

SUPPORT HF 2627

THE “NO MORE PUPPY MILL STORES” BILL

A matted dog at a puppy mill that supplied puppies to a MN pet shop. *WI DATCP, 2021*



32,000 fewer breeding dogs

are now caged in USDA-licensed puppy mills than ten years ago, indicating stopping the sale of puppies in pet stores has lessened demand.

8 states and nearly 500 localities

prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.

SF 1943 is a commonsense, compromise bill that prohibits any new pet shops from selling puppies—a big step toward protecting Minnesota consumers and pets from the deceptive and cruel puppy mill-to-pet store pipeline and stopping out-of-state bad actors pushed out of their states from moving here.

- The three existing puppy stores may continue selling puppies from the same location and under the same ownership so long as they adhere to licensing and disclosure requirements.
- Localities retain the authority to prohibit the sale of puppies in pet shops with local ordinances, as 10 Minnesota cities have already done.

THE PROBLEM WITH PUPPY MILL STORES



Puppy mills: Public records show that pet store puppies come from large-scale, inhumane commercial breeders and brokers, many with terrible animal welfare records. USDA oversight of this industry amounts to little more than [federally approved cruelty](#).



The Pipeline: Pet store puppies are born into cruel and unsanitary conditions, taken from their mothers at just 7-8 weeks old, crammed into cages and trucked across the country near other stressed and sick puppies, and then placed in pet store cages.



Misleading sales tactics: Pet stores sell puppies for thousands of dollars with false promises of humane, regulated breeders and healthy, socialized puppies, which is rarely true.



Sick puppies: We receive a constant stream of complaints from consumers who ended up with sick pet store puppies, high veterinary bills, and sometimes the heartache of their new pet dying.



Predatory lending: Pet stores often push financing options on customers with promises of low or no interest rates, but consumers have ended up with interest rates as high as 198%.



Zoonotic disease: The American Medical Association and the CDC have warned of the health risks posed by pet store puppies, noting that antibiotic-resistant infections continue to sicken people.

LUCRATIVE HUMANE PET STORE MARKET



Minnesota’s market will remain open to the massive retail pet industry (\$147 billion and counting) that is dominated by the sale of pet products and services, with dog and cat sales steadily declining for years.



Stores that formally sold puppies are now thriving with a products and services model, with some adding high demand services like grooming, training, or daycare.

ETHICAL PET SOURCES



Most residents will be able to obtain the pet of their choice by adopting from a local shelter or rescue, including breed specific rescues.



Residents can also seek out a responsible breeder who treats their dogs like pets and only sell directly to the public. Learn more at humanesociety.org/breeders

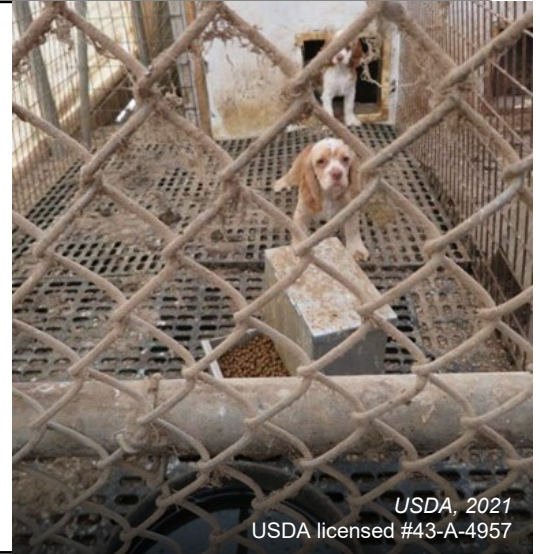
The Cruel Reality of USDA Puppy Mills

USDA's Shockingly Low Standards of Care

A compliant commercial breeder can:

- Confine dogs in cages only 6 inches larger than their bodies
- Keep hundreds of dogs in stacked or elevated cages
- Provide only wire flooring
- Expose dogs to frigid or sweltering temperatures for hours
- Breed dogs repeatedly and excessively, without limits
- Kill dogs they no longer want

In 2024, although the USDA found [over 800 violations](#) of these mere survival standards at dog breeding facilities they **did not relieve a single dog from suffering by removing them.**



USDA, 2021
USDA licensed #43-A-4957



MO Dept of Ag, 2022
USDA licensed #43-A-4436



MO Dept of Ag, 2022
USDA licensed #43-A-5445



USDA, 2023
USDA licensed #43-A-5497

USDA's Broken Oversight in Their Own Words

In 2025, the [USDA Inspector General](#) found:

- 80% of previously noncompliant dog breeders continued to violate USDA standards.
- Untimely and inconsistent inspections likely led to increased animal suffering.
- USDA failed to close 69% of complaints within established timeframes.

"The licensed dog breeders' pattern of continued noncompliance with AWA requirements poses a threat to the well-being and safety of their dogs, **leaving them vulnerable to neglect, mistreatment, and suffering.**"

[USDA INSPECTOR GENERAL](#), 2025

Weak enforcement had caused an "**untold number of animals**" to experience unnecessary suffering.

[USDA VETERINARIAN WHO OVERSAW INSPECTORS IN 27 STATES](#), 2019

Inspectors should emphasize "**education, not enforcement**" and treat licensees "**more as partners than as potential offenders.**"

[USDA ANIMAL CARE STAFF](#), 2019

The USDA was "**not able to ensure the overall health and humane treatment of animals at [dog breeding] facilities.**" The USDA did not consistently address complaints it received nor adequately document follow-up.

[USDA INSPECTOR GENERAL](#), 2021

"It feels like **your hands are tied behind your back.** You can't do many things you're supposed to when it comes to protecting animals."

[USDA INSPECTOR FOR 20 YEARS](#), 2019



Humane
World for
Animals



Formerly called

THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

PET STORE INDUSTRY TRENDS

When faced with legislation that would prohibit pet stores from selling puppies and kittens, puppy store owners and lobbyists argue the policy would put them out of business. Yet, their own industry repeatedly states that a products and services model is the key to pet retail success.



According to the [American Pet Products Association](#):

- Americans spent \$147 billion on their pets in 2023, with food, treats, and product spending dominating.
- Pet spending is predicted to have “solid year-over-year growth through 2030” when sales are forecasted to top \$250 billion.
- Dog and cat sales were not tracked for the fifth year in a row, indicating their insignificance to the overall retail pet industry.
- [In-person shopping](#) “has seen a resurgence and is now preferred by nearly 50% of pet owners.”

According to [Pet Business Magazine](#), of the Top 25 Pet Retailers in North America *only one* (Petland) sells puppies. 2023 “was another year of phenomenal growth” with several top retailers adding more than 200 stores. More than half added at least one store, with several growing their store count by double-digits.

According to [Morgan Stanley](#), the pet industry is “poised to nearly triple to \$275 billion by 2030 thanks to a surge in new owners, favorable demographics and increased per-pet spending.” Pet owners, especially younger ones, are spending incrementally more on pet products and services and that growth will likely continue.

According to [Pet Product News](#), millennial pet owners prefer to shop in-person at **smaller, locally-owned pet shops** for treats (59%), toys (58%), and pet food (55%). Services also drive people to these stores.

According to the [World Pet Association](#), in 2019 pet stores that only sold dry goods reported more total revenue per square foot (\$403) than those that sold animals (\$246).

SUCCESSFUL PET STORE CONVERSIONS

Dozens of pet shops have stopped selling puppies due to local or state laws and have successfully transitioned to a more humane model. Some examples include:



Love's Pets, a store that's been serving Conejo Valley in California since 1981, stopped selling puppies and solely focus on providing “the best all-natural and holistic foods and supplies.” They have a large retail selection and offer oven-baked dog treats, nutritional counseling, non-anesthetic dental clinics and offer dogs & cats for adoption.

Love My Puppies, a puppy store operating in Long Island, NY for 18 years, stopped selling puppies and is now a full-service grooming salon for dogs and cats. To embrace their new business model, the owners changed the name to [Imperial Pet Salon](#).

The Spoiled Pup in Clark County, NV stopped selling puppies and now offers grooming services and pet products. After the ordinance passed, an employee who was [interviewed](#) said that it wouldn't have much of an effect on them because the majority of their sales come from grooming and that they were prepared to find alternatives to replace the income from puppy sales.

Pet's Palace, a store impacted by the Louisville, KY ordinance, [declared](#) that it would become the city's most ethical pet store and never sell a cat or dog again, “even if local ordinances change.” The store refers to itself as “Louisville's oldest pet shop” and sells a wide range of pet food and supplies, as well as reptiles and birds.

Critter Cabana in Newberg, OR now offers a variety of goods and services, including grooming for dogs, cats and rabbits. The owners stated in Facebook post that they “value the spirit of the law” and proactively decided to stop selling puppies and kittens at their store and instead partner with local rescues and help connect community members with local breeders.