

# **IL Senate Bill 1882 and House Bill 2824 – Information Packet**

**DuPage County Animal Care & Control – Updated December 4, 2017**

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## Summary and Impact of HB2824/SB1882

### Illinois HB 2824/SB 1882

**Hearings:** Business & Occupational Licenses Committee Hearing  
March 8, 2017 1:30pm Capitol Building Room 115 Springfield IL

#### **Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Animal Welfare Act. Provides that every dog dealer and cattery operator shall provide for every dog or cat available for sale documentation that indicates that the dog or cat has been microchipped. Requires an animal shelter or animal control facility to provide information to an adopter prior to the time of adoption whether the dog or cat to be adopted was microchipped prior to being placed in the animal shelter or animal control facility. Provides that if a dog or cat turned into an animal shelter has a microchip and the primary contact or owner refuses to reclaim the cat or dog, the shelter shall contact the pet shop operator or rescue organization identified on the microchip and request they claim the dog or cat. Provides that a pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator may not obtain a dog or cat for resale or sell or offer for sale any dog or cat obtained from a person who has committed violations of certain federal laws or regulations, as tracked by the United States Department of Agriculture. Provides for certain exceptions. Requires pet shop operators to microchip all dogs and cats. Requires pet shop operators to include a disclosure that a dog or cat for sale has been microchipped. Denies home rule powers. Effective immediately.

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**Sec. 3.1** Every dog dealer and cattery operator shall provide for every dog or cat available for sale (g) Documentation that indicates that the dog or cat has been microchipped.

This is a great first step. However, it is incomplete. Ideally this bill would also require the operator to take the extra step of formally registering the microchip to the new owner. Or at a minimum, it would require the operator to maintain detailed record of the individuals who purchase their animals including full contact and microchip information.

DCACC has encountered many animals that arrive at the shelter with a microchip that was implanted by a pet store, breeder or even veterinary clinic, but the chip was never registered. In many cases where an animal was microchipped by a pet store operator, the

operator did not keep records of who purchased the animal. In cases where no contact information is recorded, the microchip is useless when it comes to reuniting a lost pet with its owner.

Sec. 3.5 An animal shelter or animal control facility must provide to the adopter at the time of adoption, to the best of its knowledge, on any dog or cat being offered for adoption (7) Whether the dog or cat was microchipped prior to being placed in the animal shelter or animal control facility.

This is something we already do at DCACC. We also provide them the name of their animal's microchip manufacturer (when available) and encourage them to register their pet's microchip as soon as possible. In cases where an animal is microchipped with an AVID microchip prior to arriving at DCACC, for a \$15 microchip registration fee, DCACC will register the animal's microchip automatically with AVID.

Sec. 3.6 (b-5) If a dog or cat has been microchipped and the primary contact or owner refuses to reclaim the dog or cat, the animal shelter shall contact the pet shop operator or rescue organization identified on the microchip and request they claim the dog or cat. If the rescue or pet shop operator claims the dog or cat, it shall determine how best to find a new owner for the dog or cat.

(c) If the dog or cat has been microchipped and the primary contact listed by the microchip manufacturer cannot be located or refuses to reclaim the dog or cat, an attempt shall be made to contact any secondary contacts listed by the chip manufacturer, including the pet shop operator, pursuant to subsection (b-5) of this Section, if the information is provided, prior to adoption, transfer or euthanization.

Having the opportunity to re-home unclaimed animals through pet stores could potentially free up space at local shelters for incoming animals. However, as it is currently written, this bill leaves many unanswered questions that unless addressed, can tie up (rather than free up) space at shelters. In its current state this bill also does not provide assurance that the animal will be placed in a responsible home or that the animal's mental health needs are addressed while awaiting re-homing in a pet shop setting:

- Are shelters/animal control agencies required to contact the pet shop operator or originating rescue BEFORE any secondary or tertiary contacts listed on an animal's microchip are contacted? (occurs when an animal has been re-homed before arriving as a stray)

- Are shelters/animal control agencies required to contact the pet shop operator or originating rescue even if the unclaimed animal can be placed for adoption or transferred to rescue from the shelter/animal control facility?
- For what length of time are shelters required to hold an animal for a commitment by pet shop operator or originating rescue before it can be placed up for adoption, transferred to rescue or euthanized?
- If the pet shop is not licensed as a shelter or rescue organization, how are animal control facilities required to treat this transaction – as a transfer to rescue or as an owner reclaim?
- If treated as a reclaim, is the pet store operator responsible for the same reclaim fees that individual owners are responsible for?
- Who is responsible for any necessary medical treatment and/or enrichment/training needs the animal requires while awaiting re-homing in a pet store?
- Is any application/approval process required to ensure these animals are placed by pet shops into responsible homes and that any behavioral or medical needs are addressed once placed?
- Is any follow-up required once the animal is re-homed? If the new owner is unable to keep the animal, is the rescue or pet shop operator required to accept the animal back again?
- How long are animals to be made available for re-homing by a pet store?
- What happens when animals are not successfully re-homed by a pet store within an acceptable amount of time? And/or if their mental health begins to decline in-store?

Sec. 3.8 (a) A pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator may not obtain a dog or a cat for resale or sell or offer for sale any dog or cat obtained from a person who is required to be licensed by the pet dealer regulations of the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) under the federal Animal Welfare Act if any of the following applies:

1. The person is not currently licensed by the USDA under the federal Animal Welfare Act.
2. On the last inspection report, as posted on the Animal Care Information System online search tool maintained by the USDA, before obtaining the dog or cat the person commits a critical non-compliant issue of any of the pet dealer regulations of the USDA under the federal Animal Welfare Act.
3. The person commits a direct non-compliant issue of the pet dealer regulations of the USDA on the last inspection report posted on the Animal Care Information System online search tool maintained by the USDA, before obtaining the dog or cat, for violations relating to the health or welfare of the animal and the violations were not administrative in nature.

(b) A pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator is presumed to have acted in good faith and to have satisfied its obligation to ascertain whether a person meets the criteria described in subsection (a) if, when placing an order to obtain a dog or cat for sale or resale, the pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator conducts a search for inspection reports that are readily available of the breeder on the Animal Care Information System online search tool maintained by the USDA.

The most important feature of a well-drafted ordinance is to be easily enforceable. Chicago is a good example. Pet stores in Chicago can only adopt out (not sell for profit) rescue pets. This is easy to enforce because all retail pet stores must keep records on where each pet came from.

Conversely, there is an ordinance in Orland Park that is not enforceable because it requires the consumer to check the USDA website for commercial breeders' violations on inspection reports. This is not enforceable and does not uphold companion animal welfare standards for a few reasons:

1. Commercial breeder inspection reports have been removed from the USDA website by the new Administration and can only be viewed by submitting a formal FOIA request for one (<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/bulletins/184e0d0>).
2. Secondly it's not easy to navigate the website unless you have the correct breeder name, address, license number.
3. Thirdly and most importantly, animals suffer even if a commercial breeder does not have any violations on record. The basic needs of breeding dogs and cats are not being met. The animals are classified as livestock and not protected under companion animal laws. They fall under the Animal Welfare Act for livestock.

Examples of the standards under the AWA are:

- The cage that these animals eat, sleep, defecate and urinate in, must be only 6 inches bigger than they are and are often made completely of wire (including flooring). Most animals never leave their cage.
- Exercise and enrichment does not exist for these animals. If producers throw more animals into the cage, that's considered exercise enough.
- These animals live their entire lives without access to walks, beds, toys, or human companionship.
- These dogs are bred till dead or until they are no longer wanted, at which point they are sold at auction or killed.
- The cages can be stacked one on top of the other which is very unsanitary.

- The animals get little if any proper veterinary care and are seldom if ever groomed often resulting in severely matted fur, medical and dental issues.
- The animals are required to be fed but the food doesn't need to be nutritious.
- The animals are required to have water but it doesn't have to be clean.
- Minimal housing standards mean animals are left exposed to even the most extreme weather conditions.
- Animals are bred for profit, nor for health or for temperament.

All of the above are acceptable according to current laws for commercial breeders and do not constitute a violation. Bottom line? The AWA is inadequate to meet the basic needs of companion animals, but under the current law, it's not illegal. Thus, according to the proposed bill, it would be completely legal for pet store owners to continue to sell animals sourced from breeders who keep their animals in these conditions.

(3.8 b cont'd) A pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator is considered in compliance with this section if the USDA website is unavailable through no fault of the pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator; however, the pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator shall obtain the most current inspection report as soon as it becomes available on the USDA website.

This is very concerning. This would be like DCACC approving every adoption application based on the fact that our database was not accessible. This is incredibly irresponsible and does not come close to taking the welfare of the animals into account.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this section, a pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator may obtain a dog or cat for resale or sell or offer for sale any dog or cat obtained from:

1. a person that sells dogs only he or she has produced and raised.

Without criteria on acceptable and unacceptable producers, **this could create a surge in irresponsible backyard breeding.** Guidelines that require licensing and encourage sourcing from responsible breeders only is a necessity.

2. a publically operated pound or private non-profit humane society or rescue; or
3. an animal adoption event conducted by a pound or humane society.

This could be a big benefit for rescues and shelters if the process is well thought out. What does the transaction referred to in #2 and #3 look like?

- Are these animals transferred to and “sold” by the pet store operator?
- If so, does the operator pay a fee to the shelter or rescue at the time of transfer?
- Or does the pet store serve as a satellite adoption location with the shelter/rescue approving adoption applications and receiving adoption fees on the animal? This is the preferred method of making pound or humane society animals available for adoption via a pet store as it ensures that potential owners undergo a review and approval process.

(d) A pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator shall maintain records verifying its compliance with this section for two years after obtaining the dog or cat to be sold or offered for sale. Records maintained pursuant to this subsection (d) shall be open to inspection on request by a Department of Agriculture inspector.

(e) It is recognized that the sourcing of dogs and cats into Illinois is a matter of statewide interest to protect the health and safety of both the animals and citizens of Illinois. A home rule unit may not regulate the sourcing of dogs and cats sold by pet shop operators, dog dealers, or cattery operators. This section is a denial and limitation of home rule powers and functions under subsection (h) of section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution.

The only way the removal of home rule benefits the consumer and ensures the highest animal welfare standards are met is to require at the state level that no animal be “sold” (in-person or online) by anyone other than a licensed shelter/rescue in good standing or responsible breeder. USDA licensed does not = to companion animal welfare standards.

Sec. 3.15 Prior to the time of sale, every pet shop operator must, to the best of his or her knowledge, provide to the consumer the following information on any dog or cat being offered for sale: (10) Disclosure that the dog or cat has been microchipped. (a-5) All dogs and cats shall be microchipped by a pet shop operator prior to sale.

This is a very positive move IF, and only if, the pet shop operator is also required to:

- At best: register the microchip to the new owner
- At least: maintain detailed records of who the animal is sold to with complete contact information

## **An open letter to the Illinois General Assembly: Oppose SB 1882 & HB 2824**

Dear General Assembly:

**Legislation that threatens home rule and protects animal abusers has been introduced in the Illinois House and Senate.** The national and local animal welfare community, local governments, and the pet-loving population of Illinois have come together to oppose these bills (SB 1882 and HB 2824), and we ask you to join us. Here's why:

**The bills would make it easier for puppy mills to sell dogs in Illinois.** In puppy mills, breeding dogs can spend their entire lives in small, filthy wire cages and may be denied basic veterinary care, exercise and socialization. Puppy mills depend on pet stores to sell their puppies because pet stores allow this cruelty to remain hidden. The bills would secure the puppy mill – pet store supply chain by ensuring that no city, town or county in Illinois could prevent pet stores from sourcing from mills, not even those that already have such a law in place.

**The bills would strip citizens of their right to address local issues with local elected officials.** The people of Chicago, Cook County, Waukegan, and Warrenville's voices were heard when each of these localities enacted ordinances restricting the sale of commercially bred puppies in pet stores. Contrary to the will of the people, these bills would void those ordinances. They would also rob local governments of their home rule authority. Local officials would no longer be able to protect citizens or animals from inhumane puppy mills that supply the retail pet trade nor would they be able to adequately manage pet overpopulation.

**The bills would protect those who profit from cruel puppy mills, at the expense of consumers and animals.** Over 200 localities across the nation have passed ordinances to restrict the sale of puppies in pet stores as a reasonable and effective means of preventing the importation of poorly bred puppies from mostly out-of-state breeding facilities. These ordinances also protect consumers from a deceptive sales model, predatory lending schemes, and the likelihood of ending up with sick and behaviorally challenged puppies that can add to the local shelter population when the cost of treating these pets becomes unmanageable. Instead of cleaning up its act, the industry is responding to these ordinances by asking state legislatures to shield it from local regulation. States who give in to this request are protecting the abusers.

**The bills would result in a weak and unenforceable law that would allow puppy-selling pet stores to operate without any consequences.** Compared to other state pet store sourcing laws, Illinois' would be the weakest. The bills contain massive loopholes that would allow Illinois pet stores to source from some of the worst puppy mills in the country—those that are completely unregulated and those with egregious and numerous USDA violations. Perhaps most alarming, the bills would give consumers a completely false sense that the state requires pet stores to only source from quality, humane breeders.

We urge you to oppose SB 1882 and HB 2824. It's the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

*Best Friends Animal Society, The Humane Society of the United States, The Puppy Mill Project and*

*Angels on Wheels Animal Rescue, Animal Protective League (Springfield, Illinois), Barriers Against Repeated Cruelty (BARC Chicago), Barrington Area Animal Rescue & Kennels (B.A.A.R.K. Dog Rescue), Be Fido's Friend Rescue, Forever Home Feline Ranch, Forget Me Not Animal Rescue, Foster Pet Outreach, Furrever Friends Rescue, Green Pup Shelter, Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue, Humane Society of Aurora, Illinois Animal Welfare Federation, Illinois Saint Bernard Rescue, K9 Enrichment Initiative, Inc., Making a Difference Rescue, Naperville Area Humane Society, North Chicago Animal Control, Operation SAFE, PAWS Chicago, Paws Crossed Rescue Resource, Perfect Pooches Adoption Agency, Realtors to the Rescue, Rescue ME Clifford, SAFE Now Animal Rescue & Foster, Safe Pets for Joliet, Streetside Paws Veterinary Care (Dr. Suma Raju), Veterinary Professionals Against Puppy Mills (VPAPM)*





**DUPAGE COUNTY**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Website:** [WWW.DUPAGECO.ORG](http://WWW.DUPAGECO.ORG) **Twitter:** @dupagecounty **Facebook:** DuPage County Board

For Immediate Release  
March 14, 2017

Contact: Evan Shields  
Public Information Officer  
(630) 407-6022

## **DuPage County Committee Opposes Amendments to Animal Welfare Act**

Wheaton – The DuPage County Legislative Committee voted this morning to oppose two bills before the Illinois Senate and House which would weaken local regulations designed to crack down on the sale of animals obtained through puppy mills and catteries.

Senate Bill 1882 and House Bill 2824 would bypass local ordinances and allow pet stores to sell animals from commercial breeders that have lower health and welfare standards, said Brian Krajewski, Chairman of the County’s Animal Care and Control Committee.

“DuPage County has read between the lines of SB1882 and HB 2824. We oppose this legislation and stand with our neighbors in Cook County, Chicago and Warrenville by insisting on laws that protect the consumer, raise the bar on animal welfare standards, encourage pet adoption and responsible breeding and bring about an end to animal cruelty for profit,” Krajewski said.

DuPage County Animal Care and Control is an open-admission shelter and is obligated by state statute to accept any animal surrendered to the facility, including sick and ill-tempered animals from puppy mills. Krajewski said passage of these bills would result in a decrease in public health, an increase in safety concerns and a significant lack of consumer protections from large-scale breeders that breed for volume rather than animal health or temperament.

The bills would also prevent municipalities or counties from enacting a local ordinance with stronger provisions. DuPage County supports the right of home-rule entities to adopt regulations in the best interest of their residents.

DuPage County remains open to working with legislators to adopt language for an appropriate statewide standard for animal welfare.

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## **Urgent Action Needed on Illinois SB 1882/HB 2824**

Two companion bills have been introduced in the Illinois legislature that would overturn the Chicago Companion Animal and Consumer Protection Ordinance that prohibits pet stores from selling dogs and cats from inhumane breeding operations, in addition to invalidating similar ordinances in Cook County, Waukegan, and Warrenville.

At first glance, these bills appear to offer additional protections for animals – and we share and support their stated goals of protecting consumers, increasing transparency in the sourcing of dogs and cats, and screening out inhumane breeders. We also support the bills' microchipping requirements. However, one section of these bills (Section 3.8) is misguided and will be extremely harmful to consumers and animals. Section 3.8 legitimizes sourcing dogs from inhumane breeding operations, relies on information that is no longer available for its enforcement, and prohibits cities from enacting their own laws regarding the sourcing and sale of dogs and cats in their communities.

### **Why is this legislation bad for animals and consumers?**

- 1. It will not screen out inhumane breeders.** This legislation offers limited restrictions on where pet stores can source dogs and cats, requiring breeders to have a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) license and meet nominal inspection criteria – but a USDA license and clean record do not mean that a breeder is humane. USDA standards are barely survival standards. Dogs can live in cages only six inches larger than their bodies for 24 hours a day. Stacked cages, mesh or wire flooring, and unlimited breeding are all acceptable. These facilities tend to mass produce puppies and operate solely for profit. USDA licensure sounds reassuring to a consumer but in reality it accomplishes very little.
- 2. It does not create transparency.** This legislation ties its standards to information that is no longer available. Prior to January 2017, USDA breeder inspection records were publicly accessible through an online search tool. However, these records have now been removed from the USDA website indefinitely. Even more troubling, the legislation states that a pet store is considered in compliance even if the USDA records are unavailable. These bills were introduced *after* the USDA search tool had been removed – rendering the bills' purported safeguards meaningless. There is currently no means for a consumer to research a breeder's USDA record.
- 3. This legislation denies cities and towns in Illinois the authority to make their own laws protecting consumers and animals.** These bills would overturn ordinances in Chicago, Cook County, Waukegan, and Warrenville – similar to legislation passed in more than 200 municipalities across the United States. These cities have determined that the sourcing and sale of dogs and cats is an issue of local concern for their communities and Illinois home rule units should be able to pass their own legislation as appropriate.

### **What can you do?**

**Contact the sponsors and co-sponsors of these bills** in the Illinois House and Senate and tell them that you appreciate their efforts and concern for these issues, but Section 3.8 must be eliminated in its entirety.

**Tell them that removing the home rule provision (Section 3.8(e)) is NOT ENOUGH – keeping the rest of Section 3.8 explicitly allows pet stores to source from inhumane breeders without any means of researching those breeders.**

**Contact your own representative and senator** (even if they are not sponsors of this bill) and tell them that animal welfare is important to you and that there is dangerous legislation (SB 1882/HB 2824) pending that you do not support.

**If you live in Chicago: Call your alderman.** Tell him or her that there is state legislation that will invalidate a city ordinance and deny Chicago's home rule authority on an issue that is very important to you. Ask them to voice their opposition to SB 1882/HB 2824 and stand up for Chicago's right to regulate the source of dogs and cats sold in our community. You can also do this for your Cook County Commissioner if you live in Cook County.



## How to Contact your Representatives

### Illinois House of Representatives Contacts:

State Representative Jerry Costello, II (representative who introduced the bill, representing the 116th District): (618) 282-7284 or [staterepcostello@gmail.com](mailto:staterepcostello@gmail.com)

Lawrence M. Walsh Jr. (chief co-sponsor, representing the 86th District, including Joliet): (815) 730-8600 or [statereplarrywalshjr@gmail.com](mailto:statereplarrywalshjr@gmail.com)

State Representative Norine Hammond (chief co-sponsor, representing the 93rd District): (309) 836-2707 or [rephammond@macomb.com](mailto:rephammond@macomb.com)

Randy Frese (chief co-sponsor, representing the 94th District): (217) 223-0833 or [repfrese@adams.net](mailto:repfrese@adams.net)

State Rep John C. D'Amico (chief co-sponsor, representing the 15th District): (773) 736-0218 or [johnd@ilga.gov](mailto:johnd@ilga.gov)

State Representative Margo McDermed (chief co-sponsor, representing the 37th District): (815) 277-2079 or [McDermed@ilhousegop.org](mailto:McDermed@ilhousegop.org)

Email them all at once: [staterepcostello@gmail.com](mailto:staterepcostello@gmail.com); [rephammond@macomb.com](mailto:rephammond@macomb.com); [repfrese@adams.net](mailto:repfrese@adams.net); [johnd@ilga.gov](mailto:johnd@ilga.gov); [statereplarrywalshjr@gmail.com](mailto:statereplarrywalshjr@gmail.com); [McDermed@ilhousegop.org](mailto:McDermed@ilhousegop.org)

### Illinois Senate Contacts:

Michael E. Hastings (senator who introduced the bill, representing the 19th District including Joliet and other communities): (815) 464-5431 or <http://senatorhastings.com/contact-me>

State Senator Jil Tracy (co-sponsor representing the 47th District): (217) 223-0837

Senator Emil Jones III (chief co-sponsor representing the 14th District): (773) 995-7748 or <http://senatoremiljones.com/contact-us>

Senator William R. Haine (co-sponsor representing the 56th District): (618) 465-4764 or <http://www.senatorhaine.com/contact-us>

New co-sponsor added, State Senator Sam McCann (representing the 50th District): (217) 245-0050 or [SenatorMcCann@gmail.com](mailto:SenatorMcCann@gmail.com)

**Locate your State Senator and State Representative:** <http://www.elections.il.gov/districtlocator/addressfinder.aspx>

### City of Chicago Alderman Lookup:

[https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mayor/iframe/lookup\\_ward\\_and\\_alderman.html](https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mayor/iframe/lookup_ward_and_alderman.html)

For more information, contact The Puppy Mill Project at [info@thepupppymillproject.org](mailto:info@thepupppymillproject.org).

**Letter Sent to All Cook County Commissioners by The Puppy Mill Project:**

From: Cari Meyers

Sent: Friday, March 3, 2017 10:36 AM

To: Brian Krajewski

Subject: Fw: Please Oppose Illinois HB 2824/SB 1882

This is the letter that went to the Cook county Commissioners.

"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."

Immanuel Kant, "Duties towards Animals"

On Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:56 PM, Jayme McKellop wrote:

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of The Puppy Mill Project, a Chicago-based nonprofit organization, about two companion bills that have been introduced in the Illinois legislature that are problematic for Cook County: HB 2824 and SB 1882. The primary issue is that these bills would overturn the Cook County Companion Animal and Consumer Protection Ordinance (Section 10-13, passed in April 2014) that prohibits pet stores from selling dogs and cats from inhumane breeding operations, in addition to invalidating similar ordinances in Chicago, Waukegan, and Warrenville.

HB 2824 and SB 1882 are being promoted as animal welfare bills. At first glance, they appear to offer additional protections for animals – but the reality is that this legislation is being pushed by the pet store industry (under the guise of animal welfare and safety concerns) to protect inhumane dog breeding operations and the pet stores that sell these dogs. There is one section, Section 3.8, in particular that will be extremely harmful to consumers and animals. Section 3.8 legitimizes sourcing dogs from inhumane breeding operations, relies on information that is no longer available for its enforcement, and eliminates home rule on this issue prohibiting Illinois home rule units from enacting their own laws regarding the sourcing of dogs and cats sold in their communities.

In more detail, there are three primary issues with HB 2824/SB 1882, all of which are contrary to what the bills purport to do:

1. These bills protect inhumane breeders. This legislation offers a minimal standard on where pet stores can source dogs and cats, requiring breeders to have a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) license and meet nominal inspection criteria – but a USDA license and clean record do not mean that a breeder is humane. USDA standards are barely survival standards. Dogs can live in cages only six inches larger than their bodies for 24 hours a day. Stacked cages, mesh or wire flooring, and unlimited breeding are all acceptable. These facilities tend to mass produce puppies and operate solely for profit. USDA licensure sounds reassuring to a consumer but in reality this requirement is simply protecting and legitimizing the inhumane breeders that supply pet stores.
2. It does not create transparency. This legislation ties its standards to information that is no longer available. Prior to January 2017, USDA breeder inspection records were publicly accessible through an online search tool. However, these records have now been removed from the USDA website indefinitely. Even more troubling, the legislation states that a pet store is considered in compliance even if the USDA records are unavailable. These bills were introduced after the USDA search tool had

been removed – rendering the bills’ purported safeguards meaningless. There is currently no means for a consumer to research a breeder’s USDA record.

3. This legislation denies home rule units in Illinois the authority to make their own laws protecting consumers and animals. The crux of this bill is to overturn ordinances in Cook County, Chicago, Waukegan, and Warrenville – all of which are similar to legislation passed in more than 200 municipalities across the United States. This bill is part of a larger national movement to overturn companion animal ordinances like Cook County’s and Chicago’s to protect the puppy mill/pet store industry at the state level. The people of Chicago and Cook County overwhelmingly supported these measures that were passed to address local economic, consumer protection, and animal welfare concerns. Across the country, localities and their residents have determined that the sourcing and sale of dogs and cats is an issue of local concern for their communities and Illinois home rule units should be able to pass their own legislation as they find appropriate.

The bottom line is that this is a sham bill that will mislead consumers, harm animals, and was proposed for the sole reason of eliminating home rule authority on this issue and circumventing the will of Cook County residents.

We are asking you to please contact your representative and senator and ask them to oppose HB 2824/SB 1882. HB 2824 is scheduled for hearing in the Business and Occupational Licenses Committee on March 8. The contact information for the Committee members is below if you would like to contact them to express your concerns:

Bob Rita, 28th District: (708) 396-2822 and [RobertBobRita@aol.com](mailto:RobertBobRita@aol.com)

Marcus C. Evans, Jr., 33rd District: (773) 783-8492 and [Repevans33@gmail.com](mailto:Repevans33@gmail.com)

David B. Reis, 109th District: (618) 392-0108 and [keith@davidreis.org](mailto:keith@davidreis.org)

Jaime Andrade, 40th District: (217) 782-8117 and [staterep40@gmail.com](mailto:staterep40@gmail.com)

Mark Batinick, 97th District: (815) 254-0000

Anthony DeLuca, 80th District: (708) 754-7900 and [repdeluca@sbcglobal.net](mailto:repdeluca@sbcglobal.net)

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Thank you so much for considering our position and for your dedicated work on behalf of Cook County.

Sincerely,

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The Puppy Mill Project

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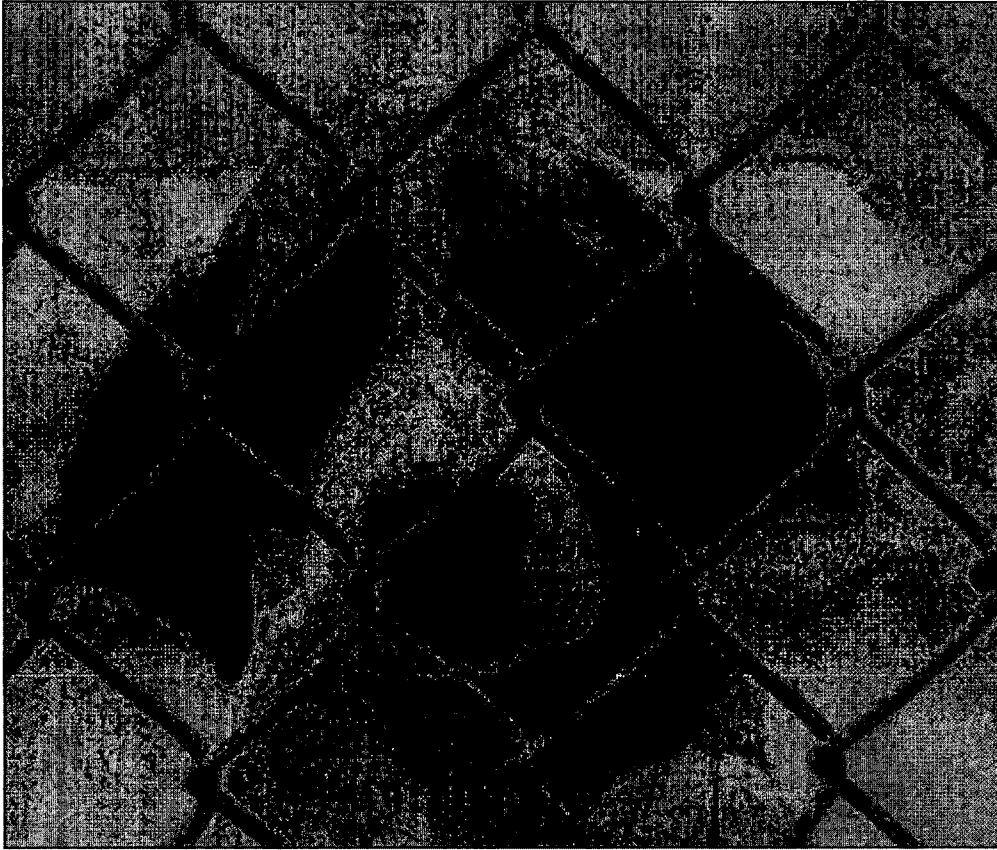
# Puppy Mills: The Scientific Evidence of Harm They Cause To Dogs

Monday, November 26, 2012 7:27 AM

There is no uniformly accepted definition of "puppy mill," but one that encompasses the central features common to most definitions would be "any breeding facility in which puppies are produced primarily for profit and which keeps so many dogs that the physical and psychological needs of the breeding dogs and puppies are not met sufficiently to provide a reasonably decent quality of life for all of the animals."

Conditions in puppy mills vary widely in quality, ranging from squalid and extremely detrimental to the animals' health and well-being to shiny and clean. The breeding dogs in these facilities are routinely housed for their entire reproductive lives in cages or runs, and provided with minimal to no positive human interaction or other forms of environmental enrichment. The puppy mill environment exposes the breeding dogs and their puppies to two major potential causes of psychological harm: inadequate socialization (to people and objects) and psychological trauma. Both can result in similar psychological and behavioral challenges when the breeding dogs (adopted through rescue groups and shelters) and their puppies (sold through pet stores and over the internet) are taken into human households. No currently written laws at the federal or state level are adequate to protect dogs against the psychological harm that occurs from living in a puppy mill.

It had been observed for decades that after removal from puppy mills many of the former breeding dogs displayed persistent behavioral and psychological abnormalities when compared with the general pet dog population. We undertook a study to determine if this anecdotal evidence could be scientifically confirmed. Looking at 1,169 former puppy mill breeding dogs that had been adopted into private homes, we obtained comprehensive profiles to compare their psychological and behavioral characteristics with those of typical pet dogs.



The findings were more dramatic than we had expected. When compared with a large group of pet dogs, former puppy mill breeding dogs were reported as showing significantly higher rates of physical health problems. With respect to behavior, ex-breeder puppy mill dogs displayed significantly higher rates of fear (to unfamiliar people, to other dogs, and to noises and motions in their surroundings), house-soiling, and staring blankly into space ("dazed," "zoned out," "spaced out"), and significantly lower rates of trainability and energy. They also showed about one-half the level of aggression that typical pet dogs do toward unfamiliar people, other dogs, and to their owner. While this might be seen as a good thing, it appears to be due to the overwhelmingly high levels of fear in the dogs, which then suppresses normal aggressive behavior. So it seems to be a good thing, but only because of very bad reasons.

Overall, the results of the study show that dogs kept in puppy mills develop extreme and persistent fears and phobias, altered mental functioning, compulsive behaviors such as circling and pacing, and often show difficulty in coping successfully with normal existence—or, in general terms, extensive and long-lasting psychological scars—this study provides the

first scientific evidence that the conditions within puppy mills are injurious to the mental health and welfare of dogs.

We recently completed a similar study on the behavioral and psychological characteristics of dogs purchased as puppies from pet stores and found abnormalities similar, though not identical, to the parent (breeder) dogs who remain back at the puppy mill. This report will be published next year in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

We are now engaged in a similar study of dogs rescued from hoarding situations. If you have adopted one of these dogs we would love to hear from you and enter the dog in our study. Participation in the study involves nothing more than filling out an online questionnaire about your dog. The email to reach me at is: [dr.frank@bestfriends.org](mailto:dr.frank@bestfriends.org).

- Franklin D. McMillan, DVM

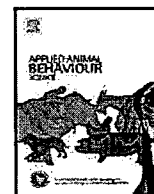
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Dr. Frank McMillan has been the director of well-being studies at Best Friends Animal Society since October 2007. The focus of Dr. McMillan's studies is the mental health and emotional well-being of animals who have endured hardship, adversity, and psychological trauma. He edited and co-authored the text *Mental Health and Well-Being in Animals*, and co-authored *Unlocking the Animal Mind: How Your Pet's Feelings Hold the Key to His Health and Happiness*.





## Mental health of dogs formerly used as 'breeding stock' in commercial breeding establishments

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### ABSTRACT

Canine commercial breeding establishments (CBEs) are kennel facilities where puppies are produced in large numbers for commercial sale. In the popular media, CBEs are commonly referred to as "puppy mills" or "puppy farms." Conditions in CBEs vary widely in quality. Dogs in these facilities are routinely housed for their entire reproductive lives in cages or runs, and provided with minimal to no positive human interaction or other forms of environmental enrichment. Numerous anecdotal reports have suggested that after removal from CBEs many of the former breeding dogs display persistent behavioural and psychological abnormalities when compared with the general pet dog population. The purpose of this study was to determine if this anecdotal evidence could be confirmed empirically.

Behavioural evaluations of the dogs were obtained from current owners/fosterers using the Canine Behavioural Assessment and Research Questionnaire (C-BARQ), which utilizes ordinal scales to rate either the intensity or frequency of the dog's behaviours. A total of 1169 former CBE dogs were included in the study.

Among the CBE ex-breeding dogs, 76 different breeds were represented. With the exception of the Bichon Frise (31.5%), all other breeds comprised <5% of the dogs. The sex ratio was 70.3% females and 29.7% males. The dogs had been living in their adoptive homes for an average of 2 years when the C-BARQ was completed.

When compared with a convenience sample of pet dogs matched for breed, sex, age and neuter status, former CBE breeding dogs were reported as showing significantly higher rates of health problems (23.5% versus 16.6%,  $P=0.026$ ). With respect to behaviour, CBE dogs displayed significantly higher rates of fear (both social and nonsocial; ordinal GLM models,  $P<0.001$ ), house-soiling ( $P<0.001$ ), and compulsive staring ( $P<0.005$ ); and significantly lower rates of aggression (toward strangers and other dogs;  $P<0.0001$ ), trainability ( $P<0.0001$ ), chasing small animals ( $P<0.0001$ ), excitability ( $P<0.0001$ ), and energy ( $P<0.0001$ ).

By demonstrating that dogs maintained in these environments develop extreme and persistent fears and phobias, possible learning deficits as evidenced by lower trainability, and often show difficulty in coping successfully with normal existence, this study provides the first quantitative evidence that the conditions prevailing in CBEs are injurious to the mental health and welfare of dogs.

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### 1. Introduction

The commercial dog breeding industry is a major producer of purebred dogs in many countries around the world. The owners of these facilities refer to themselves

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by different names, such as 'professional breeding kennels,' 'high-volume breeders,' and 'large-scale breeders.' In some countries (e.g., the UK and Australia) these breeding establishments are referred to as 'puppy farms.' In the USA, the mass production aspect of these operations at some point gave rise to the term 'puppy mill,' which has come to be defined by many as 'a commercial farming operation in which purebred dogs are raised in large numbers' (Merriam-Webster, 2010). For the purposes of this report, high-volume puppy producing operations will be referred to as commercial breeding establishment (CBE).

In general, CBEs are operated like other production animal enterprises, and the dogs are viewed and treated as livestock (Hinds, 1993). Conditions in CBEs vary from modern, clean, and well kept to squalid, noxious, and grave and potentially detrimental to animal health and welfare (Hinds, 1993; Smalley, 2009; USDA, 2004). Common to virtually all CBEs are the following: large numbers of dogs; maximally efficient use of space by housing dogs in or near the minimum space permitted by law; housing breeding dogs for their entire reproductive lives—in most cases, years—in their cages or runs; dogs rarely if ever permitted out of their primary enclosures for exercise or play; absence of toys or other forms of enrichment; minimal to no positive human interaction or companionship; and minimal to no health care (Bradley, 2010; Fischer, 2010; Shaughness and Slawewski, 2010).

Numerous anecdotal reports suggest that dogs formerly maintained as breeding dogs in CBEs display behavioural and psychological abnormalities when compared with the general pet dog population (Bradley, 2010; Lockwood, 1995). If true, a number of factors may contribute to the development of such abnormalities, the prime candidates being severe and/or chronic stress (e.g., restrictive confinement, under- or overstimulation, social conflict, social deprivation, physical factors), inadequate socialization, genetics, and maternal adversity. The goal of the present study was to determine if the anecdotal evidence of behavioural and psychological abnormalities in dogs from CBEs could be confirmed by comparing owner-derived behavioural assessments of former CBE breeding dogs with those of typical pet dogs. Identification of any differences that adversely affect the dogs' welfare would indicate the need for, and guide the development of, preventive, corrective, and therapeutic measures.

## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Data collection

Behavioural evaluations of the dogs were obtained from current owners/fosterers using the Canine Behavioural Assessment and Research Questionnaire (C-BARQ; <http://www.cbarq.org>) (Hsu and Serpell, 2003). The C-BARQ is designed to provide quantitative assessments of a wide array of behavioural characteristics of dogs, and has been widely used as a research tool for comparing behaviour in different dog populations (Duffy et al., 2008; Otto et al., 2004; Serpell and Hsu, 2005; Van den Berg et al., 2010). The questionnaire consists of 101 items which ask respondents to indicate using a series of 5-point

ordinal rating scales their dogs' typical responses to a variety of everyday situations during the recent past. The scales rate either the intensity (aggression, fear and excitability subscales) or frequency (all remaining subscales and miscellaneous items) of the behaviours, with a score of 0 indicating the absence of the behaviour and a score of 4 indicating the most intense or frequent form of the behaviour. The C-BARQ currently comprises 14 behavioural factors or subscales (calculated as the mean of the questions pertaining to each subscale), and a further 22 miscellaneous stand-alone items. Higher scores are generally less favorable for all items and subscales with the exception of trainability, for which higher scores are more desirable. In addition, the C-BARQ asks dog owners if their dog is "currently experiencing any significant health problems" (yes/no) and if they are "currently experiencing any problems with this dog's behaviour or temperament", to which they can select from among the following: no problems, only minor problems, moderate problems, serious problems. Owners were also asked to indicate the dog's current age at the time the survey was completed, the dog's age when it was acquired, and whether or not there are any other dogs living in the same household. The C-BARQ automatically records the time and date when the survey is submitted and this information, together with the aforementioned data, allowed calculation of the duration of time that the dog had been living in the home at the time of survey completion. Four sections in the C-BARQ include 'open field comments' that permit the participant to elaborate on their dog's behaviour relative to the behavioural category of the question (e.g., situations where the dog is sometimes aggressive, is fearful or anxious, becomes over-excited, and other stereotyped or repetitive behaviours).

### 2.2. CBE ex-breeding dog sample

Dogs were recruited for the study in one of four ways: (1) direct solicitation of adopters and fosterers of dogs previously confiscated from CBEs by an animal protection organization<sup>1</sup> and subsequently offered for adoption; (2) solicitation via a notice placed in the same organization's magazine; (3) all national and local animal welfare organizations listed in the Best Friends Animal Society databank as involved with 'puppy mill rescue' were contacted and asked to distribute the solicitation notice to the people with whom they had placed former breeding dogs (foster care or full adoption); and (4) a solicitation notice posted on a dog website ([dogforums.com](http://dogforums.com)). Further distribution via word of mouth was not discouraged. No geographical restrictions were imposed. The solicitation notice for the study contained both an email address and telephone number. Individuals responding via email were provided with a link to the online questionnaire; telephone respondents were also provided with the link or, if they lacked internet access, were mailed a hardcopy of the questionnaire together with a postage-paid return envelope. The owners were made aware of the purpose of the study in the form of a single

<sup>1</sup> Best Friends Animal Society.

sentence included in the solicitation notices. The magazine and website notice stated that we were looking for dogs for a study of “psychological effects of living in a commercial breeding facility (“puppy mill”); the email notice sent via rescue groups announced, “a large scale study on dogs that were once used as breeding dogs in commercial breeding facilities (“puppy mills”),” with the stated purpose: “we are trying to fully understand the psychological changes that occur in the dogs that have experienced this kind of life.”

The dogs included in the study were those that had been used, or confined with the intention to be used, as breeding dogs in CBEs. The stipulation that the dog had been used for breeding purposes in a CBE/puppy mill was for the purpose of distinguishing adult dogs from puppies that were transported out for sale before 12 weeks of age. In reality, it is not possible in every case to confirm that a dog recovered from a CBE had been used for breeding. The study, however, was not intended to evaluate the effects of breeding *per se*, but rather the confinement in a CBE. The criteria used for inclusion in the study were based on the fact that, except for rare exceptions, dogs are not kept in these facilities if they are unable to successfully reproduce. Therefore, if the dog is confined in a CBE and over 1 year of age, it is a near certainty it is being used, or is intended for use, as a breeding dog. Any dog less than 8 months of age at the time of removal from the CBE was excluded from the study, and any dog over 1 year was included. Dogs between 8 and 12 months of age were included only if confirmed to be a breeding dog (or intended breeding dog) by a CBE operator. To avoid reliance on memory and hence recall bias, only dogs currently living and in that person's care were included in the study.

To assure that each dog in the study had no known history of psychological trauma outside of their CBE experience, one question was added to the survey asking the owner to select from a list of traumatic events and/or write in any known sources of trauma their dog had experienced. Only those dogs whose owners selected the answer “was rescued from a puppy mill where he/she was being used as a breeding dog” were included in the study.

In the solicitation of participants the term ‘puppy mill’ was used for two reasons. First, while the term ‘puppy mill’ is considered by some to be derogatory and judgmental, the definitions of puppy mill and CBE may be considered synonymous. For example, Merriam-Webster (2010) defines ‘puppy mill’ as “a commercial farming operation in which purebred dogs are raised in large numbers”; this also accurately describes a canine commercial breeding establishment. Based on personal communication with the groups involved in the recovery and rescue of these dogs it is clear that the adopters and fosterers were familiar with the term ‘puppy mill’ and unfamiliar with the term ‘commercial breeding establishment.’ Second, the groups involved with rehoming these dogs have ‘puppy mill’ in their name and/or use the term to describe large commercial breeding establishments when conducting any activities or communications related to the dogs they assist.

### 2.3. Pet dog sample

For the purposes of comparison, a convenience sample of C-BARQ assessments of pet dogs was used. Beginning in April 2006, free access to the online version of the C-BARQ became available to pet owners. The survey was advertised via an article in the newsmagazine of the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (Kruger, 2006) and by notices sent to Philadelphia-area veterinary clinics and the top 20 US breed clubs based on AKC registrations. Availability of the survey then spread via word of mouth. Breed designations are based entirely upon owner assertions. From a dataset containing 13,620 pet dogs, a subset of dogs was randomly chosen to serve as matched controls for the CBE breeding dogs. Cases were matched on the basis of age ( $\pm 6$  months), sex, breed and (when possible) neuter status.

For comparison of former CBE breeding dogs with a control set of pet dogs, the analysis was limited to dogs that had been in the home for at least 3 months in order to allow sufficient time for owners to become familiar with their dogs' typical behavioural responses. An additional 36 CBE breeding dogs were removed from analysis because their neuter status was not reported by their owners. This left us with 715 dogs in the age-verified CBE ex-breeding dog dataset for which we attempted to find a matching control case with respect to approximate age ( $\pm 6$  months), sex, breed and (when possible) neuter status within the pet owner dataset. We were able to find age-, sex-, and breed-matched controls for 332 of the CBE ex-breeding dogs, yielding a total sample size of 664 dogs (332 CBE ex-breeding dogs and 332 matched controls). As reported by their owners, the control cases had been acquired from a variety of sources (‘bred by owner’: 9 (2.7%), ‘breeder’: 181 (54.5%), ‘pet store’: 22 (6.6%), ‘friend or relative’: 33 (9.9%), ‘stray’: 8 (2.4%), ‘shelter’: 62 (18.7%), and ‘other’: 17 (5.1%).

### 2.4. Statistical analyses

All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 17 software. Chi-square tests were used to compare categorical variables between the two samples (CBE ex-breeding dogs and pet dogs). A Kruskal–Wallis test was used to compare the duration of ownership between the two samples. Ordinal Generalized Linear Models (GLM) were fitted to assess the effect of the dog's background (CBE ex-breeding dogs versus matched controls) on each C-BARQ item/subscale, with the presence of other dogs in the home (other dogs; yes/no), the length of time in the home (duration of ownership in months), and neuter status included as potential confounding effects. Corrections for multiple tests were performed using a Sequential Bonferroni procedure (Holm, 1979) in which  $P_i \leq \alpha / (1 + k - i)$  where  $\alpha = 0.05$ ,  $k = 36$  and  $P_i = P_1, P_2, P_3, \dots, P_{36}$ .

## 3. Results

### 3.1. CBE ex-breeding dog data

A total of 1420 completed surveys were received, of which 251 were eliminated because: (1) the dog was not a

former CBE breeding dog, (2) the dog's CBE breeding history could not be ascertained from the owner, and (3) the questionnaires were incomplete or contained duplicate entries. This left a final sample size of 1169 for the descriptive analysis of CBE dogs. Due to some initial errors in the owners' reporting of the age of the dogs when evaluated and when acquired (e.g., some cases where the age at which the dog was evaluated was younger than when it was reportedly acquired), owners of all former CBE breeding dogs were contacted in order to verify the age of the dog and the approximate date on which it was obtained. Of these, 851 responded with the information necessary to perform analyses involving the dogs' ages and length of time living in the home.

Among the CBE ex-breeding dogs, 76 different breeds were represented. The largest represented breed was the Bichon Frise (31.5%); Papillon, Shih Tzu, and Golden Retriever each comprised just under 5% of the dogs (4.96%, 4.96%, 4.88%, respectively). Other breeds comprised 4% or less of the population. The most likely explanation for the high proportion of Bichon Frises in our study is that the director of a very large Bichon breed rescue organization (Small Paws Rescue, Tulsa, Oklahoma) was extremely diligent in obtaining the participation of the adopters of their former CBE dogs. The sex ratio was 70.3% females and 29.7% males, consistent with the greater proportion of breeding females than males in CBEs. Most of the dogs were living in multi-dog households (91.4%).

Health problems affected approximately one-quarter (26.8%) of CBE ex-breeding dogs, while behavioural concerns were reported in over 80% of the dogs, with 47.9% reporting only minor behavioural problems, and 33.2% reporting moderate to serious problems. Based on the subset of former CBE breeding dogs for whom the age when acquired and evaluated could be verified ( $N=851$ ), dogs were acquired at the age of 5 years on average ( $\pm 0.09$  SE; minimum and maximum age acquired: 0.83 years and 15 years, respectively) and had been living in their adoptive homes for an average of 24 months ( $\pm 10.08$  SE; minimum and maximum time in the home: <1 month and 202 months, respectively) when the C-BARQ was completed. On average, dogs were 7 years old ( $\pm 0.12$  SE) at the time of data collection (minimum and maximum ages: 1 year and 25 years old, respectively). It should be borne in mind, however, that estimates of CBE dogs' ages are, in many cases, a matter of educated guesswork based on standard aging criteria, such as dental disease and body condition (Hinds, 1993; USDA, 2004).

### 3.2. Comparison of former CBE breeding dogs with 'typical' pet dogs

Fifty different breeds were represented in the data; 17.5% of the samples were Bichon Frise and 12% were Golden Retrievers. Chihuahuas, Shih Tzus, and Papillons comprised 6.9%, 5.7%, and 4.8% of the data, respectively. The remaining breeds each comprised  $\leq 4\%$  of the data, all of which were included in the analysis. The combined sample consisted of 65.7% females and 34.3% males.

Health and behavioural concerns were reported at significantly higher rates among owners of former CBE

**Table 1**  
Frequency of reports of health problems and behavioural concerns by owners of former CBE breeders and matched pet owners.

|                             | CBE ex-breeding dogs | Matched controls |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Health problems</i>      |                      |                  |
| Yes                         | 78 (24) <sup>a</sup> | 55 (17)          |
| No                          | 254 (77)             | 277 (83)         |
| <i>Behavioural concerns</i> |                      |                  |
| No problems                 | 56 (17)              | 146 (44)         |
| Only minor problems         | 166 (50)             | 119 (36)         |
| Moderate problems           | 90 (27)              | 53 (16)          |
| Serious problems            | 20 (6)               | 14 (4)           |
| Total                       | 332                  | 332              |

<sup>a</sup> Numbers in parentheses indicate percentages within each dataset.

breeding dogs than for matched controls, with 23.5% of CBE ex-breeding dog owners reporting health problems compared to 16.6% of matched pet owners ( $\chi^2 = 4.974$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P = 0.026$ ), and 83.1% reporting behavioural concerns compared to 56.0% of pet owners ( $\chi^2 = 57.63$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ) (see Table 1). A significantly greater proportion of former CBE ex-breeding dogs lived in multi-dog households compared to the matched controls (88.6% compared to 67.8%, respectively; Chi-square test,  $\chi^2 = 42.0$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). The duration of time for which the dogs had been living in the home prior to evaluation was significantly lower among former CBE ex-breeding dogs than the matched controls (Kruskal-Wallis test:  $\chi^2 = 240.6$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ; mean number of months =  $20.6 \pm 1.07$  SE for former CBE ex-breeding dogs versus  $57.5 \pm 1.92$  SE for matched controls).

We compared the C-BARQ scores of former CBE breeding dogs to matched controls using separate multinomial ordinal GLMs (with cumulative logit link function) with the C-BARQ item/subscale as the response variable for each model. For the response variables, the 22 stand-alone items were used in their original raw format (i.e., the ordinal scale of 0 through 4). Due to their non-normal and often highly skewed, semi-discrete distributions, the 14 subscales were converted into ordinal variables using quartiles as the cutoff values (see Table 2). The presence of other dogs in the

**Table 2**  
Quartiles used to create discrete ordinal categories for each of the 14 subscales. Scores at or below each cutoff value were recoded as indicated in the column header. Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of questions that comprise each subscale.

| C-BARQ subscale                   | 1     | 2     | 3      | 4                |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|--------|------------------|
| Stranger-directed aggression (10) | 0     | 0.2   | 0.8    | >0.8             |
| Owner-directed aggression (8)     | 0     | 0.125 | >0.125 | n/a <sup>a</sup> |
| Dog-directed aggression (4)       | 0     | 0.25  | 1.0    | >1.0             |
| Dog rivalry (4)                   | 0     | 0.25  | 0.75   | >0.75            |
| Trainability (8)                  | 1.75  | 2.25  | 2.75   | >2.75            |
| Chasing (4)                       | 0.25  | 1.5   | 2.5    | >2.5             |
| Stranger-directed fear (4)        | 0     | 1.0   | 2.75   | >2.75            |
| Dog-directed fear (4)             | 0.25  | 0.75  | 1.667  | >1.667           |
| Nonsocial fear (6)                | 0.5   | 1.083 | 2.0    | >2.0             |
| Separation-related problems (8)   | 0.125 | 0.5   | 1.0    | >1.0             |
| Touch sensitivity (4)             | 0.25  | 1.0   | 1.67   | >1.67            |
| Excitability (6)                  | 1.5   | 2.0   | 2.67   | >2.67            |
| Attachment/attention-seeking (6)  | 1.5   | 2.0   | 2.67   | >2.67            |
| Energy (2)                        | 1.0   | 1.5   | 2.5    | >2.5             |

<sup>a</sup> The first and second quartiles had the value of 0, therefore only 3 categories were formed.

Table 3

Results of the ordinal Generalized Linear Models. *P* values represent the main effect of being a former CBE breeding dog.

| Response variable                         | <i>P</i> | Odds ratio | <i>B</i> | SE    | 95% CI           | Confounders <sup>b</sup> |
|---|----------|------------|----------|-------|------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Escapes<sup>a</sup></b>                | 0.002    | 0.56       | −0.571   | 0.183 | (−0.929, −0.212) |                          |
| Rolls in feces                            | 0.009    | 0.62       | −0.473   | 0.183 | (−0.831, −0.116) |                          |
| Coprophagia                               | 0.013    | 1.58       | 0.455    | 0.183 | (0.098, 0.813)   | 1                        |
| Chews                                     | 0.701    |            |          |       |                  | 3                        |
| Mounts                                    | 0.015    | 0.53       | −0.629   | 0.258 | (−1.135, −0.124) |                          |
| <b>Begs</b>                               | 0.003    | 0.60       | −0.512   | 0.173 | (−0.851, −0.173) | 1                        |
| Steals food                               | 0.011    | 0.63       | −0.466   | 0.183 | (−0.824, −0.108) | 2                        |
| <b>Nervous on stairs</b>                  | <0.0001  | 5.98       | 1.789    | 0.222 | (1.353, 2.225)   |                          |
| <b>Pulls on leash</b>                     | 0.0002   | 0.51       | −0.679   | 0.183 | (−1.037, −0.320) | 1, 3                     |
| <b>Urine marking</b>                      | 0.001    | 2.06       | 0.724    | 0.222 | (0.290, 1.159)   | 1, 2                     |
| Emotional urination                       | 0.959    |            |          |       |                  |                          |
| <b>Urination when left alone</b>          | <0.0001  | 2.81       | 1.032    | 0.197 | (0.647, 1.416)   | 2                        |
| <b>Defecation when left alone</b>         | 0.0003   | 2.07       | 0.726    | 0.202 | (0.331, 1.121)   | 2                        |
| Hyperactive                               | 0.012    | 0.62       | −0.482   | 0.191 | (−0.856, −0.108) | 3                        |
| <b>Stares intently at nothing visible</b> | 0.003    | 1.87       | 0.626    | 0.210 | (0.215, 1.037)   | 1                        |
| Snaps at flies                            | 0.257    |            |          |       |                  |                          |
| Tail chasing                              | 0.011    | 0.50       | −0.688   | 0.269 | (−1.216, −0.160) | 1, 3                     |
| <b>Shadow chasing</b>                     | 0.001    | 0.40       | −0.927   | 0.282 | (−1.481, −0.373) | 1                        |
| Barks persistently                        | 0.004    | 0.61       | −0.501   | 0.174 | (−0.842, −0.159) |                          |
| Self grooming                             | 0.007    | 1.65       | 0.499    | 0.186 | (0.135, 0.864)   | 1, 3                     |
| Allo grooming                             | 0.072    |            |          |       |                  | 1                        |
| Other stereotyped behaviour               | 0.005    | 1.91       | 0.648    | 0.229 | (0.199, 1.098)   |                          |
| <b>Stranger-directed aggression</b>       | <0.0001  | 0.40       | −0.942   | 0.183 | (−1.299, −0.585) | 1                        |
| Owner-directed aggression                 | 0.004    | 0.55       | −0.606   | 0.211 | (−1.020, −0.191) | 1                        |
| <b>Dog-directed aggression</b>            | <0.0001  | 0.30       | −1.202   | 0.188 | (−1.569, −0.834) |                          |
| <b>Dog rivalry</b>                        | <0.0001  | 0.42       | −0.864   | 0.191 | (−1.237, −0.490) |                          |
| Separation-related problems               | 0.093    |            |          |       |                  | 1                        |
| <b>Trainability</b>                       | <0.0001  | 0.25       | −1.370   | 0.186 | (−1.734, −1.006) |                          |
| <b>Chasing small animals</b>              | <0.0001  | 0.20       | −1.623   | 0.195 | (−2.004, −1.242) |                          |
| <b>Stranger-directed fear</b>             | <0.0001  | 8.12       | 2.094    | 0.195 | (1.712, 2.476)   |                          |
| <b>Dog-directed fear</b>                  | 0.002    | 1.78       | 0.577    | 0.183 | (0.220, 0.835)   | 1                        |
| <b>Nonsocial fear</b>                     | <0.0001  | 6.62       | 1.89     | 0.193 | (1.511, 2.269)   |                          |
| <b>Touch sensitivity</b>                  | <0.0001  | 3.19       | 1.161    | 0.182 | (0.803, 1.518)   |                          |
| <b>Excitability</b>                       | <0.0001  | 0.47       | −0.761   | 0.179 | (−1.112, −0.409) |                          |
| Attachment/attention-seeking              | 0.846    |            |          |       |                  | 3                        |
| <b>Energy</b>                             | <0.0001  | 0.29       | −1.253   | 0.184 | (−1.614, −0.893) | 3                        |

<sup>a</sup> Items in boldface are significantly different after sequential Bonferroni correction.<sup>b</sup> Confounders with main effects: 1 = other dogs in household, 2 = neuter status, 3 = duration of ownership. Boldface indicates significance with sequential Bonferroni correction.

home (other dogs; yes/no), the length of time in the home (duration of ownership in months), and neuter status were also included as potential confounding effects. The latter was included because it was not possible to match every case with respect to neuter status. The CBE ex-breeding dog dataset contained four intact dogs (two male, two female) while the matched control dataset contained 20 intact dogs (15 female, 5 male). The remaining dogs were all neutered at the time of evaluation and both intact and neutered dogs were included in the analyses. Due to the severe imbalance or skewed nature of the confounding variables, interaction terms could not be included without encountering quasi-complete separation of the data; therefore, only main effects were included in the models.

Significant differences were found between CBE ex-breeding dogs and matched controls for 20 out of 36 behavioural variables measured by the C-BARQ (see Table 3). In general, CBE ex-breeding dogs exhibited more fear/nervousness, compulsive behaviours (defined as behaviours that are usually brought on by conflict, but subsequently displayed out of context and are often repetitive, exaggerated or sustained' (Hewson and Luescher, 1996), e.g., staring at nothing visible), house soiling when left alone, and sensitivity to touch compared to matched

controls, and less aggression, excitability, energy, chasing small animals, and escaping/roaming. Most notably, CBE ex-breeding dogs showed markedly higher levels of fear. Compared to matched controls, the odds of scoring in the upper quartiles for stranger-directed fear were more than eight times higher in CBE ex-breeding dogs while holding the intervening variables constant. Likewise, the odds of scoring in the upper quartiles for nonsocial fear or receiving a higher scale score for 'nervous on stairs' were nearly six times greater for CBE ex-breeding dogs compared to matched controls. In addition, scoring in the upper quartiles for trainability (which would indicate a dog that is more easily trained) was 75% less likely for CBE ex-breeding dogs compared to matched controls when the intervening variables were held constant.

CBE ex-breeding dogs showed significantly lower levels of aggression compared to matched controls. They were 60% less likely to score in the upper quartiles for aggression directed toward strangers than matched controls when intervening variables were held constant. CBE ex-breeding dogs also scored lower for aggression directed toward other dogs (58% and 70% less likely to score in the upper quartiles for aggression toward familiar and unfamiliar dogs, respectively). Likewise, CBE ex-breeding dogs were 71%

and 53% less likely than matched controls to score in the upper quartiles for energy level and excitability, respectively. CBE ex-breeding dogs were 80% less likely to score in the upper quartiles for chasing small animals compared to matched controls when intervening variables were held constant.

The presence or absence of other dogs in the household had a significant main effect on a number of behaviours (Table 3), with dogs living in multi-dog households scoring more favorably than dogs in single-dog homes for all but coprophagia and urine marking. Neuter status had only marginal effects (Table 3), with intact dogs scoring less favorably, that did not reach statistical significance when corrections for multiple comparisons were made. The duration of time in the household also had a number of effects on behaviour, with increased time in the home associated with improved behaviour for all except self-grooming (Table 3).

#### 4. Discussion

The psychological state that most obviously distinguishes former CBE breeding dogs from typical pet dogs is fear. As determined by their numerical scores on most of the C-BARQ fear subscales (fear of strangers, fear of stairs, nonsocial fears, and touch sensitivity), many of these dogs appear to experience regular and often persistent fear or anxiety, even after years in their adoptive households. The psychological composition of elevated fears toward unfamiliar people and dogs while demonstrating decreased aggression toward the same would tend to indicate chronic up-regulation of the hypothalamic–pituitary axis (HPA) “fight or flight” mechanism with a bias toward flight. In addition, CBE ex-breeding dogs exhibited significantly higher frequencies of house-soiling (urination and defecation when left alone, and urine marking) and compulsive behaviours, and significantly reduced scores for aggression, trainability, chasing small animals, excitability, and energy.

The abnormal behaviours (as compared to the control population) observed in the former CBE breeding dogs in this study have multiple potential causes. However, the two explanations most consistent with the findings are stress-induced psychopathology and inadequate early socialization and/or lack of exposure to environmental stimuli normally found in the lives of typical pet dogs.

##### 4.1. Stress-induced psychopathology

Although no studies on sources of stress in CBEs or their potential effects on the well-being of the dogs have been published, these factors have been investigated in dogs living in confinement in kennels (Beerda et al., 1999a,b; Hiby et al., 2006; Lefebvre et al., 2009; Rooney et al., 2007; Stephen and Ledger, 2005; Taylor and Mills, 2007), animal shelters (Tuber et al., 1999; Wells et al., 2002), and laboratories (Campbell et al., 1988; Hubrecht, 1993; Hughes et al., 1989). Similar stressors have been documented in the CBE environment (USDA, 2004), and it is therefore reasonable to presume that the findings for dogs confined in kennels, shelters, and laboratories are applicable to the dogs in the present study, despite some differences in

background, housing and husbandry. Specific factors that have been determined to be associated with stress in dogs living in confined environments include: spatial restriction (Beerda et al., 1999a,b; Wells et al., 2002); extreme temperatures (Morgan and Tromborg, 2007; Smalley, 2009; USDA, 2004); aversive interactions with kennel staff (Morgan and Tromborg, 2007; Scott and Fuller, 1965); lack of ‘control’ or the capacity to avoid or regulate exposure to aversive stimuli (Stephen and Ledger, 2005; Taylor and Mills, 2007; Tuber et al., 1999; Wells et al., 2002), and limited access to positive human and conspecific social interactions (Beerda et al., 1999a; Hubrecht, 1993; Hubrecht et al., 1992; Hughes et al., 1989).

The fact that dogs used for breeding purposes in CBEs typically live for years in the facility raises the issue of chronicity of stressor exposure; specifically, whether the kennel and shelter-related stressors just discussed are, when experienced chronically, sufficient for causing psychopathological changes in dogs. Recent studies in humans have demonstrated that chronic adversity in people has the potential to create profound emotional scars that may affect the individual for the remainder of his or her life (Niederland, 1964; van der Kolk et al., 2005). Chronic stress in dogs in kennel and shelter environments has been the subject of a few studies. Beerda et al. (2000) reported that dogs unable to cope successfully with inadequate housing conditions may become chronically stressed, as indicated by physiological indices and behaviour. The dogs may develop abnormal behaviours such as hyperactivity, timidity, aggression, and stereotypic locomotory behaviours (circling, pacing, and wall-bouncing) (Hubrecht, 1992; Hubrecht et al., 1992).

Physical health problems were reported at significantly higher rates among owners of former CBE breeding dogs than for matched controls. This may simply reflect standard health care while in the CBE; however, adverse effects of stress on physical health are well-documented (Riley, 1981; Weiss, 1972) and numerous studies in humans and other animals have determined that exposure to chronic stress or traumatic events is associated with poor physical health and increased susceptibility to disease (Broom and Kirkden, 2004; Krause et al., 2004). Such effects may act over lengthy periods: longitudinal research shows that adverse and traumatic childhood experiences may impair physical health into adulthood (Edwards et al., 2003).

##### 4.2. Inadequate socialization

The second major potential cause of many of the signs observed in the dogs in the present study is inadequate socialization and/or insufficient exposure to environmental stimuli during the first few months of life. The sensitive period for socialization occurs during the first 4 months of life (Scott and Fuller, 1965; Serpell and Jagoe, 1995), and, with rare exceptions, CBE breeding dogs are themselves conceived, born, and raised in CBEs, and live in CBEs throughout their sensitive periods (Hughes, personal communication, 2009). Various early experimental studies have demonstrated that young dogs reared in socially and environmentally impoverished conditions during the first 4–6 months subsequently have great difficulty adapting

to novel environments. Dogs reared entirely in kennels, for example, exhibit a condition—sometimes known as ‘kennel-dog syndrome’—characterized by extreme fear and timidity when subsequently exposed to unfamiliar social interactions or environments (Clarke et al., 1951; Melzack and Thompson, 1956; Panksepp et al., 1983; Scott and Fuller, 1965; Serpell and Jagoe, 1995). Other studies have indicated that pups that are socially isolated from 3 days to 20 weeks of age are disturbed for life (Agrawal et al., 1967) and have impaired learning ability (Melzack and Scott, 1957). These effects of exposure to restricted early rearing conditions are usually extremely persistent and resistant to rehabilitation (Panksepp et al., 1983), an outcome that may be due to irreversible alterations in the structure and complexity of the developing brain (Serpell et al., 2006).

As a group, the CBE dogs in the present study exhibit a variety of abnormal behaviours consistent with the effects of poor socialization and stimulus deprivation in early life (Freedman et al., 1961; Scott and Fuller, 1965; Serpell and Jagoe, 1995). These include extreme fear responses to anyone or anything unfamiliar, compulsive or stereotypic behaviours, and reduced trainability (due to either cognitive deficits or an inability to relate properly to humans). Other unusual aspects of their behaviour, including exceptionally low levels of aggression, chasing small animals, energy and excitability (reactivity), and increased touch sensitivity, fear of stairs, and house-soiling, could also be plausibly attributed to lack of relevant environmental experience during appropriate sensitive periods in early development (Serpell and Jagoe, 1995).

#### 4.3. Other potential causes of psychobehavioural abnormalities in former CBE dogs

In view of the fact that the prenatal life of breeding dogs occurs in CBEs, the conditions and events during this period may play a role in the psychological development of the fetus. The effects on the developing offspring of stress experienced by the pregnant mother have been the subject of a large body of research. Offspring of pregnant animals exposed to various stressors have been documented with neurohormonal dysfunction (Seckl, 2004) and dysregulation of the HPA axis (Dickerson et al., 2005); abnormal response to (Henry et al., 1994), increased sensitivity to (Mastorci et al., 2009), and impaired ability to cope with stress (Braastad, 1998); exaggerated distress responses to aversive events (Morgan and Thayer, 1997); impaired learning (Nishio et al., 2001); abnormal social behaviour (Clarke and Schneider, 1993); increased emotionality and fear-related behaviour (Lehmann et al., 2000) and fearful behaviours that increase with increasing age (Dickerson et al., 2005); increased susceptibility to pathophysiological outcomes when further adversity occurs during adulthood (Mastorci et al., 2009); and behavioural deficits and molecular changes in the offspring similar to those in schizophrenic humans (Lee et al., 2007).

Longitudinal research in humans shows that adverse and traumatic childhood experiences—or, early life adversity (ELA)—impair mental and physical health into adulthood (Edwards et al., 2003). Studies in humans have identified ELA as a major risk factor for many serious adult

mental health problems, such as unstable social relationships and anxiety and depressive mood disorders (Heim et al., 2002; Shea et al., 2005). Evidence from studies of human (Edwards et al., 2003) and nonhuman (Ladd et al., 2000) animals supports the thesis that ELA has extensive and enduring effects with strong correlations to the development of psychopathology later in life. Several rodent and primate models of ELA, including those that model maternal separation or loss, abuse, neglect, and social deprivation, have demonstrated that early experiences of major adversity are associated with long-term alterations in neuroendocrine responsiveness to stress, emotional and behavioural regulation, coping style, cognitive function, quality of social affiliations and relationships, and expression levels of nervous system genes shown to be associated with anxiety and mood disorders (Cohen et al., 2006; Sanchez et al., 2001).

Canine studies of the long-term effects of ELA are scarce. In their influential work on behavioural genetics in dogs, Scott and Fuller (1965) wrote that “the emotional sensitivity of the puppy during the period of socialization suggests that this period might also be a critical one for permanent psychological damage.” Subsequently, Fox and Stelzner (1966) were able to demonstrate a short period at approximately 8 weeks when puppies were hypersensitive to distressing psychological or physical stimuli, and during which a single unpleasant experience could produce long-term aversive or abnormal effects. They concluded that during this brief period of puppyhood, dogs are particularly vulnerable to psychological damage. As a result of being raised in the CBE environment, the dogs in this study were presumably exposed to the stressors inherent in this environment during the early developmental stage of their lives. Consequently, the origins of the psychological changes recognized in this study may also be traceable to stressful events of the dogs’ early life.

In summary, multiple factors may by themselves or in combination play a contributory role in the psychobehavioural abnormalities seen in the former breeding dogs from CBEs. However, the data are unable to determine specific causative relationships.

A final, and crucial, point of discussion is that anecdotal evidence as well as unpublished data on 878 of the dogs in this study show that many of the ex-CBE dogs can and will overcome much of the increased levels of fear through dedicated behavioural therapy and extreme patience on the part of the dogs’ adoptive owners. Because of the large degree of success in rehabilitation we wish to make it clear that these dogs are not to be avoided as pets. Further, because of the fact that many of the dogs improve over time and were likely to have been in an improved state when they were entered in the study, the differences revealed in this study are possibly an underestimate of the full extent of the effects of CBE life.

#### 5. Limitations

It is important to acknowledge the potential limitations of the current findings. Both CBE ex-breeding dogs and matched control samples were self-selected and may therefore be unrepresentative of the populations from



which they were drawn. Also, while every effort was made to match the pet dog and CBE samples, participants were recruited in different ways, and the samples differed from each other in other important respects (e.g., reproductive history, etc.). These differences may have contributed in unknown ways to the observed differences in C-BARQ scores. We also cannot rule out the possibility that a small proportion of the dogs in the matched control sample came originally from CBEs. However, if some of the controls were formerly from CBEs, the expectation would be that this would create more overlap between the two populations, thus reducing the size of any observed differences. Therefore, if anything, the differences reported in the present study are conservative estimates of the effects of being former CBE breeding dogs. In addition, the adoptive owners of former CBE breeding dogs were aware of the purpose of the study and may therefore have been sensitized to, and more likely to report, any unusual behaviour of their dogs when compared to the pet owners.

## 6. Conclusions

Substantial anecdotal evidence suggests that the welfare of dogs in commercial breeding establishments (or puppy mills) is poor, but scientific evidence has heretofore been lacking. By demonstrating that dogs maintained in these environments were reported to have developed long-term fears and phobias, compulsive behaviours such as circling and pacing, possible learning deficits, and are often unable to cope fully with normal existence, this study provides the first clear quantitative evidence that dogs confined in CBEs for breeding purposes demonstrate impaired mental health and, as a result, diminished welfare.

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## Conflicts of interest

The authors declare that no conflict of interest exists in which any author or authors' institution has a financial or other relationship with other people or organizations that may inappropriately influence the authors' work.

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# Differences in behavioral characteristics between dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores and those obtained from noncommercial breeders

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**Objective**—To compare the owner-reported prevalence of behavioral characteristics in dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores with that of dogs obtained as puppies from noncommercial breeders.

**Design**—Cross-sectional study.

**Animals**—Dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores (n = 413) and breeder-obtained dogs (5,657).

**Procedures**—Behavioral evaluations were obtained from a large convenience sample of current dog owners with the online version of the Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire, which uses ordinal scales to rate either the intensity or frequency of the dogs' behavior. Hierarchic linear and logistic regression models were used to analyze the effects of source of acquisition on behavioral outcomes when various confounding and intervening variables were controlled for.

**Results**—Pet store-derived dogs received significantly less favorable scores than did breeder-obtained dogs on 12 of 14 of the behavioral variables measured; pet store dogs did not score more favorably than breeder dogs in any behavioral category. Compared with dogs obtained as puppies from noncommercial breeders, dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores had significantly greater aggression toward human family members, unfamiliar people, and other dogs; greater fear of other dogs and nonsocial stimuli; and greater separation-related problems and house soiling.

**Conclusions and Clinical Relevance**—Obtaining dogs from pet stores versus noncommercial breeders represented a significant risk factor for the development of a wide range of undesirable behavioral characteristics. Until the causes of the unfavorable differences detected in this group of dogs can be specifically identified and remedied, the authors cannot recommend that puppies be obtained from pet stores. (*J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2013;242:1359–1363)

It has long been an article of faith among veterinarians and canine professionals that dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores have a higher prevalence of health and behavioral problems.<sup>1</sup> However, there has been a dearth of empirical studies to support this notion. In a retrospective survey of the owners of 737 adult dogs, Jagoe<sup>a</sup> found that dogs obtained from pet shops had a significantly higher prevalence of owner-directed (dominance-type) aggression and social fears (fear of strangers, children, and unfamiliar dogs) than did dogs from 5 other sources: breeders, animal shelters, friends or relatives, found or rescued off the streets, and home bred (ie, bred and reared in the current owner's home).<sup>2</sup> However, the sample size of pet store dogs in that study<sup>a</sup> was small (n = 20).

Bennett and Rohlf<sup>3</sup> investigated the frequency of potential problematic behavior patterns as reported

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## ABBREVIATIONS

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| C-BARQ | Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire |
| CBE    | Commercial breeding establishment                       |
| NCB    | Noncommercial breeder                                   |

by owners in a convenience sample of 413 companion dogs, of which 47 were obtained from pet stores. Results indicated that dogs purchased from pet shops or shelters were considered by their owners to be more unfriendly or aggressive than were dogs purchased from breeders and significantly more nervous than dogs bred by the present owner. However, by using broadly defined behavioral subscales rather than discrete behaviors, the researchers were not able to ascertain whether pet shop dogs had specific problematic behaviors more frequently than did dogs from other sources.

Mugford<sup>4</sup> reported analyzing a sample of 1,864 dogs with various behavioral problems and determined that “only 10% of purebred dogs obtained directly from breeders presented separation-related problems, whereas 55% of purebred dogs originating from so-called ‘puppy farms’ or ‘puppy mills’ present such problems.” Sample sizes and the way in which it was determined

that the dogs came from puppy farms or puppy mills were not reported.

Some inconsistent findings have also been reported. Pierantoni et al<sup>5</sup> compared owner-reported behaviors between 70 adult dogs separated from their litters at 30 to 40 days of age and 70 adult dogs separated from their litters at 2 months of age. Their analysis included the source of the dog classified into 3 categories: breeder, pet shop, or friend or relative. The researchers found no significant association between the source of the dog and the behavioral categories examined. In a study of the efficacy of a dog-appeasing pheromone in reducing stress associated with social isolation in puppies recently acquired from pet stores, Gaultier et al<sup>6</sup> noted that their data did not seem to support the hypothesis that puppies from pet stores constitute a special, at-risk population for the development of behavioral problems. The researchers reported that the puppies in that study<sup>6</sup> (n = 66) did not appear to disturb their owners any more than those in a previous study by Taylor and Mills<sup>7</sup> involving puppies acquired from local pedigree dog breeders. However, the breeders in the latter study<sup>7</sup> included a semicommercial breeder and at least 1 puppy mill.<sup>b</sup>

Most puppies sold by pet stores in the United States are purchased from brokers, who may themselves be breeders but overwhelmingly acquire their puppies from high-volume breeding facilities, or CBEs, located throughout the United States.<sup>8</sup> Conditions in the CBEs, which supply tens of thousands of puppies to retail pet stores each year, vary widely. Conditions in CBEs range from modern, clean, and well-kept to squalid, noxious, and gravely detrimental to animal health and welfare.<sup>9-11</sup>

The purpose of the study reported here was to evaluate the hypothesis that dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores would be reported to have an increased prevalence of behavioral problems, compared with dogs obtained as puppies from NCBS.

## Materials and Methods

**Data collection**—Behavioral evaluations of the dogs were obtained by use of the online version of the C-BARQ, a standardized survey instrument with established reliability and validity characteristics.<sup>12</sup> The C-BARQ is designed to provide quantitative assessments of a wide array of behavioral characteristics of dogs and has been widely used as a research tool for comparing behavior in different dog populations.<sup>13-15</sup> The questionnaire consists of 100 items that ask respondents to indicate on a series of 5-point ordinal rating scales their dogs' typical responses to a variety of everyday situations during the recent past. The scales rate either the intensity (aggression, fear, and excitability subscales) or frequency (all remaining subscales and miscellaneous items) of the behaviors, with a score of 0 indicating the absence of the behavior and a score of 4 indicating the most intense or frequent form of the behavior. The C-BARQ currently comprises 14 behavioral factors or subscales and a further 22 miscellaneous stand-alone items. Higher scores are generally less favorable for all items and subscales, with the exception of trainability, for which higher scores are more desirable. Owners were also asked to indicate

the dog's current age at the time the survey was completed, whether there were other dogs living in the same household, and whether the dog was used for specific working or recreational roles, including breeding or showing, field trials or hunting, other sports (eg, agility, racing, or sledding), and working roles (eg, search and rescue, service, or sheep herding). To obtain information on the source from which the dog was acquired, owners were also asked to respond to the question, "where did you acquire this dog?" Possible responses included the following: bred him/her myself; from a breeder; from a shelter or rescue group; from a neighbor, friend, or relative; bought from a pet store; adopted as a stray; and other. Consistent with the 2 previous studies<sup>3,8</sup> that offered pet-owning participants the choice of breeder as the source of the dog, the question in the C-BARQ regarding the source of the dog does not define the term breeder.

**Sample**—The online C-BARQ was advertised originally via an article in the newsmagazine of the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and by notices sent to Philadelphia-area veterinary clinics and the top 20 US breed clubs, as determined on the basis of American Kennel Club registrations. Availability of the survey then spread via word of mouth. No geographic limitations were applied, and participation included residents of the United States as well as other countries. A subset of these data consisting entirely of pet dogs whose owners reported obtaining them either from breeders (n = 5,657) or pet stores (413) was used for analysis. Breeder-obtained dogs were selected as the comparison group for the following reasons: age at the time of acquisition would most closely match pet store-obtained dogs; for the most part, breeder-obtained dogs are purebred as are those from pet stores; and the life history of the dog prior to purchase in breeder-obtained puppies is relatively standardized, thereby reducing the amount of environmental variability among the dogs of this group. These assumptions apply to the United States and may have less validity in other countries.

**Statistical analysis**—Two-level hierarchic linear or logistic regression models were used to analyze the data on behavioral measures.<sup>16</sup> The outcome variables (attachment and attention seeking, chasing, trainability, excitability, and energy) in the hierarchic linear model were treated as normally distributed continuous variables. All other behavioral variables were dichotomized (eg, 0 or > 0) because they were typically highly skewed and it was impossible to identify a suitable transformation method to normalize their distribution. These were analyzed with 2-level mixed logistic models. Both types of model aimed to assess the relationship between source of acquisition (eg, pet store vs breeder) and behavior while controlling for various confounding variables (other dogs in household, working or recreational roles, sex, and body weight) or intervening variables (neutered vs sexually intact and age at the time of evaluation). All possible 2-way interactions between source of acquisition and confounding and intervening variables were explored and accounted for in the modeling process. Nonsignificant confounding and intervening variables and interaction effects were removed from the

model. Breed was also included in both models as a random effect to account for clustering of dogs at the breed level. Linear and logistic models were fit via restricted and full maximum likelihood estimation procedures. The analysis was performed with statistical software<sup>17</sup> by use of subject-specific models.<sup>c,d</sup> For all comparisons, a value of  $P < 0.05$  was considered significant.

## Results

According to the results of the multiple regression analyses, dogs acquired from pet stores differed significantly from those acquired from breeders on 12 of 14 of the C-BARQ behavioral subscales. In no category did pet store dogs have a more desirable score than breeder dogs (Tables 1 and 2). The strongest effects were observed in relation to aggressive behavior. For example, sexually intact pet store dogs were 3 times as likely to have owner-directed aggression as were sexually intact dogs acquired from breeders, and pet store dogs were nearly twice as likely to have aggression toward unfamiliar dogs (dog-directed aggression). Pet store dogs were also 30% to 60% more likely to have stranger-directed aggression, aggression to other household dogs, fear of dogs

and nonsocial stimuli, separation-related problems, and touch sensitivity. In addition, they were somewhat more excitable, energetic, and attention seeking and generally less trainable, although this was only true for dogs that did not participate in working or recreational activities. The only C-BARQ subscales that were not significantly different between pet store and breeder-derived dogs were chasing and stranger-directed fear. In addition, pet store-obtained dogs had a range of miscellaneous behavioral problems at significantly higher frequencies than did those acquired from breeders (eg, escaping from the home, sexual mounting of people and objects, and most forms of house-soiling).

## Discussion

Results of this study supported the view that dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores are more likely to develop behavioral problems as adults, compared with dogs obtained from NCBs. The retrospective nature of the data used in this analysis did not permit determinations of causality. However, there are several potential explanations for the differences between pet store and NCB dogs.

Table 1—Results of linear regression models comparing behavioral variables in dogs obtained from pet stores versus dogs obtained from NCBs.

| Variable                         | Other variables controlled | Predictor          | Effect | 95% CI         | P value |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|---------|
| Excitability                     | 1,2,3,4,6                  | PS                 | 0.204  | 0.12 to 0.29   | < 0.001 |
| Energy                           | 1,2,3,4,6                  | PS                 | 0.109  | 0.004 to 0.21  | 0.043   |
| Chasing                          |                            | PS                 | 0.002  | -0.13 to 0.10  | 0.769   |
| Attachment and attention seeking | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS                 | 0.204  | 0.12 to 0.29   | < 0.001 |
| Trainability                     | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS—Not working dog | -0.195 | -0.26 to -0.13 | < 0.001 |
|                                  |                            | PS—Working dog     | 0.098  | -0.07 to 0.27  | 0.262   |

PS = Acquired from pet store.  
Other variables controlled were as follows: 1 = other dogs, 2 = dogs with working or recreational roles, 3 = sex, 4 = weight, 5 = neutered, 6 = age at time of evaluation (nonsignificant intervening variables [those variables that intervene the relationship between variable and predictor] were removed from the analyses).

Table 2—Results of logistic regression models comparing behavioral variables in dogs obtained from pet stores versus dogs obtained from NCBs.

| Variable                              | Other variables controlled | Predictor       | OR   | 95% CI    | P value |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------|-----------|---------|
| Separation-related behavior           | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS              | 1.58 | 1.19–2.11 | 0.002   |
| Owner-directed aggression             | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS—Not neutered | 3.13 | 1.87–5.23 | < 0.001 |
|                                       |                            | PS—Neutered     | 1.54 | 1.16–2.06 | 0.003   |
| Stranger-directed aggression          | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS              | 1.59 | 1.18–2.16 | 0.003   |
| Nonsocial fear                        | 1,2,3,4,5                  | PS              | 1.44 | 1.01–2.07 | 0.047   |
| Dog rivalry                           | 1,2,3,4,6                  | PS              | 1.35 | 1.05–1.74 | 0.021   |
| Dog-directed fear                     | 1,2,3,4,5                  | PS              | 1.33 | 1.03–1.71 | 0.030   |
| Dog-directed aggression               | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS              | 1.96 | 1.44–2.67 | < 0.001 |
| Touch sensitivity                     | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS              | 1.58 | 1.18–2.11 | 0.002   |
| Escapes from home or yard             | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS              | 4.14 | 1.75–9.83 | 0.001   |
| Rolls in odorous material             |                            | PS              | 0.86 | 0.67–1.09 | 0.214   |
| Coprophagia                           |                            |                 | 1.08 | 0.86–1.36 | 0.502   |
| Chews objects                         |                            |                 | 1.07 | 0.84–1.36 | 0.590   |
| Mounts objects or people              | 1,2,3,4,5                  |                 | 1.39 | 1.1–1.75  | 0.006   |
| Urines against objects or furnishings | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS              | 1.77 | 1.32–2.39 | < 0.001 |
| Submissive urination                  | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS              | 1.53 | 1.13–2.07 | 0.007   |
| Urines when left alone                | 1,2,3,4,5,6                | PS              | 1.96 | 1.52–1.52 | < 0.001 |
| Defecates when left alone             | 1,2,3,4,5                  | PS              | 1.68 | 1.31–2.16 | < 0.001 |

See Table 1 for key.

The formative stages of the puppy's life in the CBE are periods where stress may exert an impact on brain development. Although no studies on sources of stress in CBEs or their potential effects on the well-being of the dogs have been published, sources of stress have been investigated in dogs living in confinement in kennels,<sup>18-21</sup> animal shelters,<sup>22,23</sup> and laboratories.<sup>24,25</sup> Similar stressors have been documented in the CBE environment,<sup>10</sup> and it is therefore reasonable to suggest that the effects applied also to the dogs in the present study, despite some differences in background, housing, and husbandry. Specific factors that have been determined to be associated with stress in dogs living in confined environments include spatial restriction,<sup>18,19,23</sup> extreme temperatures,<sup>9,26</sup> aversive interactions with kennel staff,<sup>26,27</sup> lack of perceived control or the capacity to avoid or regulate exposure to aversive stimuli,<sup>20-23</sup> and limited access to positive human and conspecific social interactions.<sup>18,24,25</sup> A recent study<sup>11</sup> on the mental health of dogs formerly used as breeding stock in CBEs found severe and long-lasting adverse effects in dogs living in this type of environment, offering evidence of the magnitude of stressors in CBEs.

The stressors in the CBE environment may have acted at 2 stages of the developing puppies' lives: the prenatal period and the first 8 weeks after birth. A large body of research in humans and other animals has convincingly determined that prenatal stress (ie, stress experienced by a pregnant female) causes alterations to the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis of the developing fetus that may manifest later in life as an impaired ability to cope with stress,<sup>22</sup> abnormal social behavior,<sup>28,29</sup> and increased emotionality and fear-related behavior.<sup>30</sup> All of these outcomes are consistent with the differences detected in pet store- versus NCB-obtained dogs (ie, increased aggression, fear of dogs and nonsocial stimuli, and excitability). Substantial evidence in humans and other animals indicates that stressful experiences in early life may have extensive and enduring effects with strong correlations to later development of behavioral abnormalities and psychopathologic abnormalities.<sup>31-35</sup> In dogs, Fox and Stelzner<sup>36</sup> detected a short period at approximately 8 weeks of age when puppies are hypersensitive to distressing psychological or physical stimuli and during which a single unpleasant experience could result in long-term aversive or abnormal effects. Transport-related stress was suggested by both Mugford<sup>4</sup> and Gaultier et al<sup>6</sup> to be a potentially critical factor in the early lives of puppies from CBEs as they are shipped to pet stores throughout North America. Mugford,<sup>4</sup> Serpell and Jagoe,<sup>2</sup> and Bennett and Rohlf<sup>3</sup> have each suggested that a reason for pet store and CBE puppies to have a high prevalence of behavioral problems later in life is inadequate early socialization. In addition, genetic influences may play a role in the differences between pet store and NCB dogs, because a genetic basis for behavioral traits in dogs is consistent with findings observed in dogs of the present study, including fear, aggression, emotional reactivity, and nonspecific alterations in temperament and personality.<sup>27,37,38</sup>

The reported differences in the 2 groups of dogs in the present study could be attributable to a number of owner-related factors. It is possible that people who buy puppies from pet shops may use different degrees or methods of training than people who buy puppies

from an NCB. The importance of training in the development of problem behaviors was recently elucidated in the study<sup>3</sup> of the relationship of potentially problematic behaviors with other variables. The researchers found that for the 5 behavioral subscales, the strongest predictor for scoring undesirably in 3 of the 5 subscales was the level of training the dog received. The present study did not attempt to collect demographic or background information on the dog owners; therefore, the degree to which such factors may have contributed to the findings could not be assessed. An additional owner-related consideration is that it is possible that people who buy puppies from pet stores simply report potentially problematic behaviors more readily than do others, irrespective of the dog's actual behavior.

The data support the notion that dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores have substantial adverse behavioral differences, compared with dogs obtained from NCBs. Taken individually, however, the specific factors that differ between the 2 groups are not readily attributable to a single definitive explanation. For example, stranger-directed aggression may be attributable to inadequate socialization, maltreatment by humans, genetic factors, and prenatal stress. Taken collectively, no single explanatory factor appears capable of accounting for the differences between the 2 groups. For example, although inadequate socialization may explain increased aggression, the most prominent emotional consequence of insufficient socialization is fear,<sup>27,39</sup> and whereas aggression toward humans (owners and unfamiliar people) was increased, fear toward humans was not.

There were a number of limitations to the present study. The sample of dog owners was self-selected and therefore a potential source of bias. The question in the C-BARQ regarding the source of the dogs did not define breeder, leaving the participants to define the term for themselves. Accordingly, a breeder source could have indicated either type of NCB (hobby breeder or backyard breeder), and the level and type of care differ between the 2 types. These differences are presumably minor in comparison to the differences between NCBs and CBEs. It is also conceivable that the source of some dogs specified by the owner as breeder was a CBE; however, it is reasonable to conclude that there would be no overlap between breeder and pet store categories (ie, no owner with a dog coming from a pet store would select breeder as a source, and no owner with a dog coming from a breeder would select pet store as a source).

Results of the present study indicated that compared with dogs obtained as puppies from NCBs, dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores had significantly greater aggression toward human family members, unfamiliar people, and other dogs; fear of other dogs and nonsocial stimuli; separation-related problems; and urination and defecation problems in the home. On almost all behavioral variables measured, pet store dogs received less favorable scores than breeder-obtained dogs. The diversity of behavioral differences between pet store-obtained and breeder-obtained dogs suggests a multifactorial cause and, accordingly, a multifactorial approach to correction; however, the data did not permit determination of the specific contributory factors and the degree of influence they exerted. In addition,



because we did not compare the 2 groups of dogs in this study with other sources of dogs, the results should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any particular source of dogs. On the basis of these findings combined with earlier findings regarding pet store-obtained dogs, until the causes of the unfavorable differences detected in this group of dogs can be specifically identified and remedied, we cannot recommend that puppies be obtained from pet stores.

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## States with Local Pet Sale Bans

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Retail pet store sales bans are a welcome trend that is putting the squeeze on commercial breeding operations. Here is a list of the jurisdictions in the United States and Canada which have passed such legislation.

To view the full list in chronological order, [click here](#).

**Jump to a specific location by clicking on the states below and click on the jurisdiction to read the ordinance.**

[California](#) | [Colorado](#) | [Florida](#) | [Illinois](#) | [Maine](#) | [Maryland](#) | [Massachusetts](#) | [Michigan](#) | [Nevada](#) | [New Jersey](#) | [New Mexico](#) | [New York](#) | [Pennsylvania](#) | [Rhode Island](#) | [Texas](#) | [Utah](#) | [Canada](#)

### CALIFORNIA

South Lake Tahoe, CA – Enacted April 2009; effective May 2011

West Hollywood, CA – Enacted February 2010; effective March 2010

Hermosa Beach, CA – Enacted March 2010; effective April 2010

Turlock, CA – Enacted May 2010; effective June 2010

Glendale, CA – Enacted August 2011; effective August 2012

Irvine, CA – Enacted October 2011; effective immediately

Dana Point, CA – Enacted February 2012; effective immediately

Chula Vista, CA – Enacted March 2012; effective April 2012

Laguna Beach, CA – Enacted May 2012; effective immediately

Aliso Viejo, CA – Enacted May 16, 2012; effective immediately

Huntington Beach, CA – Enacted June 2012; effective June 2014

Los Angeles, CA – Enacted October 2012; effective June 2013 (revised language)

Burbank, CA – Enacted February 2013; effective August 2013

Rancho Mirage, CA – Enacted February 2013; effective March 2013

San Diego, CA – Enacted July 2013; effective September 2013

Ventura County, CA (unincorporated areas) – Enacted December 2013; effective December 2014

Chino Hills, CA – Enacted October 2014; effective November 2014

Oceanside, CA – Enacted January 2015; effective September 2015

Long Beach, CA – Enacted March 2015; effective October 2015

Garden Grove, CA – Enacted March 2015; effective March 2016

Encinitas, CA – Enacted July 2015; effective immediately

Beverly Hills, CA – Enacted August 2015; effective September 2015

Vista, CA – Enacted September 2015; effective October 2015

Palm Springs, CA – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

San Marcos, CA – Enacted January 2016; effective February 2016

Cathedral City, CA – Enacted January 2016; effective February 2016

Truckee, CA – Enacted February 2016; effective immediately

Indio, CA – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately

La Quinta, CA – Enacted April 2016; effective May 2016

Carlsbad, CA – Enacted May 2016; effective June 2016

Colton, CA – Enacted June 2016; effective July 2016

Solana Beach, CA – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately

San Francisco, CA – Enacted February 2017; effective March 2017.

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### **COLORADO**

Fountain, CO – Enacted May 2011; effective May 2011

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### **FLORIDA**

Flagler Beach, FL – Enacted June 2009; effective immediately

Lake Worth, FL – Enacted February 2011; effective February 2011

Coral Gables, FL (applies to dogs only)

Opa-Locka, FL (applies to dogs only)

North Bay Village, FL (applies to dogs only)

Hallandale Beach, FL – Enacted April 2012; effective immediately

Margate, FL – Enacted October 2013; effective immediately

Pinecrest, FL – Enacted October 2013; effective immediately

Palmetto Bay, FL – Enacted December 2013; effective immediately

Coconut Creek, FL – Enacted January 2014; effective immediately

Wellington, FL – Enacted January 2014; effective immediately

Surfside, FL – Enacted February 2014; effective immediately

Aventura, FL – Enacted March 2014; effective immediately

Wilton Manors, FL – Enacted March 2014; effective immediately

Greenacres, FL – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

North Lauderdale, FL – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately



Bay Harbor Islands, FL – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

Pompano Beach, FL – Enacted May 2104; effective immediately

North Miami Beach, FL – Enacted May 2014; effective immediately

Miami Beach, FL – Enacted May 2014; effective January 2015

Bal Harbour, FL – Enacted May 2014; effective immediately

Sunny Isles Beach, FL – Enacted May 2014; effective immediately

Dania Beach, FL – Enacted June 2014; effective immediately

Palm Beach Gardens, FL – Enacted July 2014; effective immediately

Juno Beach, FL – Enacted July 2014; effective immediately

Cutler Bay, FL – Enacted August 2014; effective immediately

North Palm Beach, FL – Enacted August 2014; effective immediately

Hypoluxo, FL – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

Jupiter, FL - Enacted October 2014; effective immediately

Homestead, FL – Enacted October 2014; effective immediately

Tamarac, FL – Enacted December 2014; effective immediately

Palm Beach, FL – Enacted January 2015; effective immediately

North Miami, FL – Enacted April 2015; effective immediately

Lauderhill, FL – Enacted April 2015; effective immediately

Fernandina Beach, FL – Enacted July 2015; effective immediately

Jacksonville Beach, FL – Enacted August 2015; effective immediately

Deerfield Beach, FL – Enacted November 2015; effective May 2016

West Melbourne, FL – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately

Casselberry, FL – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately

Neptune Beach, FL – Enacted January 2016; effective February 2016

Sarasota County, FL – Enacted January 2016; effective January 2017

South Miami, FL – Enacted January 2016; effective immediately

Delray Beach, FL – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

Hollywood, FL – Enacted June 2016; effective December 2016

St. Petersburg, FL – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately

Key West, FL – Enacted August 2016; effective immediately

Miramar, FL – Enacted August 2016; effective immediately

Palm Beach County, FL – Enacted September 2016; effective November 2016 (*applies only to new pet stores as of 10-1-16*)

Safety Harbor, FL – Enacted November 2016; effective immediately

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### ILLINOIS

Waukegan, IL – Enacted June 2012; effective immediately

Chicago, IL – Enacted March 2014; effective March 2015

Cook County, IL – Enacted April 2014; effective October 2014

Warrenville, IL – Enacted February 2016; effective immediately

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### MAINE

Portland, ME – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately

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### MARYLAND

Montgomery County, MD – Enacted March 2015; effective June 2015

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**MASSACHUSETTS**

Boston, MA – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

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**MICHIGAN**

Eastpointe, MI – Enacted September 2015; effective January 2016

Memphis, MI – Enacted September 2015; effective immediately

Fraser, MI – Enacted December 2015; effective immediately

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**NEVADA**

Las Vegas, NV – Enacted January 2016; effective January 2018

Mesquite, NV – Enacted May 2016; effective June 2016

North Las Vegas, NV – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately

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**NEW JERSEY**

Point Pleasant, NJ – Enacted May 2012; effective immediately

Brick, NJ – Enacted July 2012; effective immediately

Manasquan, NJ – Enacted September 2012; effective immediately

Point Pleasant Beach, NJ – Enacted October 2012; effective immediately

Hoboken, NJ – Enacted May 2013; effective immediately

Oceanport, NJ – Enacted August 2013; effective immediately

North Brunswick, NJ – Enacted October 2013; effective November 2013 (cat ordinance)

Randolph, NJ – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

Camden County, NJ – Enacted September 2015; effective immediately

Voorhees, NJ – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

Brooklawn, NJ – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

Audubon, NJ – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

Waterford, NJ – Enacted October 2015; effective January 2016

Cherry Hill, NJ – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately

Merchantville, NJ – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately

Runnemede, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

Somerdale, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

Laurel Springs, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

Oaklyn, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective immediately

Westville, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

Haddon Heights, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

Gloucester Township, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective January 2016

Glassboro, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

Magnolia, NJ – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

Bellmawr, NJ – Enacted January 2016; effective immediately

Berlin Township, NJ – Enacted February 2016; effective May 2016

Clementon, NJ – Enacted March 2016; effective June 2016

Pine Hill, NJ – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

Haddon Township, NJ – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

Winslow, NJ – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

Jackson, NJ – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

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Collingswood, NJ – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
Audubon Park, NJ – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
Mount Ephraim, NJ – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
Barrington, NJ – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
Berlin Borough, NJ – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
East Brunswick, NJ – Enacted April 2016; effective May 2016  
Gloucester City, NJ – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
Chesilhurst, NJ – Enacted May 2016; effective August 2016  
Greenwich, NJ – Enacted May 2016; effective June 2016  
Pennsauken, NJ – Enacted May 2016; effective June 2016  
Beverly, NJ – Enacted May 2016; effective immediately  
Clayton, NJ – Enacted May 2016; effective August 2016  
Mantua, NJ – Enacted May 2016; effective immediately  
Gibbsboro, NJ – Enacted June 2016; effective September 2016  
Little Ferry, NJ – Enacted June 2016; effective September 2016  
Wyckoff, NJ – Enacted June 2016; effective immediately  
Washington Township, NJ – Enacted June 2016; effective July 2016  
Lindenwold, NJ – Enacted June 2016; effective immediately  
Hackensack, NJ – Enacted June 2016; effective September 2016  
Bordentown, NJ – Enacted June 2016; effective immediately  
Hi-Nella, NJ – Enacted June 2016; effective September 2016  
Mount Holly, NJ – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
Pitman, NJ – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
Camden City, NJ – Enacted July 2016; effective August 2016  
Maywood, NJ – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately  
East Rutherford, NJ – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016/p>  
Union City, NJ – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately  
Glen Rock, NJ – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
Woodlynne, NJ – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ – Enacted August 2016; effective immediately  
Saddle Brook, NJ – Enacted August 2016; effective November 2016  
Upper Saddle River, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately  
Eatontown, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective December 2016  
Swedesboro, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective December 2016  
Ridgefield, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective December 2016  
Fanwood, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately  
Fairview, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective December 2016  
Wallington, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately  
New Milford, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately  
Hamilton, NJ – Enacted September 2016; effective October 2016  
Ridgewood, NJ – Enacted October 2016; effective November 2016  
Edgewater, NJ – Enacted October 2016; effective January 2016  
Woodbury Heights, NJ – Enacted October 2016; effective immediately

Marlboro, NJ – Enacted October 2016; effective January 2017

Fair Lawn, NJ – Enacted October 2016; effective immediately

Ocean, NJ – Enacted October 2016; effective November 2016

North Arlington, NJ – Enacted November 2016; effective immediately

Watchung, NJ – Enacted November 2016; effective immediately

Frenchtown, NJ – Enacted December 2016; effective March 2017

Palisades Park, NJ – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately

Union Beach, NJ – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately

Cliffside Park, NJ – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately

Stratford, NJ – Enacted February 2017; effective May 2017

Burlington, NJ – Enacted February 2017; effective March 2017

Bradley Beach, NJ – Enacted January 2017; effective immediately

Haddonfield, NJ – Enacted February 2017; effective March 2017

Bound Brook, NJ – Enacted February 2017; effective immediately

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### **NEW MEXICO**

Albuquerque, NM – Enacted June 2006; effective August 2007

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### **NEW YORK**

Mamaroneck Village, NY – Enacted February 2016; effective immediately

Mount Pleasant, NY – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

Rye Brook, NY – Enacted August 2016; effective immediately

Yorktown, NY – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately

Port Chester, New York – Enacted October 2016; effective immediately

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### **PENNSYLVANIA**

Pittsburgh, PA – Enacted December 2015; effective June 2016

Philadelphia, PA – Enacted April 2016; effective July 2016

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### **RHODE ISLAND**

East Providence, RI – Enacted June 2014; effective immediately

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### **TEXAS**

El Paso, TX – Enacted October 2010; effective January 2011

Austin, TX – Enacted December 2010; effective December 2010

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### **UTAH**

Salt Lake County, UT – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

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### **CANADA**

Richmond, British Columbia (Canada) – Enacted November 2010; effective April 2011

Toronto, Ontario (Canada) – Enacted September 2011, effective September 2012

Rosemont-La Petite Patrie, Quebec (Canada) – Enacted December 2011; effective immediately

Mississauga, Ontario (Canada) – Enacted July 2012; effective January 2013

New Westminster, British Columbia (Canada) – Enacted November 2012; effective immediately

Kingston, Ontario (Canada) – Enacted August 2013; effective November 2013

Vaughan, Ontario (Canada) – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

Hudson, Quebec (Canada) – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

Waterloo, Ontario (Canada) – Enacted September 2014; effective January 2015

Mount Royal, Quebec (Canada) – Enacted May 2015; effective immediately

Beaconsfield, Quebec (Canada) – Enacted December 2015; effective immediately

Ottawa, Ontario (Canada) – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately

Oakville, Ontario (Canada) – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately

Cambridge, Ontario (Canada) – Enacted October 2016; effective immediately

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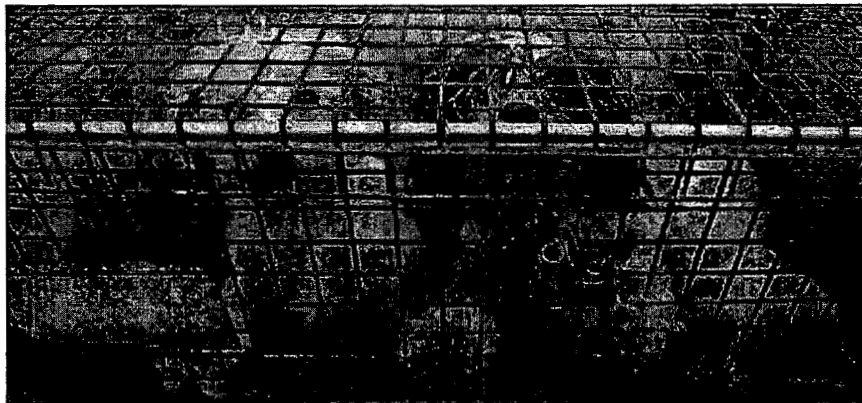
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## IL: Protections for pets and consumers are in danger.

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### Urge your representatives to oppose SB 1882/HB 2824

Dangerous legislation that would represent a huge step backward in the fight against puppy and kitten mills is being considered by the state legislature.

Although companion bills **SB 1882/HB 2824** (<http://ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=&SessionId=91&GA=100&DocTypeId=SB&DocNum=1882&GAID=14&LegID=105073&SpecSess=&Session=>) appear to protect dogs and cats, buried within them is a harmful provision that will prohibit local communities from enacting ordinances to prevent inhumanely bred puppies and kittens from being sold in the state's pet stores. As a result, puppy and kitten mills will continue to flourish, and Illinois residents will be deprived of their right to know where the animals sold in pet shops really come from.

Even more concerning is the fact that these bills will overturn existing puppy mill ordinances in Chicago, Cook County, Waukegan and Warrenville, and will prevent future ordinances from being enacted. Illinois citizens should not be denied this opportunity. Local communities should be allowed to regulate pet dealers and enact their own appropriate laws without interference from the state legislature.

Even more concerning is the fact that these bills will overturn existing puppy mill ordinances in Chicago, Cook County, Waukegan and Warrenville, and will prevent future ordinances from being enacted. Illinois citizens should not be denied this opportunity. Local communities should be allowed to regulate pet dealers and enact their own appropriate laws without interference from the state legislature.

**Please take action today** by urging your representatives to oppose SB 1882/HB 2824.

Thank you for speaking up for animals. Together, we can **Save Them All**.

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Targeted recipients based on your address

#### CONTACT

Required fields

Title:

First Name:

#### MESSAGE

Subject:

Dear [Decision Maker],

Last Name:

Your Email:

Address 1:

Address 2:

City:

State / Province:

ZIP / Postal Code:

Phone Number:

Yes, I would like to receive email from Best Friends Animal Society

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([http://support.bestfriends.org/site/PageServer?pagename=privacypolicy&printer\\_friendly=1](http://support.bestfriends.org/site/PageServer?pagename=privacypolicy&printer_friendly=1))

As a proud resident of Illinois, I respectfully urge you to oppose companion bills SB 1882/HB 2824, which will prohibit localities from enacting ordinances to restrict the retail sale of inhumanely bred companion animals, who often end up in our overcrowded, taxpayer-subsidized shelters.

Personalize your message

Puppy and kitten mills are in business to supply the retail pet trade. The pets kept in these facilities often spend their entire lives in dirty, crowded cages for the sole purpose of producing as many animals as possible for sale online and in pet stores.

Allowing localities to regulate retail pet sales does not prevent pet stores from staying in business, but does help to eliminate irresponsible breeding and reduce the burden on shelters and rescue groups by increasing pet adoptions. It also benefits reputable breeders by allowing them to continue providing humanely bred animals directly to people who cannot find what they are looking for through adoption.

Citizens should not be deprived of their right to know where the pets they purchase come from, and existing pet sales ordinances to address the cruelty of puppy and kitten mills should not be overturned. I urge you to protect pets, consumers and taxpayers in Illinois by opposing SB 1882/HB 2824.

Sincerely,

SEND MESSAGE

**PRIMARY BEST FRIENDS SITES:** [bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org) (<http://bestfriends.org>) | **Best Friends—New York** (<http://ny.bestfriends.org/>) | **Best Friends—Los Angeles** (<http://la.bestfriends.org/>) | **Best Friends—Utah** (<http://utah.bestfriends.org/>)

**NO-KILL PROGRAMS:** **NKLA** (<http://nkla.org/>) No-Kill Los Angeles (<http://nkla.org/>) | **NKUT** (<http://nkut.org/>) No-Kill Utah (<http://nkut.org/>)

**OTHER BEST FRIENDS SITES:** **Best Friends Store** (<http://shop.bestfriends.org/>) | **Fix at Four** (<http://fixatfour.com/>) | **National Conference** (<http://conference.bestfriends.org/>) | **Network Partners** (<http://network.bestfriends.org/>) | **Strut Your Mutt** (<http://strutyourmutt.org/>)

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(<http://greatrionprofits.org/org/best-friends-animal-society>)



(<http://www.guidestar.org/profile/23-7147797>)

# ASPCA Policy and Position Statements

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## Sources of Companion Animals

Because there are homeless pets awaiting adoption in almost every community in the nation, the ASPCA strongly advocates that persons wishing to acquire a pet consider adopting one from a shelter or other source of homeless animals. Those who are committed to acquiring a specific breed of animal should locate a breed rescue group or a [responsible breeder](/about-us/aspcas-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-criteria-responsible-breeding) (</about-us/aspcas-policy-and-position-statements/position-statement-criteria-responsible-breeding>). The ASPCA does not support purchasing or otherwise acquiring animals from large-scale commercial breeders, the retail outlets they supply or casual "backyard" breeders. While we support the use of the Internet to locate adoptable animals and responsible breeders, the ASPCA does not support purchasing or otherwise acquiring animals via the Internet without first meeting the animal and seeing the conditions in which the animal is kept.



**150th Anniversary: Join the ASPCA**



# ASPCA Policy and Position Statements

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## Position Statement on Criteria for Responsible Breeding

### Background

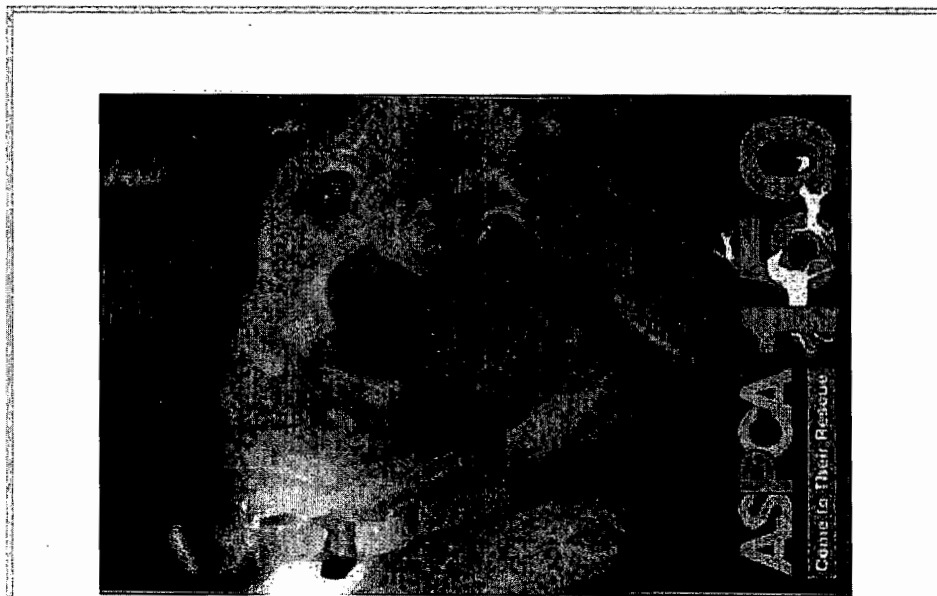
Responsible breeders are individuals who have focused their efforts on one or a select few breeds and through breeding, historical research and ongoing study, mentoring relationships, club memberships, showing, raising and training of these breeds have become experts in their health, heritable defects, temperament and behavior. Responsible breeders are well suited to educate and screen potential buyers/adopters and provide follow-up support after purchase or adoption. Responsible breeders take lifetime responsibility for the animals they have bred.

### ASPCA Position

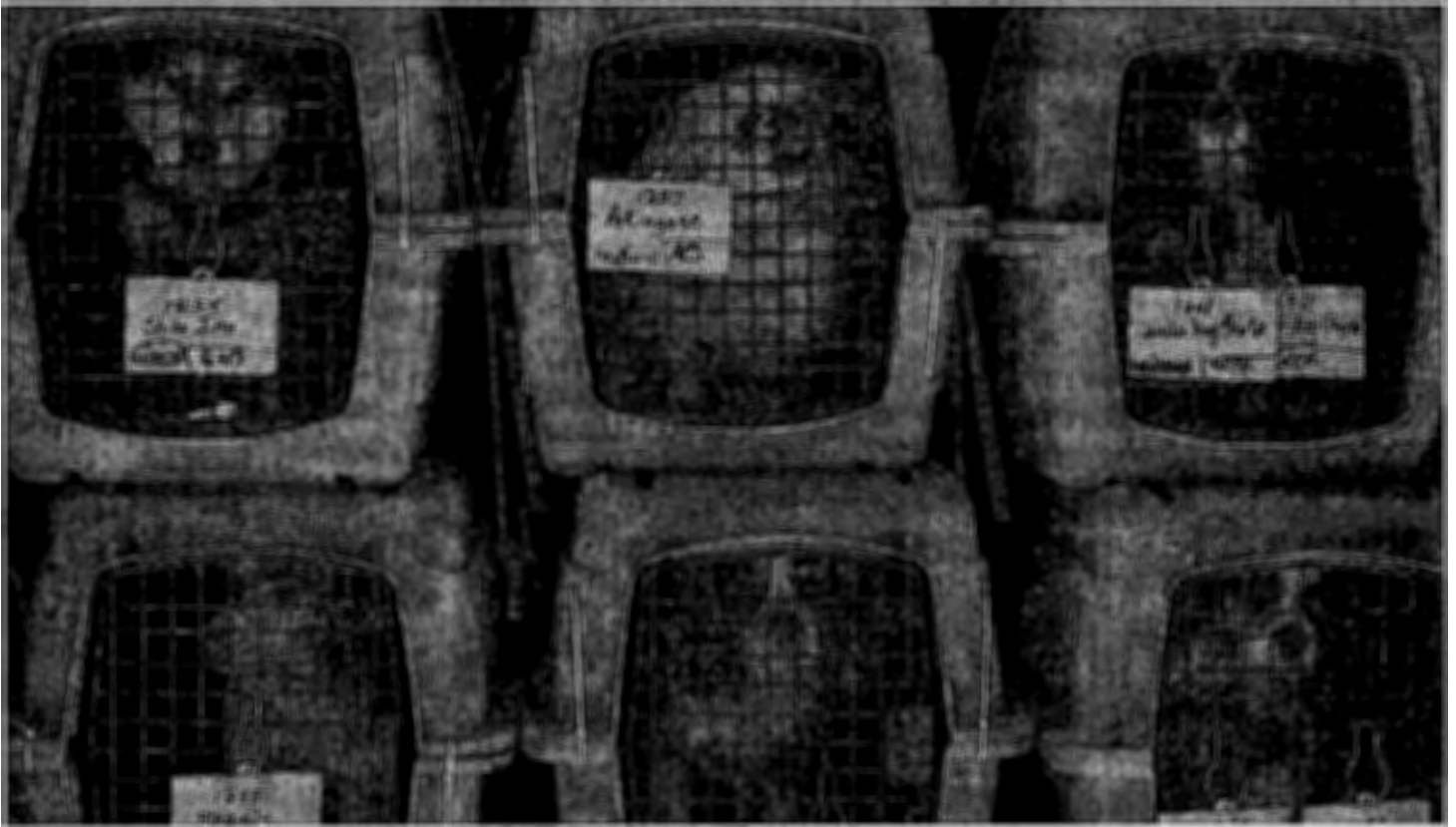
The ASPCA advocates the following best practices for the responsible breeder:

- Screens breeding stock for heritable diseases; removes affected animals from breeding program. Affected animals are altered; may be placed as pets as long as health issues are disclosed to buyers/adopters.
- Has working knowledge of genetics and generally avoids inbreeding.
- Removes aggressive animals from breeding program; alters or euthanizes them.
- Keeps breeding stock healthy and well socialized.
- Never keeps more dogs or cats than they can provide with the highest level of care, including quality food, clean water, proper shelter from heat or cold, exercise and socialization and professional veterinary care.
- Bases breeding frequency on mother's health, age, condition and recuperative abilities.
- Does not breed extremely young or old animals.

- Breeds and rears dogs or cats in their home as they are considered part of the family.
- Ensures neonates are kept clean, warm, fed, vetted and with the mother until weaned; begins socialization of neonates at three weeks of age.
- Screens and counsels potential guardians; discusses positive and negative aspects of animal/breed.
- Ensures animals are weaned before placement (eight to ten weeks of age for dogs and cats).
- Complies with all applicable laws regulating breeders in their jurisdiction.
- Never sells puppies to a dealer or pet shop.
- Offers guidance and support to new guardians.
- Provides an adoption/purchase contract in plain English that spells out breeder's responsibilities, adopter's responsibilities, health guarantees and return policy.
- Provides accurate and reliable health, vaccination and pedigree information.
- Makes sure pet quality animals are sold on a limited registration (dogs only), spay/neuter contract or are altered before placement.
- Will take back any animal of their breeding, at any time and for any reason.



# Editorial: Stop this Illinois puppy mill scam: An attempted end-run around Chicago and Cook County rules



Illinois lawmakers are considering an amendment — filed under "mandatory microchipping" — that would brush aside ordinances in Chicago and Cook County that ban the sale of dogs bred in puppy mills. (Michael Tercha / Chicago Tribune 2011)

By **Editorial Board**

MARCH 10, 2017, 3:34 PM

**C**all out the dogs, Illinois. The pet store lobby is trying to get its paws on the state Animal Welfare Act.

Industry representatives are pushing an amendment — disguised as a mandatory microchipping measure — that would sweep aside local ordinances in Chicago and Cook County that ban the sale of dogs bred in puppy mills.

Twin bills in the state House and Senate would indeed require those who sell dogs (or cats) to provide documentation that their animals have been implanted with electronic IDs that help reunite lost pets with their owners.

The bills also pretend to set rules to ensure that pets offered for sale throughout Illinois are bred in humane

conditions, though what they'd really do is insert a big fat loophole that makes those rules all bark, no bite. More on that in a minute.

**Buried under all of that** is this paragraph: "It is recognized that the sourcing of dogs and cats into Illinois is a matter of statewide interest to protect the health and safety of both the animals and the citizens of Illinois. A home rule unit" — a local government, that is — "may not regulate the sourcing of dogs and cats sold by pet shop operators, dog dealers, or cattery operators."

Of course, the state's biggest home rule units — Cook County and Chicago — already have such regulations. The Chicago City Council passed its ordinance in March 2014, by a vote of 49-1. The Cook County Board approved a similar measure the next month, 15-0.

Those lopsided votes belie the hard-fought battles to pass and defend the bans. Commercial breeders and pet store chains that profit from the sale of mass-produced pets have opposed such measures in dozens of local jurisdictions across the country. But Cook County commissioners and Chicago aldermen heard from their constituents, loud and clear, and acted accordingly. The puppy mill lobby then tried, and failed, to overturn the measures in court.

The ordinances limit the sale of dogs (and cats and rabbits) to those that come from rescue groups, shelters or small-scale breeders. The goal is to shut down the market for pets bred in crowded, unsanitary conditions where caged females produce litter after litter after litter. Reducing pet overpopulation and promoting adoption of homeless pets are tail-wagging consequences. The laws also protect consumers: Puppies cranked out to maximize profits are more likely to be sickly or genetically compromised.

Leading the fight locally were Cook County Commissioner John Fritchey of Chicago; Ald. Proco "Joe" Moreno, 1st; Ald. Ameya Pawar, 47th; and then-City Clerk Susana Mendoza.

The measures were enacted by overwhelming vote of the elected representatives of more than 5.2 million people. Now, the pet store lobby hopes to overturn those ordinances by sneaking a bill past a few dozen lawmakers who aren't paying attention. What lawmaker would oppose a bill labeled "ANIMAL WELFARE — MICROCHIPPING" ?

But animal advocates, including the Humane Society of the United States, the Puppy Mill Project and others, sniffed out the scheme. They called out the bills for what they are: a backdoor pass for puppy mills — and an inappropriate and indefensible denial of home rule authority.

The statewide rules that would supersede the local ordinances would do little to ensure that pets come from reputable breeders. They'd require pet store operators to check the breeder's latest inspection report posted online by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA doesn't have the resources to inspect dog breeders adequately and doesn't currently maintain an online search tool anyway, but never mind: If the report is unavailable, the bill says, the pet store operator is off the hook.

So the puppy mills would be back in business in Chicago and Cook County, regardless of what the locals want.

After the animal advocates pointed out what that "microchipping" bill was all about, a House committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday was canceled, and the bill was referred to a subcommittee, normally the legislative equivalent of a high-kill shelter. But don't expect the pet store lobby to slink away with its tail between its legs. The industry has employed similar tactics to pass state laws that overruled local governments in Ohio and Arizona. Only 48 states to go.

**Wake up, lawmakers.** The watchdogs are barking. Illinois voters are inexplicably tolerant of political and fiscal misfeasance, but we assure you they will not be so forgiving if they find you on the wrong side of an animal welfare bill.

Why do Chicago and Cook County have laws to prevent the sale of animals from irresponsible breeders? Because Illinois doesn't. It should. Do the dogs a favor, lawmakers, and get to work on that.

Don't even think about watering down our local ordinances by passing a phony statewide law. That will bite you in the pants every time.

**Join the discussion on Twitter @Trib\_Ed\_Board and on Facebook.**

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A version of this article appeared in print on March 12, 2017, in the News section of the Chicago Tribune with the headline "Kill this Illinois puppy mill scam - An attempted end run around Chicago and Cook County rules" — Today's paper | [Subscribe](#)

**This article is related to:** Editorials, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Proco Joe Moreno, Ameya Pawar, Illinois General Assembly, John Fritchey



DOGS / FEATURED / PET STORE / PUPPIES / PUPPY MILL / PUPPY MILL PROJECT / PUPPY MILLS / STEVE DALE

# American Kennel Club Defends Support of Law Banning Limits on Pet Store Sales

Posted On March 4, 2017



*AKC attempts to defend their position*

There's a proposal to prevent communities in Illinois from limiting pet stores sales of dogs and cats in the future and to roll back ordinances which have already been passed to limited pet store sales, previously passed in Chicago, Waukegan, Warrenville and Cook County.

Specifically: Senate and House to amend the state's Animal Welfare Act – SB1882 and HB2824.

Who could possibly support pet stores sourcing animals from puppy mills?

The group behind this bill is a coalition that interestingly calls itself the Illinois Pet Lover's Association (IPLA). This includes, American Kennel Club, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, and the Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs & Owners, and I have reason to believe other players who benefit from pet stores that sell dogs and cats.

I contacted the American Kennel Club (AKC), and promised their response to explain their support, from Sheila Goffe, VP of a Public Relations, would not be edited. It is not. My comments are in italics and labeled as my own.

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American Kennel Club Defends Support of Law Banning Limits on Pet Store Sales



*Consumer Protection and Safe Pets Bill.*

As written, this bill establishes health and welfare standards for retail pet stores and requires that pet stores only obtain pets from breeders that do not have health or welfare violations of federal Animal Welfare Act standards. \*

*Note:* \*We are also concerned about the recent removal of USDA-regulated pet dealer listings online. Removing easy access to documentation will make it more difficult for positive and transparent pet welfare and retail oversight initiatives like this to be fully enforced. We support the need to protect privacy, and we understand that the issues causing removal of the documents are in the process of being resolved so that appropriately redacted records can be made available again in the near future.

*Steve Dale response:* Wow – you concede right here because of new changes (which you apparently disagree with – as do I – but are real) from the United States Department of Agriculture which don't allow for anyone to go online to verify if "breeders" have had past violations. For whatever the reason USDA has (at least for now) shut down this public information and transparency. You can't determine this if there were previous health or animal welfare violations. **This FACT should void the proposed bill right there.**

*Also, I note the use of your word breeder. That's an insult to breeders you support. Who are you putting them into a bucket with? NO responsible breeder ever sells to a pet store.*

The bill requires pet stores to disclose health information and background information about available pets, giving consumers important information about the background and health of the pet they are adopting. We encourage all pet adoption groups to provide the same level of care and transparency as required in this bill.

*Steve Dale response:* Great –except that in the past pet stores have not been completely truthful with the information provided to the public. Having a watch dog to "police" this information is a good idea, though not practical. So, who is to determine that info provided by pet stores is the truth?

*So, now the AKC is suggesting adoption groups mislead the public by not being transparent? Are you kidding? Or perhaps I am misunderstanding... Of course, by law, municipal facilitates around the country must accept any animal that goes through their doors. And by policy thousands of open admission shelters do the same. They don't ask about the history of that animal, and often times if they do ask – they're not going to hear the truth. Though, of course, knowing all they can about the animal coming in is a good thing. Their mission is to save lives. Is this life-saving mission now a problem for the AKC? Also, do you represent others in the coalition with your views?*

The bill is also progressive in that it supports choice for all pet owners and future pet owners, and restricts recent attempts by some communities to limit which pets people can get. An important part of ensuring the success of a pet with a new owner is making sure it's an appropriate fit for the owner's lifestyle. We believe valued pets come from a variety of sources, including breeders, pet stores, rescues, and local shelters – and these choices should be available to everyone. In fact, when people can't get a pet that is an appropriate fit for their lifestyle, those pets are more likely to end up in the shelter system.

*Steve Dale response:* Progressive? That depends on your definition, but setting back laws which have been passed by communities is in my view (and by definition) is regressive. Pet issues aside, shouldn't communities be able to determine what is sold (or not) at local retail stores. For example, Chicago banned sales of spray paint to decrease graffiti. In some communities, alcohol cannot be sold on Sundays. Aren't these decisions up to local government?

*Specific to pets, yes – people should have a choice to purchase where they desire. But pets are living, breathing emotional beings – not washing machines. Who speaks up in their interest, and against mass breeding? Apparently not the AKC.*

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Hopefully shelters and rescues are somewhat discerning about who can adopt. And shelter and rescue employees and volunteers are well-trained, or at least that is the hope. Absolutely, that knowledge ten fold – at least concerning their own breed – when it comes to responsible breeders. They know their stuff. And they have views on exactly who should or should not have their dog or cat breed.

In my experience at pet stores, employees have limited pet knowledge (at best) and will only ask one question before an animal is purchased: "Will that be cash or credit."

I do thank Sheila Goffe of the AKC for answering. And as I already have previously indicated, she can join my on-air live (or on tape) anytime.

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AUTHOR

Steve Dale

Steve Dale, CABC (certified animal behavior consultant) is host of two national radio programs (Black Dog Radio Productions) and is heard on WGN Radio Chicago. He's an editor of "Decoding Your Dog," authors books, and speaks about pets around the world.

8 Comments



Pearl Ober March 4, 2017 at 5:23 pm

REPLY

I am soo sick of these greedy people who have puppy mills. I want to see these people jailed for their crimes of abuse and cruelty to animals. The AKC and the USDA need to visit these mills and see the barbaric treatment of animal's. but thought needs to go to a local level..zoning boards are approving soo many applications on adding on to or building new puppy mills. I want those zoning boards members be the inspectors of the approval of mills.that where it needs to start.that possibly be where it could end..

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ANIMAL CRUELTY / CATS / DOGS / FEATURED / PET STORE / PETS / PUPPY MILL PROJECT / PUPPY MILLS / STEVE DALE

# Illinois Legislators Can't WANT to Support Puppy Mills

Posted On February 23, 2017



Unbelievably, this is what Illinois legislators could be supporting

Where do pet stores get animals they sell? Here's where they *don't ever* get their dogs and cats, as no legitimate breeder will *ever* sell to a pet store. That's because responsible breeders ask whatever questions they desire about who's buying their carefully bred animal. Pet stores only ask, "Will that be cash or charge?" A breeder would have no input, or even knowledge of who is purchasing their animals. No responsible breeder ever accepts that.

So, if they're not getting pets from "home breeders," as they often maintain, where are the pet stores getting them from?

For two decades now, I've been told by the pet industry and others, "Don't worry, we're fighting the puppy mills."

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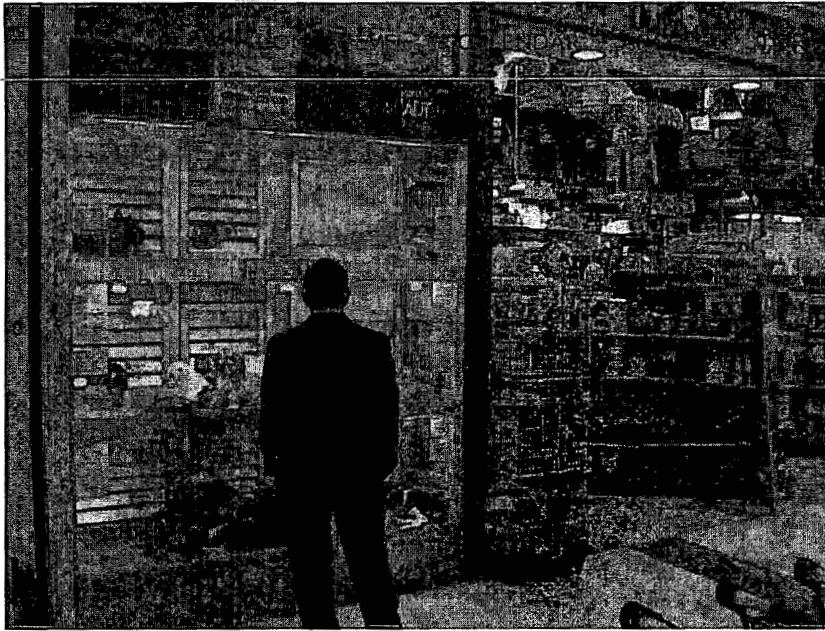
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San Francisco Bans Pet Store Sales of Dogs and Cats

Don't Insult the King's Dog

American Kennel Club Defends Support of Law Banning Limits on Pet Store Sales

Are Pit Bulls Deadly Weapons?



Where do you think these puppies are from?

How many years must we wait? And who's side are they really on?

Meanwhile you stepped up – pet lovers across the U.S. and Canada organically created a movement to support bans of sales of dogs and cats (and in some places rabbits) at pet stores. Best Friends Animal Society quickly jumped on board, and the Puppy Mill Project (a non-profit to create awareness about puppy mills) was formed.

In 2007 Albuquerque, New Mexico banned pet store sales of dogs and cats, and the real wave followed starting in 2010 with West Hollywood, CA, continuing through earlier this year with San Francisco, CA. About 200 cities plus in the U.S. and Canada, including San Diego, CA, Austin, TX, Los Angeles, CA and Chicago, IL, as well as entire county of Cook now have similar pet store sales bans in place.

The pet store industry maintains their members don't like these bans. However, I don't believe they're speaking for their membership, as today the overwhelming majority of pet stores want nothing to do with selling puppies, kittens or bunnies. Most of the specialty or boutique pet stores, owned by millennials, understand the ethical issues. And the big players (which account for a whole lot of pet stores) Petco, PETSMART and Pet Supplies Plus never have sold puppies – they adopt them!



This mixtipoo isn't really a breed – but merely a mixed breed dog. These guys, though expensive, wonderful little companions. Some are from legit breeders, others from mills. Depends where you get the dog.

While the pet store industry first tried to challenge these laws restricting pet store sales in court, their efforts repeatedly when nowhere. So, when judicial didn't work they worked legislatively. And succeeded by quickly passing legislation to ban local laws to limit pet store sales in Arizona and Ohio.

So, now a coalition calling themselves Illinois Pet Lover's Association (IPLA), as if that adoring name will fool people, is trying the same in Illinois. They've apparently, so far, fooled some legislators – who I believe truly feel they signed on to a good bill.

This group has created wording in HB2824 which will demolish efforts by communities that have banned pet store sales, but the bill hides behind (poorly worded) support of microchipping animals when sold at stores. I am

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all for microchipping, but the bill says nothing (that I saw) regarding registration with a chip provider, and besides it's already law that adopted animals are chipped in Illinois. Read it for yourself: HB2824. The bill really is only about support of pet store sales and prevent of laws to limit them.

It's important for pet owners to know who is supporting IPLA, and they include the American Kennel Club, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, and the Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs & Owners, and I have reason to believe other players who benefit from pet stores that sell dogs and cats.



Most veterinary professionals are appalled at the idea of continuing to treat animals from the mills. Veterinary Professionals AGAINST Puppy Mills: <https://www.facebook.com/veterinaryprofessionalsagainstpuppymills/>

I wonder out loud how these organizations are working to fight puppy mills, working WITH organizations like the Puppy Mill Project.

Again, very busy legislators – I am hoping – just didn't realize what they were signing on to. And that's where you come in.

Below is verbatim the Puppy Mill Project call to action:

We need animal lovers to stand up. If this bill were to pass, the bans already in place in Illinois to prevent pet store sales of dogs, cats (and rabbits in Chicago and Cook County as well) could be reversed and for sure no further laws limiting pet store sales could be passed in Illinois. Moreover, the pet industry will celebrate success in Illinois

and go to still another state and get similar laws passed. This must be stopped!

**Urgent – Take action against Illinois SB 1882 and HB 2824!**

Two companion bills have been introduced in the Illinois legislature that would overturn the Chicago Companion Animal and Consumer Protection Ordinance that prohibits pet stores from selling dogs and cats from inhumane breeding operations, in addition to invalidating similar ordinances in Cook County, Waukegan, and Warrenville.

At first glance, these bills appear to offer additional protections for animals – and we share and support their stated goals of protecting consumers, increasing transparency in the sourcing of dogs and cats, and screening out inhumane breeders. We also support the bills' microchipping requirements. However, one section of these bills (Section 3.8) is misguided and will be extremely harmful to consumers and animals. Section 3.8 legitimizes sourcing dogs from inhumane breeding operations, relies on information that is no longer available for its enforcement, and prohibits cities from enacting their own laws regarding the sourcing and sale of dogs and cats in their communities.

**Why is this legislation bad for animals and consumers?**

1. **It will not screen out inhumane breeders.** This legislation offers limited restrictions on where pet stores can source dogs and cats, requiring breeders to have a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) license and meet nominal inspection criteria – but a USDA license and clean record do not mean that a breeder is humane. USDA standards are barely survival standards. Dogs can live in cages only six inches larger than their bodies for 24 hours a day. Stacked cages, mesh or wire flooring, and unlimited breeding are all acceptable. These facilities tend to mass produce puppies and operate solely for profit. USDA licensure sounds reassuring to a consumer but in reality it accomplishes very little.

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Prior to January 2017, USDA breeder inspection records were publicly accessible through an online search tool.

However, these records have now been removed from the USDA website. Even more troubling, the legislation states that a pet store is considered in compliance even if the USDA records are unavailable. These bills were introduced after the USDA search tool had been removed – rendering the bills' purported safeguards meaningless. There is currently no means for a consumer to research a breeder's USDA record.

- This legislation denies cities and towns in Illinois the authority to make their own laws protecting consumers and animals.** These bills would overturn ordinances in Chicago, Cook County, Waukegan, and Warrenville – similar to legislation passed in more than 200 municipalities across the United States. These cities have determined that the sourcing and sale of dogs and cats is an issue of local concern for their communities and Illinois home rule units should be able to pass their own legislation as appropriate.

**What can you do?**

**Contact the sponsors and co-sponsors of these bills** in the Illinois House and Senate and tell them that you appreciate their efforts and concern for these issues, but Section 3.8 must be eliminated in its entirety.

**Tell them that removing the home rule provision (Section 3.8(e)) is NOT ENOUGH – keeping the rest of Section 3.8 explicitly allows pet stores to source from inhumane breeders without any means of researching those breeders.**

**Contact your own representative and senator** (even if they are not sponsors of this bill) and tell them that animal welfare is important to you and that there is dangerous legislation (SB 1882/HB 2824) pending that you do not support.

**If you live in Chicago: Call your alderman.** Tell him or her that there is state legislation that will invalidate a city ordinance and deny Chicago's home rule authority on an issue that is very important to you. Ask them to voice their opposition to SB 1882/HB 2824 and stand up for Chicago's right to regulate the source of dogs and cats sold in our community. You can also do this for your Cook County Commissioner if you live in Cook County.

**How to Contact your Representatives**

**Illinois House of Representatives Contacts:**

State Representative Jerry Costello, II (representative who introduced the bill, representing the 116th District): (618) 282-7284 or [staterepcostello@gmail.com](mailto:staterepcostello@gmail.com)

Lawrence M. Walsh Jr. (chief co-sponsor, representing the 86th District, including Joliet): (815) 730-8600 or [statereplarrywalshjr@gmail.com](mailto:statereplarrywalshjr@gmail.com)

State Representative Norine Hammond (chief co-sponsor, representing the 95rd District): (309) 836-2707 or [rephammond@macomb.com](mailto:rephammond@macomb.com)

Randy Frese (chief co-sponsor, representing the 94th District): (217) 223-0833 or [repfrese@adams.net](mailto:repfrese@adams.net)

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State Representative Margo McDermed (chief co-sponsor, representing the 37th District): (815) 277-2079 or  
 McDermed@ilhousegop.org

Copy & paste to email them all at once: staterepostello@gmail.com;  
 rep Hammond@macomb.com; rep frese@adams.net; johnd@ilga.gov;  
 statereplarrywalshjr@gmail.com; McDermed@ilhousegop.org

**Illinois Senate Contacts:**

Michael E. Hastings (senator who introduced the bill, representing the 19th District including Joliet and other communities): (815) 464-5431 or <http://senatorhastings.com/contact-me>

State Senator Jil Tracy (co-sponsor representing the 47th District): (217) 223-0837

Senator Emil Jones III (chief co-sponsor representing the 14th District): (773) 995-7748 or <http://senatoremiljones.com/contact-us>

Senator William R. Haine (co-sponsor representing the 56th District): (618) 465-4764 or <http://www.senatorhaine.com/contact-us>

New co-sponsor added, State Senator Sam McCann (representing the 50th District): (217) 245-0050 or  
 SenatorMcCann@gmail.com

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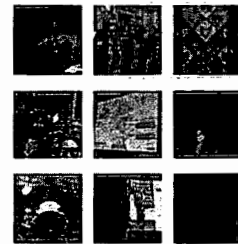
AUTHOR

**Steve Dale**

Steve Dale, CABC (certified animal behavior consultant) is host of two national radio programs (Black Dog Radio Productions) and is heard on WGN Radio Chicago. He's an editor of "Decoding Your Dog," authors books, and speaks about pets around the world.

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# Veterinary Professionals and Vet Techs/Nurses Oppose Illinois Bills

Posted On March 14, 2017



*This should not be acceptable - let alone supported by those who say they love animals*

Unbelievable – but not surprising....How those in favor of two proposed Illinois bills ultimately supporting puppy mills, are ramping it up – spending bucks (which could have gone to save animals instead – how about that concept?) to insure pet stores in Illinois have the right to sell dogs and cats without interference. Illinois – in fact – would have the weakest animal protection law in the nation in regards to pet stores if these laws are passed (which would also overturn laws/ordinances already passed in Chicago, Waukegan, Warrenville and Cook County).

Your voice does need to be heard – and not only the choir I typically preach to – but spread the word to other pet owners.

Those in support of Illinois House Bill 1882 and Illinois Senate Bill 2824 include the Illinois Veterinary Medical Association. I don't personally understand their support, but their membership doesn't appear to completely agree with their association. Here's a statement from the Veterinary Professionals Against Puppy Mills:

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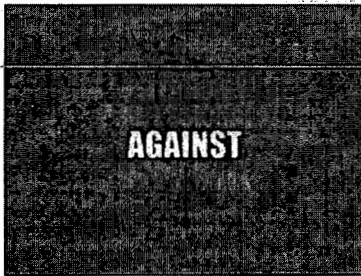
Veterinary Professionals and Vet Techs/Nurses Oppose Illinois Bills

Dog Flu Day: Save Money, Protect Your Dog

Double Defense Multimodal Approach

Illinois Bill is Supportive of Puppy Mills

Muffin's Halo for Blind Dogs



*Veterinary Professionals Against Puppy Mills (VPAPM) strongly opposes the passage of Illinois Senate Bill 1882 and Illinois House Bill 2824 for the following reasons:*

*No effort to undo the hard-won legal restrictions on puppy mills should be allowed. No ethical breeders sell their animals through pet stores; only millers*

*who mass-produce animals in unsafe, unsanitary, inhumane conditions do. The puppies (similarly kittens and rabbits) from such conditions are much more likely to be unhealthy than puppies raised by conscientious, humane breeders.*

*The State of Illinois has an obligation to protect its consumers from unknowingly acquiring unhealthy pets. Similarly, the State and its citizens have a moral obligation to disallow animals to be raised in substandard conditions.*

*We respectfully request that Illinois Senate Bill 1882 and House Bill 2824 be defeated.*

*On behalf of VPAPM,*

*Jane Lohmar, DVM*

*Cofounder, Veterinary Professionals Against Puppy Mills*

*Owner, Family Pet Animal Hospital*

*1401 W. Webster Ave.*

*Chicago, IL 60614*

*lohmarjane@gmail.com*

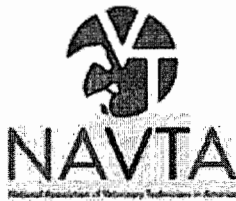
Of course, no surprise by me – the amazing veterinary technicians/nurses are quite passionate about this topic. And the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America is absolutely opposed to the Illinois proposed bills. Here is their statement:

*March 14th, 2017*

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) opposes any bill which prevent*

*limits on communities banning sales of dogs and cats at pet stores, including Illinois House Bill 2824 and*



*Senate Bill 1882,*

*NAVTA is the national organization representing over 15,000 veterinary technicians/nurses.*

*NAVTA and our members are absolutely opposed to puppy mills. Dogs and cats sold at pet stores are never*

*from responsible breeders, and often sourced from the mills.*

*NAVTA isn't only concerned about the dogs and cats sold at the stores but also the animals at the mills*

*which breed those sold at pet stores, which pet owners never see.*

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are, which historically not the case.

Sincerely,

Julie Legred, CVT

Executive Director of the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America

PO Box 1227

Albert Lea, MN 56007

[www.navta.net](http://www.navta.net)

A *Chicago Tribune* editorial did an excellent job of laying out the facts, and they are also opposed, suggesting these laws would put puppy mills back in business in pet stores, where restrictions have been mandated on pet store sales.

The group behind this puppy mill supporting bills is a coalition that interestingly calls itself the Illinois Pet Lover's Association (IPLA), as if that adoring name will fool people. They've apparently, so far, fooled some legislators, who I believe truly feel they signed on to a good bill.

Aside from the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, proponents include the American Kennel Club.

Read the AKC explanation of support here – it's quite astounding.

Also, the pet store industry's Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, and the Illinois Federation of Dog Clubs & Owners, and I have reason to believe other players who benefit from pet stores that sell dogs and cats.

Please help – and it's important that your voice is heard. A hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 15, Wednesday.

- If you live in Illinois, contact your state congressmen in the Senate and House of Representatives, and express that you care about this issue.
- Join the Facebook page [Veterinary Professionals Against Puppy Mills](#) (whether you live in Illinois or not, no matter what you happen to do for a living).
- If you are a veterinary professional in Illinois, clearly express your concerns with the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association. I suggest the state association is hardly representing their membership.
- If you are a pet owner in Illinois, clearly express your concerns with your veterinarian. It's likely your veterinarian has no clue this is happening. Also, post on your veterinarian's Facebook page.
- Share this post on your own social channels.
- If you live in Chicago, contact your Alderman (also contact your Alderman if you know of any pet stores—and there are some—that are ignoring the ban on sales of dogs and cats).

Without voicing our concerns, money may push this through. So, please continue to demonstrate your opposition:

**HB2824 Witness Slip**

**SB1882 Witness Slip**

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## To the Rescue!



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# Consumers, Pets at Risk as IL Senate Bill 1882 Opens Puppy Mill Loopholes, Threatens Existing Humane Ordinances

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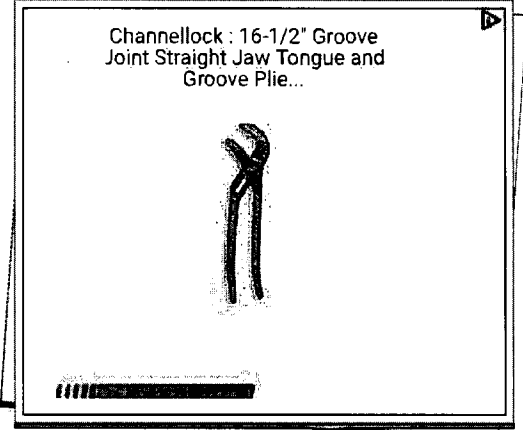
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By Laura Young, February 16, 2017 at 9:27 am

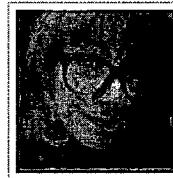
On February 10, 2017, Animal Welfare Bill [SB 1882/HB 2824](#) was introduced to the Illinois Senate, ostensibly as a microchipping act (a good thing). However, also embedded in the bill are proposed amendments to the Animal Welfare Act which present a severe threat to those working to pass (and keep) Humane Ordinances which would prevent the sale of dogs and cats from breeding mills. The full text of the proposed bill [can be read here](#). The proposed amendments to the existing act are in green text.

Pay special attention to Sections 3.8 which concerns the sourcing of pets for resale by pet stores. On the surface, the uneducated reader may not see a problem, as pet store owners are mandated to refrain from doing business with any dealers who have violated USDA breeder regulations. Here is what you need to know about what that means:

In order to vet their dealers, pet shop owners are required to use the search tool available via the USDA to see if the breeder has any recent violations. They are considered to be acting in good faith as long as they use the search tool when placing an order. Fair enough. But here is where it gets interesting (read: horrifying).



### MEET THE BLOGGER



## Laura Young

You can find me two places on ChicagoNow. To the Rescue! is where my passion for animals and rescue advocacy is shared. I jumped in the deep

end as a shelter volunteer a while back and now I'm a pet sitter with quite a cast of canine characters in my life on a daily basis. When I'm not cleaning dog nose prints off my trifocals, I'm also working on a series of memoir essays and sharing photography and waxing philosophic over at Small Graces. I have some people I'd so love for you to meet so I do hope you will give my stories a look...

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The USDA search tool has been deactivated indefinitely and the amendment specifically states that pet shop owners are off the hook if they can't use the search tool.

In the language of the act (page 9):

A pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator is in compliance with this Section [3.8] if the United States Department of Agriculture website is unavailable through no fault of the pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator

The amendment goes on to say that the pet shop owner should get the most recent report when the site is functional again but what if the site has been indefinitely suspended?

When you go to the [USDA site](#) and click on the USDA Animal Care Search Tool, you will see a pop up window which explains:

*Editor's Note (Revised Feb. 7, 2017) The review of APHIS' (Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service) website has been ongoing, and the agency is striving to balance the need for transparency with rules protecting individual privacy. In 2016, well before the change of Administration, APHIS decided to make adjustments to the posting of regulatory records. In addition, APHIS is currently involved in litigation concerning, among other issues, information posted on the agency's website. While the agency is vigorously defending against this litigation, in an abundance of caution, the agency is taking additional measures to protect individual privacy. These decisions are not final. Adjustments may be made regarding information appropriate for release and posting.*

While this deactivation will be in existence, presumably, while all court proceedings are underway, this is how one can get information on breeders:

*Those seeking information from APHIS regarding inspection reports, research facility annual reports, regulatory correspondence, and enforcement records should submit Freedom of Information Act requests for that information. Records will be released when authorized and in a manner consistent with the FOIA and Privacy Act. If the same records are frequently requested via the Freedom of Information Act process, APHIS may post the appropriately redacted versions to its website. In addition, some enforcement records (such as initial decision and orders, default decisions, and consent*



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**decisions) are available on the USDA's Office of Administrative Law Judge's website.**

Did you see the 'records will be released when authorized' part? It is highly unlikely, particularly since they would be under absolutely NO legal obligation to do so, that a pet store owner would do this kind of digging to see what the current status is of the breeders from whom they are ordering puppies and kittens. Their obligation ends when they visit the site and say, "Oops, still deactivated," and move on to place their order.

And even IF the violation search function gets reactivated, does that mean puppy mills will come to an end and that all breeders will be humane?

Not at all.

Dogs and cats are considered livestock, just like pigs, cows, sheep. That's just the reality. And if you have heard to pig gestation crates, the USDA gives comparable regulations for the housing of breeding dogs. (Full text of the Animal Welfare Act here.) In Section 3.6 (c)(1):

***Each dog housed in a primary enclosure (including weaned puppies) must be provided a minimum amount of floor space, calculated as follows: Find the mathematical square of the sum of the length of the dog in inches (measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail) plus 6 inches; then divide the product by 144. The calculation is: (length of dog in inches + 6) × (length of dog in inches + 6) = required floor space in square inches.***

Cats get 3 sq. ft. of space if they are under 8.8 pounds or 4 sq ft. if they are over that weight.

Further, the most recent audit by APHIS on Inspections of Problematic Breeders reveals many problems within the inspection and citation process itself. Please see my prior blog post on this topic for additional info an links.

But places with Humane Ordinances like Chicago, Cook County, Waukegan and Warrenville are protected, right?

Not so fast, Sparky. Let's look at SB 1882's "Home Rule" section which states that because animal welfare is a statewide concern...

A home rule unit may not regulate the sourcing of dogs and cats sold by pet shop operators, dog dealers, or cattery operators. This Section **is a denial and limitation of home rule powers and functions** under subsection (h) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution.

**Petland, Retail Pet Business Ties Raise Serious Concerns in Mike Isaac's Run for Naperville City Council Among Citizens Supporting Humane Ordinance, End to Puppy Mill Ties »**

Laura Young on [To the Rescue!](#)

Posted January 25, 2017 at 10:22 am

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Laura Young on [To the Rescue!](#)

Posted January 19, 2017 at 3:19 pm

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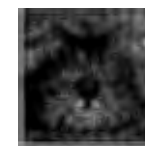
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Tatiana's Tails

Concerned? Let your representative know. Best Friends Legislative Action Center has a list of pending acts by state. [Here is the page for SB1882/HB 2824](#), with online options for you to contact your representatives.

Type your email address in the box and click the "create subscription" button. My list is completely spam free, and you can opt out at any time.

- 
- 

Filed under: [Puppy Mills](#)

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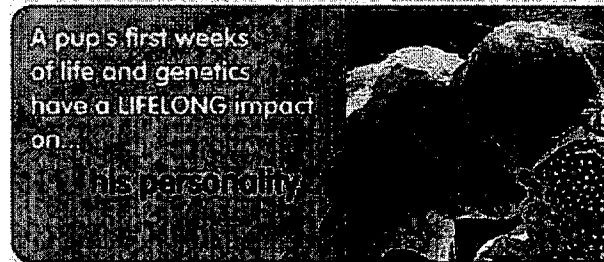
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from [The Beeronaut](#):  
[Chicago Craft Beer Events, March 6-9](#)

## Welcome to PupQuest

Let us guide you on your quest for a happy, healthy puppy from a responsible source!

Many people are unknowingly buying or adopting sick and under-socialized puppies. This reality causes human heartbreak and animal suffering. It is costly, both emotionally and financially.

The choices YOU make NOW will maximize the chances that your new pup will be happy and healthy.



## Why do you need Pupquest?

PupQuest is here to arm you with the information you need to distinguish between reputable breeders and shelters/rescues and disreputable ones.

SO search around PupQuest, inform yourself, and take this info to the street!! It takes more work than sitting in front of your computer to find the perfect pup for you and your family. Cute pictures on the Internet are not good enough! ALL puppies are cute and will steal your heart! We just want to be sure that is the ONLY thing stolen in the process!

## PupQuest Blog and News

[Tom Regan \(1938-2017\) - Daily Nous](#)  
[REST IN PEACETom Regan \(1938-2017\) - Daily Nous...](#) [\[Learn more\]](#)

<http://www.metro.us/boston/mspca-warns-of-dangers-of-online-puppy-purchases/zsJqbp--aT9bVYhoCYS7Y/>  
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 When the puppy mill truck crashed the animal welfare world went nuts. Why isn't this just as bad?Would love to hear your thoug... [\[Learn more\]](#)



Meet your puppy/dog in person before you take him home!  
 Reputable breeders NEVER ship their beloved puppies to strangers.  
[\[Learn more\]](#)

## Survey Says....

Only half of all dog owners met their dogs before buying them!

This trend is one of the main reasons PupQuest was created.

The Internet is a direct avenue from shady breeders to you. These are often puppy wholesalers raising pups as livestock.

Do you really want to give your money to that kind of business?



- I'm a professional (veterinarian, shelter worker, trainer, etc)
- I'm a concerned citizen
- I'm on a PupQuest.
- I'm a friend of PupQuest creators, just checking it out!
- Other




[About Breeders](#)
[About Rescues and Shelters](#)
[About buying Online](#)
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## Who we are

We are animal professionals with over 40 years of experience in veterinary medicine, education, dog training and shelter work.

**We created PupQuest with one goal in mind: To inform and empower consumers. We have nothing to sell, nothing to lose, and a lot to say.**

## The PupQuest Team

As a veterinarian I have served on the board of directors of open and limited admission shelters. During my long career, I have been a humane educator for a large SPCA, worked as a certified veterinary technician, chaired the education committee of a shelter and created one of the first in-house shelter spay/neuter programs in the country. In veterinary school I was one of 12 students who created an alternative to terminal surgery dog labs.

My passion for education brought me to teaching at a large university. That is where I met a bright, creative student who was also interested in the PupQuest idea. Together we made it a reality.

The student now has a degree in Animal Behavior and many years of experience working in animal shelters and doggie day care/boarder kennels. Her honors thesis was based on behavioral research she conducted at a large municipal animal control shelter. Her recent experiences and fresh look at this topic have been invaluable.

## Our Motivation

Every week, we meet well-intentioned people who bought puppies for hundreds, sometimes thousands of dollars from pet shops, online, or from disreputable breeders. Many also adopted from shelters and rescues shipping animals in from all over the country and beyond. An alarming number of these puppies are not appropriate pets: they are unhealthy or their personalities are not safe for your average dog owner. Owners often don't make the connection between the dogs' problems and the source of the puppy.

## Our Frustration

For years animal advocates have been trying to convince people not to buy from [pet shops](#) and disreputable breeders. Recently, the [Internet](#) has created a new avenue for unsavory breeders to directly reach unsuspecting consumers. Hundreds of thousands of puppies are purchased sight-unseen online every year.

## Our Approach

**To be honest and unapologetic in our efforts to educate puppy-seekers.**

While we strongly believe adoption is still the best option we understand that many people want purebred pups or designer dogs (cough.... expensive mutts!) By guiding those who choose to buy, we have the best chance of helping the greatest number of dogs and people. We've chosen the Internet as our vehicle because that's where consumers are shopping for puppies.



## Contact Us

So, that's who we are! Please communicate with us on our [PupQuest blog](#). Tell us your stories, share your insight. Animal people don't always agree but we will have a lively discussion!

PupQuest is an educational website. We cannot provide advice about specific cases or recommend specific breeders or shelters, but the information you need to make wise choices is available on this site.



## Reputables Breeders and Disreputable Breeders In More Detail...


 **Requires you to meet the puppy in person.**

**Doesn't encourage you to meet the puppies.**

**Doesn't allow you to see where the puppies are raised.**

Reputable breeders want you to meet and spend time with your potential puppy. This is great, as meeting your puppy will help ensure that he does not have any existing health or behavior problems and that he's being raised in a clean and appropriate environment. If the seller won't let you visit, it's likely they are hiding something. Don't fall for excuses like "We don't want diseases brought into our kennel." Walk away.

 **Insists on meeting you and your family in person and wants to know about you, a lot about you!**

 **Doesn't ask many questions about you, your family, or your lifelong commitment to the pup.**

Reputable breeders don't sell their puppies to strangers! They want to get to know you. They'll ask you about your family, if you rent or own your home, who will be caring for the pup, etc. etc.. Watch out for those who don't ask for much more than your credit card number.

 **Socializes the puppies to people, places, and things.**

**Doesn't socialize their pups to everyday people, places, and things.**

Socialization is positive exposure to people, places, and things. It helps pups respond normally to everyday situations for the rest of their lives. It is absolutely critical that a puppy has been well-socialized. Make sure your future pup has been exposed to men, women, children, and household and real-world environments. If this isn't done, the dog is at risk for serious behavior problems.

For great info on how to tell if a pup is well-socialized, check out [Ian Dunbar's video](#).

Don't just take our word on it, check out Dr. Nick Dodman's book, "[Puppy's First Steps](#)"

 **Has a veterinarian individually examine and vaccinate each puppy and has verifiable proof of this.**

 **Provides no legitimate proof of vaccinations or examinations by a licensed veterinarian.**

Proof of veterinary care is NOT a vaccination schedule with dates written on it by the seller. This is a common way sellers will deceive puppy buyers. True proof is paperwork from a licensed veterinarian. All puppies should have been vaccinated and examined by a licensed vet and you should be provided with paperwork that details the results of the exams.

 **Knows about the breed's predispositions to certain genetic problems and has had their dogs tested for them.**

 **Doesn't screen for inherited disorders or has fraudulent documents.**

All purebred dogs are at risk for genetic problems that are common in their breed. Reputable breeders are very aware of this and have the parents and/or puppies tested to ensure they are not creating dogs that will suffer. Verifiable proof of the results of these tests should be available. We encourage you to investigate the health issues in [your breed](#). Visit the [PupQuest Health Screening Info](#) for more in-depth info.

 **Raises puppies in the home, not a kennel.**



**Raises puppies outside or in a kennel.**

Your pup is going to live in a home, so he needs to be socialized to life in one from day one! That way, he can get familiarized with all he'll encounter in daily life: people, sights, smells, and sounds. Puppies who grow up separated from people - like in a garage, basement, or outdoor kennel, don't get the exposure they need to grow into friendly, outgoing companions.



**Happily and proudly introduces you to the parents of the puppies.**

**Doesn't allow you to meet the parents, or at least the mother.**

The parents are a sneak-peek of the dog your puppy will become. They should be healthy and friendly! If you're concerned about the health or behavior of the parents, don't buy a puppy from that seller-they're likely to have the same problems!

For easy info on what to look for, check out DogStarDaily's "[How to Choose a Good Breeder](#)".

If mom isn't on the premises, the seller may be buying the puppies from puppy farms and shipping them in.



**Has healthy, long-lived adult dogs and contact info for previous buyers.**

**Has no clue where previous pups are living now.**

The health and lifespan of a breeder's dogs are a sneak peek into the pups' futures. Find out as much as you can about them. Speak to people who own adult dogs bought from your breeder. Have there been any recurring medical problems like chronic ear infections? Do any of them have high-maintenance health issues like food allergies? Epilepsy? How long do the dogs generally live for?



**Is able to knowledgeably answer all of your questions.**

**Seems more like a salesperson than a dog person.**

Watch out for sellers who don't seem to know much about the breed or who give you that smooth-talkin' salesman vibe. Reputable breeders are dog-savvy and know their breed and their own dogs well. Ask the breeder questions about everything from the breed's characteristic traits to their own dogs' health and training.



**Will take their pups back at any point in their lives.**

**Won't take a pup back after a certain length of time or at all.**

Any reputable breeder will take a puppy back into their home at any point in her life if you can no longer keep her. A life-long commitment to each and every puppy produced is a sign of a reputable breeder.



**Is involved with local and national breed clubs and abides by their Code of Ethics**

**Shows no interest in the breed other than selling them.**

Reputable breeders are actively associated with national breed clubs. They participate in breed activities such as herding, agility, showing, etc. A lack of involvement is a red flag.



**Follows the above PupQuest criteria**

**Wants to arrange to ship the puppy to you on a plane or to meet you in a parking lot or other public location to exchange money for the pup.**

A seller asking you to make a business transaction in a public place is and always will be suspect. Reputable breeders want to check you out and protect their puppies, they would never ship one on a potentially traumatic flight to a stranger.



**Raises only one or two breeds.**

**Is licensed by the USDA and/or has many breeds available.**

A United States Department of Agriculture license is a red flag that a seller is a puppy farm. Reputable breeders are committed to only one or two breeds. If a seller is advertising multiple breeds, it is likely they are just following the trends to make money on the "breed du jour". Keep your eyes peeled for their tricks: separate ads for different breeds from the same place can be



# Chicago puppy mill ban upheld by appeals court



Jim Sparks Jr. owner of Park Pet Shop, holds a young Blue Heeler, during a photo portrait in his shop on the south side, Tuesday Sept., 26, 2017. (Abel Uribe / Chicago Tribune)

By **Robert Channick**  
Chicago Tribune

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017, 4:25 PM

**A** Chicago ordinance banning the sale of pets from large commercial breeders does, in fact, have teeth, a federal appeals court ruled.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago last week affirmed the city's right to enforce the so-called puppy mill ordinance and upheld the dismissal of a lawsuit brought by two Chicago pet stores and a Missouri breeding farm.

The ordinance, which into effect in March 2015, limited pet stores mostly to selling dogs, cats and rabbits obtained from government pounds, humane societies and rescue shelters, cutting out large-scale commercial breeders.

The city acted to address concerns that Chicago pet stores were sourcing their animals from puppy mills, which have developed a notorious reputation for everything from poor living conditions to inbreeding.

Aimed at curbing abusive breeding practices and the costs associated with abandoned mill-bred pets, the ordinance was supported by animal welfare advocates. But it didn't sit well with Jim Sparks, longtime owner of Park Pet Shop in the Mount Greenwood neighborhood on the Far South Side, who sued the city in 2015.

"We are sympathetic with the ordinance, and we are in compliance with the ordinance," Sparks, 45, said Tuesday. "However, that doesn't mean we agree with it."

Joining with Chicago pet store Pocket Puppies Boutique and Cedar Woods Farm, a Missouri dog breeder, Park Pet Shop argued in the lawsuit that the city exceeded its home rule powers and blocked interstate commerce. A Chicago federal judge ruled in favor of the city in November 2015, a decision upheld upon appeal.

"The city's policy goals are to reduce financial support for mill breeders, curb the emotional and financial burdens on consumers who unwittingly buy mill-bred pets, and reduce the cost of sheltering and euthanizing unwanted problem pets," the appeals court's ruling said. "These are unquestionably legitimate governmental interests, and it's rational to think the puppy-mill ordinance will serve them."

Founded in 1958, family-owned Park Pet purchased its puppies from breeders around the country and hired a sourcing service to ensure the highest standards of care, Sparks said.

In their original complaint, the pet stores argued they would be unable to obtain purebred puppies, pushing customers to go through "unlicensed and irresponsible breeders." Further, they argued that animal control centers and rescue organizations didn't provide an "economically viable source" for sustaining their businesses.

Sparks said his store has been without puppies at certain times and has seen sales decline between 20 and 40 percent over the last two years.

"We're making a go of it, but they've made it more difficult not only on the business as it stands but for (customers)," Sparks said. "It forces the underground marketplace to flourish."

Sparks may not carry on his legal fight, but he would still like to make his case to the city for amending the rules to allow for more choices as to how he sources his pets for sale.

Last month, Gov. Bruce Rauner signed the Illinois Safe Pets bill into law, which prevents puppy mills from doing business with pet stores, but doesn't eliminate fully vetted and reputable breeders.

While Sparks said he respects the city's home rule authority, he is hoping it will consider adopting the state ordinance going forward.

***[rchannick@chicagotribune.com](mailto:rchannick@chicagotribune.com)***

***Twitter @RobertChannick***

**Short Description:** ANIMAL WELFARE-MICROCHIPPING

**Senate Sponsors**

Sen. Michael E. Hastings, William R. Haine, Steven M. Landek, Martin A. Sandoval and Emil Jones, III

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**Last Action**

| Date      | Chamber | Action                               |
|-----------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 8/24/2017 | Senate  | Public Act . . . . . <u>100-0322</u> |

**Statutes Amended In Order of Appearance**

- 225 ILCS 605/3.1 from Ch. 8, par. 303.1
- 225 ILCS 605/3.5
- 225 ILCS 605/3.6
- 225 ILCS 605/3.8 new
- 225 ILCS 605/3.15

**Synopsis As Introduced**

Amends the Animal Welfare Act. Provides that every dog dealer and cattery operator shall provide for every dog or cat available for sale documentation that indicates that the dog or cat has been microchipped. Requires an animal shelter or animal control facility to provide information to an adopter prior to the time of adoption whether the dog or cat to be adopted was microchipped prior to being placed in the animal shelter or animal control facility. Provides that if a dog or cat turned into an animal shelter has a microchip and the primary contact or owner refuses to reclaim the cat or dog, the shelter shall contact the pet shop operator or rescue organization identified on the microchip and request they claim the dog or cat. Provides that a pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator may not obtain a dog or cat for resale or sell or offer for sale any dog or cat obtained from a person who has committed violations of certain federal laws or regulations, as tracked by the United States Department of Agriculture. Provides for certain exceptions. Requires pet shop operators to microchip all dogs and cats. Requires pet shop operators to include a disclosure that a dog or cat for sale has been microchipped. Denies home rule powers. Effective immediately.

**Senate Committee Amendment No. 1**

Provides that the amendatory Act may be referred to as the Best Practices and Uniform Standards to Ensure Consumer Protection and Safe Pets Act. In provisions requiring every dog dealer and cattery operator to provide documentation that indicates every dog or cat available for sale has been microchipped, includes that the documentation shall also indicate that the microchip has been enrolled with a searchable national database. In provisions prohibiting a pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator from obtaining a dog or cat for resale or sale if certain conditions are met, removes references to inspection reports posted on the Animal Care Information System online search tool maintained by the United States Department of Agriculture. Provides that a pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator may comply with certain provisions by obtaining the latest inspection report available from the licensed breeder or the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (rather than the Animal Care Information System) online search tool. Provides that a pet shop operator, dog dealer, or cattery operator is presumed to have acted in good faith and to have satisfied its obligation if it is determined that the licensed breeder altered or falsified the inspection report provided at the time of sale. Make other changes.

**Senate Floor Amendment No. 2**

*Deletes reference to:*  
225 ILCS 605/3.5

*Adds reference to:*  
510 ILCS 5/10 from Ch. 8, par. 360

Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the introduced bill with the following changes: Provides that the amendatory Act may be referred to as the Best Practices and Uniform Standards to Ensure Consumer Protection and Safe Pets Act. In provisions amending the Animal Welfare Act concerning requirements for every dog dealer and cattery operator to provide documentation that indicates every dog or cat available for sale has been microchipped, includes that the documentation shall also indicate that the microchip has been enrolled with a searchable national database. Removes provisions concerning information on dogs and cats available for adoption by an animal shelter or animal control facility. Makes changes in the acceptance of stray dogs and cats. In provisions concerning sourcing of dogs and cats sold by pet shops, removes references to dog dealers and cattery operators. Makes changes to the conditions required when prohibiting a pet shop operator from obtaining a dog or cat for resale or sale. Removes language denying home rule powers. Amends the Animal Control Act. In provisions concerning impoundment and redemption, provides that prior to transferring to a pet store, a dog or cat shall be scanned a second time for the presence of a microchip and examined for other means of identification. Makes other changes. Effective immediately.

#### Actions

| Date      | Chamber | Action  |
|-----------|---------|---|
| 2/10/2017 | Senate  | Filed with Secretary by <u>Sen. Michael E. Hastings</u>   |
| 2/10/2017 | Senate  | <b>First Reading</b>  |
| 2/10/2017 | Senate  | Referred to <u>Assignments</u>  |
| 2/14/2017 | Senate  | Added as Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Emil Jones, III</u>   |
| 2/14/2017 | Senate  | Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. William R. Haine</u>  |
| 2/15/2017 | Senate  | Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Linda Holmes</u>  |
| 2/15/2017 | Senate  | Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Wm. Sam McCann</u>  |
| 2/16/2017 | Senate  | Sponsor Removed <u>Sen. Linda Holmes</u>  |
| 2/16/2017 | Senate  | Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Jil Tracy</u>   |
| 2/28/2017 | Senate  | Sponsor Removed <u>Sen. Wm. Sam McCann</u>  |
| 2/28/2017 | Senate  | Assigned to <u>Licensed Activities and Pensions</u>   |
| 3/2/2017  | Senate  | Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Filed with Secretary by <u>Sen. Michael E. Hastings</u>              |
| 3/2/2017  | Senate  | Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Referred to <u>Assignments</u>                                       |
| 3/7/2017  | Senate  | Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Assignments Refers to <u>Licensed Activities and Pensions</u>        |
| 3/7/2017  | Senate  | Sponsor Removed <u>Sen. Emil Jones, III</u>   |
| 3/15/2017 | Senate  | Senate Committee Amendment No. 1 Adopted  |
| 3/16/2017 | Senate  | Do Pass as Amended <u>Licensed Activities and Pensions</u> ; 010-001-000                              |
| 3/16/2017 | Senate  | Placed on Calendar Order of 2nd Reading March 28, 2017  |
| 3/16/2017 | Senate  | Sponsor Removed <u>Sen. Jil Tracy</u>   |
| 3/17/2017 | Senate  | Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Steven M. Landek</u>  |
| 4/27/2017 | Senate  | Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 Filed with Secretary by <u>Sen. Michael E. Hastings</u>                  |
| 4/27/2017 | Senate  | Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 Referred to <u>Assignments</u>   |
| 4/28/2017 | Senate  | Rule 2-10 Third Reading Deadline Established As May 31, 2017  |
| 5/2/2017  | Senate  | Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 Assignments Refers to <u>Licensed Activities and Pensions</u>            |
| 5/3/2017  | Senate  | Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Martin A. Sandoval</u>  |
| 5/4/2017  | Senate  | Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 Recommend Do Adopt <u>Licensed Activities and Pensions</u> ; 013-000-000 |
| 5/5/2017  | Senate  | <b>Second Reading</b>   |
| 5/5/2017  | Senate  | Senate Floor Amendment No. 2 Adopted; Hastings  |
| 5/5/2017  | Senate  | Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading May 9, 2017   |
| 5/10/2017 | Senate  | Added as Co-Sponsor <u>Sen. Emil Jones, III</u>   |
| 5/10/2017 | Senate  | <b>Third Reading - Passed; 056-000-000</b>  |

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|-----------|-------|--|
| 5/11/2017 | House | Arrived in House   |
| 5/11/2017 | House | Chief House Sponsor <u>Rep. Jerry Costello, II</u>                 |
| 5/11/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Margo McDermed</u>              |
| 5/11/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. David Harris</u>                |
| 5/11/2017 | House | Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Lou Lang</u>              |
| 5/11/2017 | House | <b>First Reading</b>   |
| 5/11/2017 | House | Referred to <u>Rules Committee</u>                                 |
| 5/11/2017 | House | Alternate Co-Sponsor Removed <u>Rep. David Harris</u>              |
| 5/11/2017 | House | Alternate Co-Sponsor Removed <u>Rep. Margo McDermed</u>            |
| 5/15/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Steven A. Andersson</u>         |
| 5/15/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Jay Hoffman</u>                 |
| 5/15/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Lawrence Walsh, Jr.</u>         |
| 5/15/2017 | House | Alternate Co-Sponsor Removed <u>Rep. Steven A. Andersson</u>       |
| 5/16/2017 | House | Assigned to <u>Consumer Protection Committee</u>                   |
| 5/16/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.</u>        |
| 5/16/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Jerry Lee Long</u>              |
| 5/16/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Michelle Mussman</u>            |
| 5/16/2017 | House | Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Norine K. Hammond</u>     |
| 5/16/2017 | House | Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Steven A. Andersson</u>   |
| 5/16/2017 | House | Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Removed <u>Rep. Norine K. Hammond</u>   |
| 5/16/2017 | House | Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Removed <u>Rep. Steven A. Andersson</u> |
| 5/17/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Robert W. Pritchard</u>         |
| 5/17/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Michael Halpin</u>              |
| 5/17/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. La Shawn K. Ford</u>            |
| 5/17/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Brian W. Stewart</u>            |
| 5/17/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Martin J. Moylan</u>            |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Terri Bryant</u>                |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Tom Demmer</u>                  |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. LaToya Greenwood</u>            |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Robert Martwick</u>             |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. John M. Cabello</u>             |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. William Davis</u>         |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. David Harris</u>                |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Margo McDermed</u>              |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Norine K. Hammond</u>     |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Changed to <u>Rep. William Davis</u>    |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Steven A. Andersson</u>   |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Changed to <u>Rep. William Davis</u>    |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor Removed <u>Rep. William Davis</u>       |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Chief Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. William Davis</u>         |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Frances Ann Hurley</u>          |
| 5/18/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch</u>         |
| 5/19/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Jeanne M Ives</u>               |
| 5/19/2017 | House | Committee Deadline Extended-Rule 9(b) May 26, 2017                 |
| 5/22/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Ryan Spain</u>                  |
| 5/23/2017 | House | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Camille Y. Lilly</u>            |

|                  |               |   |
|------------------|---------------|---|
| 5/23/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Christian L. Mitchell</u>              |
| 5/23/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Brandon W. Phelps</u>                  |
| 5/23/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Daniel V. Beiser</u>                   |
| 5/23/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Arthur Turner</u>                      |
| 5/23/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Silvana Tabares</u>                    |
| 5/24/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Sam Yingling</u>                       |
| 5/24/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Bill Mitchell</u>                      |
| 5/25/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Michael J. Madigan</u>                 |
| 5/25/2017        | House         | Do Pass / Short Debate <u>Consumer Protection Committee</u> ; 005-000-000 |
| 5/25/2017        | House         | Placed on Calendar 2nd Reading - Short Debate                             |
| <b>5/25/2017</b> | <b>House</b>  | <b>Second Reading - Short Debate</b>                                      |
| 5/25/2017        | House         | Placed on Calendar Order of 3rd Reading - Short Debate                    |
| 5/26/2017        | House         | Final Action Deadline Extended-9(b) May 31, 2017                          |
| <b>5/30/2017</b> | <b>House</b>  | <b>Third Reading - Short Debate - Passed 113-000-000</b>                  |
| 5/30/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Sonya M. Harper</u>                    |
| 5/30/2017        | House         | Added Alternate Co-Sponsor <u>Rep. Juliana Stratton</u>                   |
| 5/30/2017        | Senate        | Passed Both Houses  |
| 6/28/2017        | Senate        | Sent to the Governor  |
| 8/24/2017        | Senate        | Governor Approved   |
| 8/24/2017        | Senate        | Effective Date August 24, 2017  |
| <b>8/24/2017</b> | <b>Senate</b> | <b>Public Act . . . . . 100-0322</b>                                      |

AN ACT concerning regulation.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be referred to as the Best Practices and Uniform Standards to Ensure Consumer Protection and Safe Pets Act.

Section 5. The Animal Welfare Act is amended by changing Sections 3.1, 3.6, and 3.15 and by adding Section 3.8 as follows:

(225 ILCS 605/3.1) (from Ch. 8, par. 303.1)

Sec. 3.1. Information on dogs and cats for sale by a dog dealer or cattery operator. Every dog dealer and cattery operator shall provide the following information for every dog or cat available for sale:

- (a) The age, sex, and weight of the animal.
- (b) The breed of the animal.
- (c) A record of vaccinations and veterinary care and treatment.
- (d) A record of surgical sterilization or lack of surgical sterilization.
- (e) The name and address of the breeder of the animal.
- (f) The name and address of any other person who owned or

harbored the animal between its birth and the point of sale.

(g) Documentation that indicates that the dog or cat has been microchipped and the microchip has been enrolled in a nationally searchable database.

(Source: P.A. 96-1470, eff. 1-1-11.)

(225 ILCS 605/3.6)

Sec. 3.6. Acceptance of stray dogs and cats.

(a) No animal shelter may accept a stray dog or cat unless the animal is reported by the shelter to the animal control or law enforcement of the county in which the animal is found by the next business day. An animal shelter may accept animals from: (1) the owner of the animal where the owner signs a relinquishment form which states he or she is the owner of the animal; (2) an animal shelter licensed under this Act; or (3) an out-of-state animal control facility, rescue group, or animal shelter that is duly licensed in their state or is a not-for-profit organization.

(b) When stray dogs and cats are accepted by an animal shelter, they must be scanned for the presence of a microchip and examined for other currently-acceptable methods of identification, including, but not limited to, identification tags, tattoos, and rabies license tags. The examination for identification shall be done within 24 hours after the intake of each dog or cat. The animal shelter shall notify the owner and transfer any dog with an identified owner to the animal



control or law enforcement agency in the jurisdiction in which it was found or the local animal control agency for redemption.

(c) If no transfer can occur, the animal shelter shall make every reasonable attempt to contact the owner, agent, or caretaker as soon as possible. The animal shelter shall give notice of not less than 7 business days to the owner, agent, or caretaker prior to disposal of the animal. The notice shall be mailed to the last known address of the owner, agent, or caretaker. Testimony of the animal shelter, or its authorized agent, who mails the notice shall be evidence of the receipt of the notice by the owner, agent, or caretaker of the animal. A mailed notice shall remain the primary means of owner, agent, or caretaker contact; however, the animal shelter shall also attempt to contact the owner, agent, or caretaker by any other contact information, such as by telephone or email address, provided by the microchip or other method of identification found on the dog or cat. If the dog or cat has been microchipped and the primary contact listed by the chip manufacturer cannot be located or refuses to reclaim the dog or cat, an attempt shall be made to contact any secondary contacts listed by the chip manufacturer prior to adoption, transfer, or euthanization. Prior to transferring any stray dog or cat to another humane shelter, pet store, ~~or~~ rescue group, or euthanization, the dog or cat shall be scanned again for the presence of a microchip and examined for other means of identification. If a second scan provides the same identifying

information as the initial intake scan and the owner, agent, or caretaker has not been located or refuses to reclaim the dog or cat, the animal shelter may proceed with adoption, transfer, or euthanization.

(d) When stray dogs and cats are accepted by an animal shelter and no owner can be identified, the shelter shall hold the animal for the period specified in local ordinance prior to adoption, transfer, or euthanasia. The animal shelter shall allow access to the public to view the animals housed there. If a dog is identified by an owner who desires to make redemption of it, the dog shall be transferred to the local animal control for redemption. If no transfer can occur, the animal shelter shall proceed pursuant to Section 3.7. Upon lapse of the hold period specified in local ordinance and no owner can be identified, ownership of the animal, by operation of law, transfers to the shelter that has custody of the animal.

(e) No representative of an animal shelter may enter private property and remove an animal without permission from the property owner and animal owner, nor can any representative of an animal shelter direct another individual to enter private property and remove an animal unless that individual is an approved humane investigator (approved by the Department) operating pursuant to the provisions of the Humane Care for Animals Act.

(f) Nothing in this Section limits an animal shelter and an animal control facility who, through mutual agreement, wish to

enter into an agreement for animal control, boarding, holding, or other services provided that the agreement requires parties adhere to the provisions of the Animal Control Act, the Humane Euthanasia in Animal Shelters Act, and the Humane Care for Animals Act.

(Source: P.A. 99-310, eff. 1-1-16.)

(225 ILCS 605/3.8 new)

Sec. 3.8. Sourcing of dogs and cats sold by pet shops.

(a) A pet shop operator may not obtain a dog or cat for resale or sell or offer for sale any dog or cat obtained from a person who is required to be licensed by the pet dealer regulations of the United States Department of Agriculture under the federal Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. 2131 et seq.) if any of the following applies to the original breeder:

(1) The person is not currently licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture under the federal Animal Welfare Act.

(2) During the 2-year period before the day the dog or cat is received by the pet shop, the person received a direct or critical non-compliant citation on a final inspection report from the United States Department of Agriculture under the federal Animal Welfare Act.

(3) During the 2-year period before the day the dog or cat is received by the pet shop, the person received 3 or more non-compliant citations on a final inspection report

from the United States Department of Agriculture for violations relating to the health or welfare of the animal and the violations were not administrative in nature.

(4) The person received a no-access violation on each of the 3 most recent final inspection reports from the United States Department of Agriculture.

(b) A pet shop operator is presumed to have acted in good faith and to have satisfied its obligation to ascertain whether a person meets the criteria described in subsection (a) of this Section if, when placing an order to obtain a dog or cat for sale or resale, the pet shop operator conducts a search for inspection reports that are readily available of the breeder on the Animal Care Information System online search tool maintained by the United States Department of Agriculture. If inspection reports are not readily available on the United States Department of Agriculture website, the pet shop operator must obtain the inspection reports from the person or persons required to meet the criteria described in subsection (a) of this Section.

(c) Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of this Section, a pet shop operator may obtain a dog or cat for resale or sell or offer for sale any dog or cat obtained from: (1) a person that sells dogs only he or she has produced and raised and who is not required to be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, (2) a publicly operated pound or a private non-profit humane society or rescue, or (3) an animal

adoption event conducted by a pound or humane society.

(d) A pet shop operator shall maintain records verifying its compliance with this Section for 2 years after obtaining the dog or cat to be sold or offered for sale. Records maintained pursuant to this subsection (d) shall be open to inspection on request by a Department of Agriculture inspector.

(225 ILCS 605/3.15)

Sec. 3.15. Disclosures for dogs and cats being sold by pet shops.

(a) Prior to the time of sale, every pet shop operator must, to the best of his or her knowledge, provide to the consumer the following information on any dog or cat being offered for sale:

(1) The retail price of the dog or cat, including any additional fees or charges.

(2) The breed, age, date of birth, sex, and color of the dog or cat.

(3) The date and description of any inoculation or medical treatment that the dog or cat received while under the possession of the pet shop operator.

(4) The name and business address of both the dog or cat breeder and the facility where the dog or cat was born. If the dog or cat breeder is located in the State, then the breeder's license number. If the dog or cat breeder also holds a license issued by the United States Department of

Agriculture, the breeder's federal license number.

(5) (Blank).

(6) If eligible for registration with a pedigree registry, then the name and registration numbers of the sire and dam and the address of the pedigree registry where the sire and dam are registered.

(7) If the dog or cat was returned by a customer, then the date and reason for the return.

(8) A copy of the pet shop's policy regarding warranties, refunds, or returns and an explanation of the remedy under subsections (f) through (m) of this Section in addition to any other remedies available at law.

(9) The pet shop operator's license number issued by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

(10) Disclosure that the dog or cat has been microchipped and the microchip has been enrolled in a nationally searchable database. Pet stores must also disclose that the purchaser has the option to list the pet store as a secondary contact on the microchip.

(a-5) All dogs and cats shall be microchipped by a pet shop operator prior to sale.

(b) The information required in subsection (a) shall be provided to the customer in written form by the pet shop operator and shall have an acknowledgement of disclosures form, which must be signed by the customer and the pet shop operator at the time of sale. The acknowledgement of disclosures form

shall include the following:

(1) A blank space for the dated signature and printed name of the pet shop operator, which shall be immediately beneath the following statement: "I hereby attest that all of the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge."

(2) A blank space for the customer to sign and print his or her name and the date, which shall be immediately beneath the following statement: "I hereby attest that this disclosure was posted on or near the cage of the dog or cat for sale and that I have read all of the disclosures. I further understand that I am entitled to keep a signed copy of this disclosure."

(c) A copy of the disclosures and the signed acknowledgement of disclosures form shall be provided to the customer at the time of sale and the original copy shall be maintained by the pet shop operator for a period of 2 years from the date of sale. A copy of the pet store operator's policy regarding warranties, refunds, or returns shall be provided to the customer.

(d) A pet shop operator shall post in a conspicuous place in writing on or near the cage of any dog or cat available for sale the information required by subsection (a) of this Section 3.15.

(e) If there is an outbreak of distemper, parvovirus, or any other contagious and potentially life-threatening disease,

the pet shop operator shall notify the Department immediately upon becoming aware of the disease. If the Department issues a quarantine, the pet shop operator shall notify, in writing and within 2 business days of the quarantine, each customer who purchased a dog or cat during the 2-week period prior to the outbreak and quarantine.

(f) A customer who purchased a dog or cat from a pet shop is entitled to a remedy under this Section if:

(1) within 21 days after the date of sale, a licensed veterinarian states in writing that at the time of sale (A) the dog or cat was unfit for purchase due to illness or disease, the presence of symptoms of a contagious or infectious disease, or obvious signs of severe parasitism that are extreme enough to influence the general health of the animal, excluding fleas or ticks, or (B) the dog or cat has died from a disease that existed in the dog or cat on or before the date of delivery to the customer; or

(2) within one year after the date of sale, a licensed veterinarian states in writing that the dog or cat possesses a congenital or hereditary condition that adversely affects the health of the dog or cat or requires either hospitalization or a non-elective surgical procedure or has died of a congenital or hereditary condition. Internal or external parasites may not be considered to adversely affect the health of the dog unless the presence of the parasites makes the dog or cat



clinically ill. The veterinarian's statement shall include:

(A) the customer's name and address;

(B) a statement that the veterinarian examined the dog or cat;

(C) the date or dates that the dog or cat was examined;

(D) the breed and age of the dog or cat, if known;

(E) a statement that the dog or cat has or had a disease, illness, or congenital or hereditary condition that is subject to remedy; and

(F) the findings of the examination or necropsy, including any lab results or copies of the results.

(g) A customer entitled to a remedy under subsection (f) of this Section may:

(1) return the dog or cat to the pet shop for a full refund of the purchase price;

(2) exchange the dog or cat for another dog or cat of comparable value chosen by the customer;

(3) retain the dog or cat and be reimbursed for reasonable veterinary fees for diagnosis and treatment of the dog or cat, not to exceed the purchase price of the dog or cat; or

(4) if the dog or cat is deceased, be reimbursed for the full purchase price of the dog or cat plus reasonable veterinary fees associated with the diagnosis and

treatment of the dog or cat, not to exceed one times the purchase price of the dog or cat.

For the purposes of this subsection (g), veterinary fees shall be considered reasonable if (i) the services provided are appropriate for the diagnosis and treatment of the disease, illness, or congenital or hereditary condition and (ii) the cost of the services is comparable to that charged for similar services by other licensed veterinarians located in close proximity to the treating veterinarian.

(h) Unless the pet shop contests a reimbursement required under subsection (g) of this Section, the reimbursement shall be made to the customer no later than 10 business days after the pet shop operator receives the veterinarian's statement under subsection (f) of this Section.

(i) To obtain a remedy under this Section, a customer shall:

(1) notify the pet shop as soon as reasonably possible and not to exceed 3 business days after a diagnosis by a licensed veterinarian of a disease, illness, or congenital or hereditary condition of the dog or cat for which the customer is seeking a remedy;

(2) provide to the pet shop a written statement provided for under subsection (f) of this Section by a licensed veterinarian within 5 business days after a diagnosis by the veterinarian;

(3) upon request of the pet shop, take the dog or cat

for an examination by a second licensed veterinarian; the customer may either choose the second licensed veterinarian or allow the pet shop to choose the second veterinarian, if the pet shop agrees to do so. The party choosing the second veterinarian shall assume the cost of the resulting examination; and

(4) if the customer requests a reimbursement of veterinary fees, provide to the pet shop an itemized bill for the disease, illness, or congenital or hereditary condition of the dog or cat for which the customer is seeking a remedy.

(j) A customer is not entitled to a remedy under this Section if:

(1) the illness or death resulted from: (A) maltreatment or neglect by the customer; (B) an injury sustained after the delivery of the dog or cat to the customer; or (C) an illness or disease contracted after the delivery of the dog or cat to the customer;

(2) the customer does not carry out the recommended treatment prescribed by the veterinarian who made the diagnosis; or

(3) the customer does not return to the pet shop all documents provided to register the dog or cat, unless the documents have already been sent to the registry organization.

(k) A pet shop may contest a remedy under this Section by

having the dog or cat examined by a second licensed veterinarian pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (i) of this Section if the dog or cat is still living. If the dog or cat is deceased, the pet shop may choose to have the second veterinarian review any records provided by the veterinarian who examined or treated the dog or cat for the customer before its death.

If the customer and the pet shop have not reached an agreement within 10 business days after the examination of the medical records and the dog or cat, if alive, or the dog's or cat's medical records, if deceased, by the second veterinarian, then:

(1) the customer may bring suit in a court of competent jurisdiction to resolve the dispute; or

(2) if the customer and the pet shop agree in writing, the parties may submit the dispute to binding arbitration.

If the court or arbiter finds that either party acted in bad faith in seeking or denying the requested remedy, then the offending party may be required to pay reasonable attorney's fees and court costs of the adverse party.

(l) This Section shall not apply to any adoption of dogs or cats, including those in which a pet shop or other organization rents or donates space to facilitate the adoption.

(m) If a pet shop offers its own warranty on a pet, a customer may choose to waive the remedies provided under subsection (f) of this Section in favor of choosing the

warranty provided by the pet shop. If a customer waives the rights provided by subsection (f), the only remedies available to the customer are those provided by the pet shop's warranty. For the statement to be an effective waiver of the customer's right to refund or exchange the animal under subsection (f), the pet shop must provide, in writing, a statement of the remedy under subsection (f) that the customer is waiving as well as a written copy of the pet shop's warranty. For the statement to be an effective waiver of the customer's right to refund or exchange the animal under subsection (f), it shall be substantially similar to the following language:

"I have agreed to accept the warranty provided by the pet shop in lieu of the remedies under subsection (f) of Section 3.15 of the Animal Welfare Act. I have received a copy of the pet shop's warranty and a statement of the remedies provided under subsection (f) of Section 3.15 of the Animal Welfare Act. This is a waiver pursuant to subsection (m) of Section 3.15 of the Animal Welfare Act whereby I, the customer, relinquish any and all right to return the animal for congenital and hereditary disorders provided by subsection (f) of Section 3.15 of the Animal Welfare Act. I agree that my exclusive remedy is the warranty provided by the pet shop at the time of sale."

(Source: P.A. 98-509, eff. 1-1-14; 98-593, eff. 11-15-13.)

Section 10. The Animal Control Act is amended by changing

Section 10 as follows:

(510 ILCS 5/10) (from Ch. 8, par. 360)

Sec. 10. Impoundment; redemption. When dogs or cats are apprehended and impounded, they must be scanned for the presence of a microchip and examined for other currently acceptable methods of identification, including, but not limited to, identification tags, tattoos, and rabies license tags. The examination for identification shall be done within 24 hours after the intake of each dog or cat. The Administrator shall make every reasonable attempt to contact the owner as defined by Section 2.16, agent, or caretaker as soon as possible. The Administrator shall give notice of not less than 7 business days to the owner, agent, or caretaker prior to disposal of the animal. Such notice shall be mailed to the last known address of the owner, agent, or caretaker. Testimony of the Administrator, or his or her authorized agent, who mails such notice shall be evidence of the receipt of such notice by the owner, agent, or caretaker of the animal. A mailed notice shall remain the primary means of owner, agent, or caretaker contact; however, the Administrator shall also attempt to contact the owner, agent, or caretaker by any other contact information, such as by telephone or email address, provided by the microchip or other method of identification found on the dog or cat. If the dog or cat has been microchipped and the primary contact listed by the chip manufacturer cannot be

located or refuses to reclaim the dog or cat, an attempt shall be made to contact any secondary contacts listed by the chip manufacturer prior to adoption, transfer, or euthanization. Prior to transferring the dog or cat to another humane shelter, pet store, rescue group, or euthanization, the dog or cat shall be scanned again for the presence of a microchip and examined for other means of identification. If a second scan provides the same identifying information as the initial intake scan and the owner, agent, or caretaker has not been located or refuses to reclaim the dog or cat, the animal control facility may proceed with the adoption, transfer, or euthanization.

In case the owner, agent, or caretaker of any impounded dog or cat desires to make redemption thereof, he or she may do so by doing the following:

- a. Presenting proof of current rabies inoculation and registration, if applicable.
- b. Paying for the rabies inoculation of the dog or cat and registration, if applicable.
- c. Paying the pound for the board of the dog or cat for the period it was impounded.
- d. Paying into the Animal Control Fund an additional impoundment fee as prescribed by the Board as a penalty for the first offense and for each subsequent offense.
- e. Paying a \$25 public safety fine to be deposited into the Pet Population Control Fund; the fine shall be waived if it is the dog's or cat's first impoundment and the

owner, agent, or caretaker has the animal spayed or neutered within 14 days.

f. Paying for microchipping and registration if not already done.

The payments required for redemption under this Section shall be in addition to any other penalties invoked under this Act and the Illinois Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Act. An animal control agency shall assist and share information with the Director of Public Health in the collection of public safety fines.

(Source: P.A. 97-240, eff. 1-1-12.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.