughter, my whole family relies upon these animals. I am always happy to do anything for the animals we have whehter they just need their cage cleaned, or taking them each and every one for a run outside each day when it is important for them to be in the sun and fresh air every day.

I ask that you take into consideration all we have put into this business, and these animals and understand it is our livelihood. We know and understand there are bad people in this world that they abuse animals, but we are not one of the people, everyone is not bad that deals and works with animals, and I do not understand why good people must pay the price for what bad people do. This is America, we pay our taxes, we just want to live our lives, do what we love to do, work hard, and that is loving animals every single day of our lives, taking care of them, making sure they get the right homes,

I very much hope that the City will take into consideration that this is our job, we love it and we stand behind everything that we do in this business, and the idea that someone can come and end what you have worked so very hard for, and done nothing wrong, ever, is heartbreaking for me, when I have worked so very hard to make something special of my life, for my children. I have a pet dog at home, who my son loves every day. What will I ever tell my son, when he knows what I do and how hard I work, when I must tell my child that someone ended my career because they accuse me/us of doing bad things to animals??? My son would never even believe this, as he has seen since he was born my great love and appreciation for animals, and all they have done to improve my life. We rescued our dog and we love him, and he has been a part of our lives for over three years, and what will I tell my son is the reason that the City ended my career, when in my whole life I would never do anything to hurt an animal, or the parents of those animals.

JavaresWillingham

Pet Groomer