

- My name is Elizabeth Sheaffer.
- I am a resident of Naperville. I grew up in here and love Naperville so much that I moved back here to raise my own family.
- ~~In my professional life, I am the Director of Global Strategic Marketing and Product Management for a division of Illinois Tool Works – ITW.~~
- My passion ~~outside of work~~ is helping rescue dogs.
- I've been a foster mom to 22 dogs, all who have called Naperville their home for some time in their journey.
- The reason I am here today is due to my last two fosters who are with me today. Hope, age 9, and Grace, 8.
- I am here today not only as a concerned citizen of Naperville ... but as the voice for Hope AND Grace.
- You see, both are puppy mill moms...and survivors.
- I say they are both survivors as both are so damaged as a result of living most of their lives in a small cage having litter after litter of puppies to supply pet stores like what we have in Naperville. They are the lucky ones ... they got out and into rescue. They survived.
- I am here today to ask this council to bring the most aggressive humane ordinance possible to Naperville. Let's be an example.
- With all due respect, ^{Council Members} your current proposal does NOT go far enough! It does not put a stop to the suffering of the moms and dads who are put in cages and bred over and over and over and over and over again ... until they can no longer breed and then discarded.
- Grace was discarded after she could not naturally deliver her last litter. She was taken to a vet and asked to have the puppies removed

It does not solve the ^{source} ~~source~~ of the problem.

by the puppy mill breeder. He asked the vet to do this to Grace, who at the time was just a number, without being put under.

- The vet was told by her owner to just dispose of her once her puppies were removed. He didn't need her. She was no longer of any value and could no longer bring in money because she could no longer produce puppies for pet stores like the ones in Naperville to sell.
- This beautiful girl's life meant nothing beyond supplying litter after litter.
- Luckily, the vet had a heart and called a rescue who was willing to sponsor Grace. When she came into the rescue group, she was so matted in her own feces that she had to be completely shaved down to her skin.
- She had terrible teeth, sores and rashes all over her body. She also had scabs all over her head from flea bites. She was completely shut down. She would not eat, did not want any human contact, and would not make any eye contact. She tried to make herself very small. She didn't want to be seen.
- This is not an uncommon occurrence in rescue when we get discarded mill moms and dads.
- Grace is on anxiety meds, and will be for life. She was seen by a behaviorist, and was diagnosed with Generalized Anxiety – a fear of EVERYTHING.
- Grace has been with my family for almost two years. We ended up adopting her, as we knew she would not be successful in a home without someone experienced at working with dogs to counter condition as much of her fear and anxiety as possible. It is a daily struggle and a lot of work, but unlike the person who bred her over and over for money and then discarded her, we think Grace is worth our love.

- Now to be Hope's voice.
- Hope was a breeder mom as well. As she aged, she was no longer producing as many puppies. She was so over bred that she still has enlarged and deformed nipples.
- She was put up for sale at an auction to go to another puppy mill breeder when she wasn't performing her only duty up to par ... to produce puppies to sell to pet stores.
- Disgusted by that? I sure am!
- Luckily, a rescue was there and paid the fee for her and three other mill moms that day.
- Hope is worse than Grace. She is on so much anxiety meds and will also most likely be on them for life. She gets 4 people grade anxiety meds in the morning, two in the afternoon and one before bed.
- She was adopted but returned as the family could not handle her anxiety and the cost of her meds. She was dropped at a vet clinic with stress lick sores all over her legs and belly. I got the call on Mother's Day of 2017 asking if I'd foster her. How could I say no to this beautiful mother? I picked her up that day and promised her that I would fight for her... and for every other mother like her.
- She has seen a vet behaviorist 6 times since January of 2016. She has generalized anxiety like Grace but also suffers from a form of post-traumatic stress disorder from living 8 years in a small cage with no human contact.
- She will never be a normal dog with a normal life. We manage her life to reduce as much stress as possible.

- Yes, many mill dogs can go on to lead normal lives with compassionate people who realize that these dogs will NEVER be what you and I consider to be normal. But...many can't.
- The rescue I volunteer with would never turn away a mill dog. But it's hard. Not many people are willing to foster these broken dogs and even fewer want to adopt a dog that will most likely never act like a normal dog. Many who are adopted get returned. Rescues spend thousands of dollars on these dogs to make life after the mill bearable and bring them back to health.
- I am asking you today, for Hope, Grace ... and so many other mill moms and dads to help PUT A STOP TO PUPPY MILLS and the abuse and horrible conditions that the breeder dogs live in.
- In rescue we say that if you can't meet the mom or dad, you are buying a mill dog. NO reputable breeder would EVER sell their puppies to a pet store. If your beloved family dog had a litter of puppies, would you take them to a pet store drop them off to be sold ... never meeting the people who would buy them? If your answer is no, why are you allowing this to happen in Naperville?
- Let's bring the most aggressive humane ordinance to Naperville. Let's be THE example.
- Let's have Naperville join the 250 and growing areas in the US that recognize sales of puppies in pet stores for what it is ... and have adopted humane ordinances ... like what we are asking for in Naperville.
- Thank you...and I have faith that you WILL do the right thing and that Naperville will be known as a place that values ALL of its citizens.
- On behalf of Grace and Hope...thank you.

Elizabeth Sheaffer

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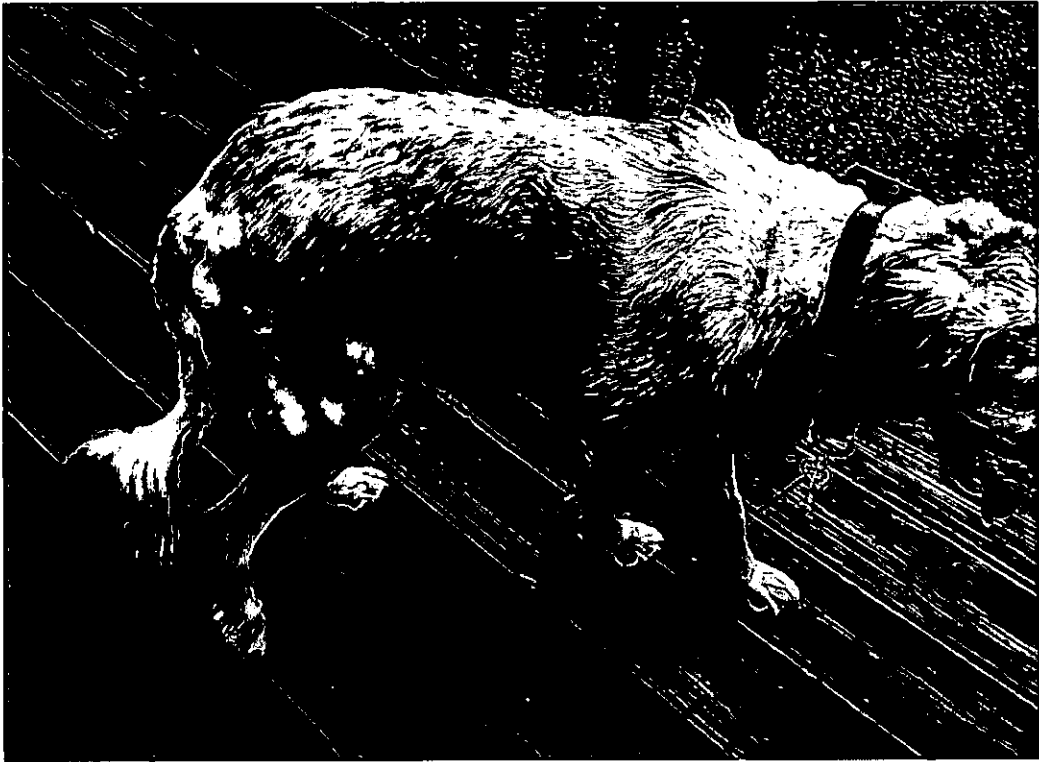
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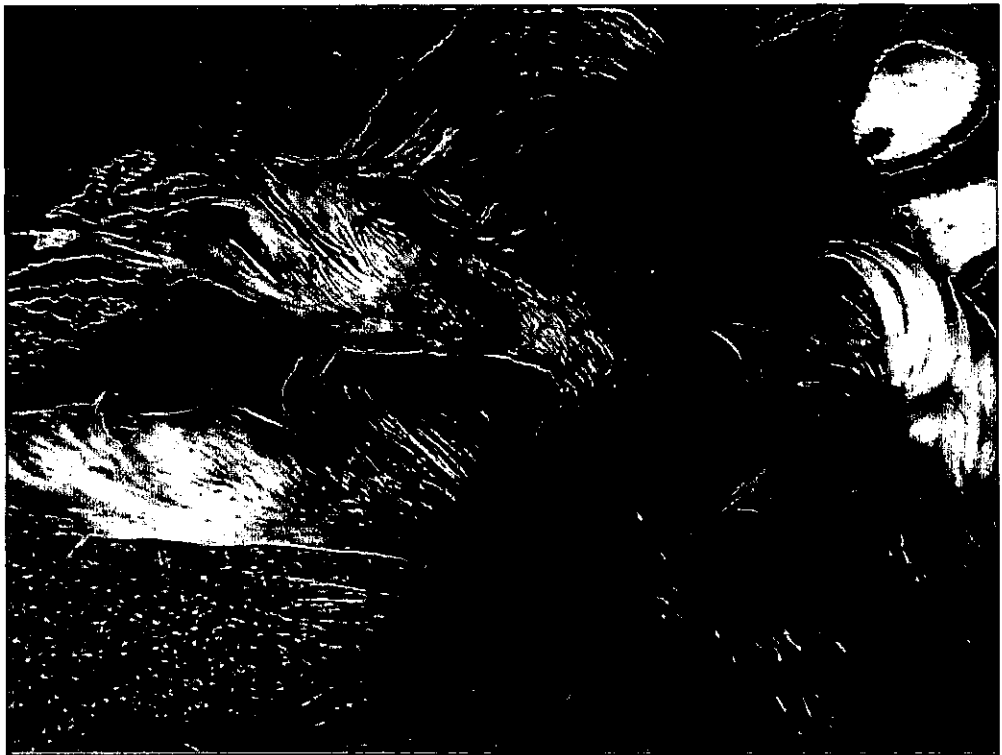


Grace









Hope