

Best  
Friends  
Animal  
Society

SAVE THEM ALL™

14 November 2014

Long Beach City Council  
333 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**Re: Support for a Pet Sales Ordinance**

Dear Mayor Garcia and members of the Council,

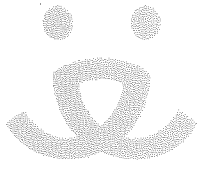
On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society, a national animal welfare organization in its thirty-first year, I would like to offer our support for an ordinance to restrict the retail sale of companion animals in Long Beach pet stores. We urge you to join the seventy-one municipalities throughout No. America (sixteen in California) that have made the change to no longer allow pet stores to sell commercially bred companion animals, unless the animals come from shelters or rescue groups.

Pet mills, particularly puppy mills, are a serious problem in the U.S. These facilities, which supply nearly 100% of retail pet stores and online retailers, are cruel and inhumane breeding factories in which profit and maximum productivity take priority over the welfare of the animals.

Although the USDA regulates these breeders, the minimum federal standards do not ensure a humane life for dogs. These types of kennels can legally have hundreds - often a thousand - dogs in one facility, and these dogs are allowed to be confined to very small cages for their entire lives, breeding continuously in order to produce as many puppies as possible for the pet trade. And USDA inspection reports show that many USDA-licensed breeders continue to sell animals to local pet stores even after being cited for serious violations at their facilities.

Because the goal is to make a profit, pet mill owners must cut corners to keep expenses low and profits high. For the unsuspecting consumer, this frequently results in the purchase of a pet facing an array of immediate veterinary problems or harboring genetic diseases that surface down the line. This creates a financial burden on the consumer and results in many of these animals being surrendered to overcrowded shelters.

It makes little sense to continue manufacturing dogs and cats when so many are being killed for lack of space. Public education has been effective, but until communities take the initiative to limit the supply of pets being imported from substandard commercial facilities, there can be no hope of preventing these unnecessary deaths.



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Those who benefit most from companion animal sales in pet stores are the retailers themselves. While they may profit from the practice of buying these pets at a low price from commercial brokers and then selling them (typically without first spaying or neutering them) at a high price, it is the taxpaying public who pays for animal control to house and kill unwanted animals in the community.

Pet stores that sell commercially bred animals can be part of the solution rather than the problem, simply by either stopping pet sales altogether (and focusing on other profitable, ancillary components such as grooming, daycare or pet supplies), or by changing to a business model that offers products, services, and space for animal rescue organizations to adopt out animals from their stores.

Best Friends has partnered with several of the many pet stores that have transitioned from selling milled dogs and cats to offering rescued pets for adoption, and we have found this humane model to be both viable and embraced by the communities in which the stores are located. Thus, a restriction on the retail sale of pets would *not* preclude pet stores from staying in business, and could in fact alleviate a significant burden on the city by increasing pet adoptions.

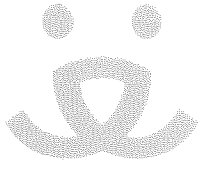
Best Friends and our members thank you for taking a compassionate, common sense initiative to addressing the pet mill problem in your community and setting a positive example for the rest of the country to follow. We have been proud to work with most of the municipalities throughout the U.S. that have enacted similar ordinances (including Los Angeles, Chicago and San Diego), and we support you in your efforts as well. I hope you will let us know if there is anything we can do to help further this critical reform.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal.

Respectfully,

*Elizabeth Oreck*

**Elizabeth Oreck**  
National Manager, Puppy Mill Initiatives  
Best Friends Animal Society  
[puppymills.bestfriends.org](http://puppymills.bestfriends.org)  
[elizabetho@bestfriends.org](mailto:elizabetho@bestfriends.org)



## Retail Pet Sales Bans Enacted in North America (71)

(Links to ordinances available at [puppymills.bestfriends.org](http://puppymills.bestfriends.org))

**Albuquerque, NM** – Enacted June 2006; effective August 2007

**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

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

**Richmond, British Columbia** – Enacted November 2010; effective April 2011

**Austin, Texas** – Enacted December 2010; effective December 2010

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

**Fountain, CO** – Enacted May 2011; effective May 2011

**Flagler Beach, FL** (applies to all animals, prohibits sales and breeding); effective December 2009

**Coral Gables, FL** (applies to dogs only)

**Opa-Locka, FL** (applies to dogs only)

**North Bay Village, FL** (applies to dogs only)

**Glendale, CA** – Enacted August 2011; effective August 2012

**Toronto, Ontario** – Enacted September 2011, effective September 2012

**Irvine, CA** – Enacted October 2011; effective immediately

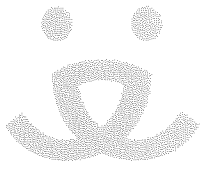
**Rosemont-La Petite Patrie, Canada** – Enacted December 2011; effective immediately

**Dana Point, CA** – Enacted Feb 2012; effective immediately



- Chula Vista, CA** – Enacted March 2012; effective April 2012
- Hallandale Beach, FL** – Enacted April 2012; effective immediately
- Laguna Beach, CA** – Enacted May 2012; effective immediately
- Point Pleasant, NJ** – Enacted May 2012; effective immediately
- Aliso Viejo, CA** – Enacted May 16, 2012; effective immediately
- Huntington Beach, CA** – Enacted June 2012; effective June 2014
- Mississauga, Canada** – Enacted July 2012; effective January 2013
- Brick, NJ** – Enacted July 2012; effective immediately
- Manasquan, NJ** – Enacted September 2012; effective immediately
- Los Angeles, CA** – Enacted October 2012; effective June 2013
- Point Pleasant Beach, NJ** – Enacted October 2012; effective immediately
- New Westminster, Canada** – Enacted November 2012; effective immediately
- Burbank, CA** – Enacted February 2013; effective August 2013
- Hoboken, NJ** – Enacted May 2013; effective immediately
- San Diego, CA** – Enacted July 2013; effective September 2013
- Kingston, Ontario** – Enacted August 2013; effective November 2013
- Oceanport, NJ** – Enacted August 2013; effective immediately
- Margate, FL** – Enacted October 2013; effective immediately
- Pinecrest, FL** – Enacted October 2013; effective immediately
- North Brunswick, NJ** – Enacted October 2013; effective November 2013
- Palmetto Bay, FL** – Enacted December 2013; effective immediately





**Ventura County, CA** – Enacted December 2013; effective December 2014

**Toledo, OH** – Enacted December 2013; effective January 2014

**Phoenix, AZ** – Enacted December 2013; effective January 2014

**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

**Chicago, IL** – Enacted March 2014; effective March 2015

**Wilton Manors, FL** – Enacted March 2014; effective immediately

**Greenacres, FL** – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

**North Lauderdale, FL** – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

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

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

**Vaughan, Ontario** – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

**Pompano Beach, FL** – Enacted May 2104; effective immediately

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

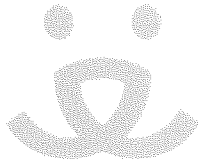
**Miami Beach, FL** – Enacted May 2014; effective January 2015

**Bal Harbour Village, FL** – Enacted May 2014; effective immediately

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

**East Providence, RI** – Enacted June 2014; effective immediately

**Dania Beach, FL** – Enacted June 2014; effective immediately



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**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

**Randolph, NJ** – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

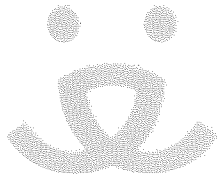
**Hypoluxo, FL** – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

**Hudson, Quebec, Canada** – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

**Jupiter, FL** - Enacted October 2014; effective immediately

**Homestead, FL** – Enacted October 2014; effective immediately

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



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## AKC Breeder Code of Ethics re: Pet Store Puppies

If one visits the website of the American Kennel Club (AKC), one of the oldest and most respected breed club registries in the world, one can access the Breeder Code of Ethics on any of the websites listed in their national parent club directory for AKC-recognized breeds.\* One of the most common provisos is that ***breeders must agree never to sell their puppies to pet stores.***

Below are several examples.

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### **Airedale Terrier Club of America (airedale.org)**

Code of Ethics: *In sale/placement transactions, we endeavor to refuse to sell an Airedale Terrier of any age to pet dealers, catalog houses, or any other commercial sources of distribution.*

### **Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc. (alaskanmalamute.org)**

Code of Ethics: *No member shall knowingly be involved in the sale/placement of puppies/dogs through retail or wholesale outlets, mail order businesses, dog dealers/agents/brokers, or act as a finder for such operations.*

### **American Bloodhound Club (bloodhounds.org)**

Code of Ethics: *As a member of the American Bloodhound Club: I agree not to engage in the practice of providing any Bloodhound to any individual, commercial wholesaler, or retailer for the purpose of resale.*

### **American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc. (ackcsc.org)**

General Code of Conduct: *I will not: 1. Knowingly falsify a pedigree, health screening or breeding information. 2. Sell Cavaliers to pet shops, brokers or third party dealers. 3. Supply or sell Cavaliers for auctions, raffles, flea markets or any other such enterprise. 4. Knowingly sell to unethical breeders, or sell to persons whose intention is resale. 5. Purchase any Cavalier or any litter for resale either to an individual or a commercial establishment.*

### **American Fox Terrier Club (aftc.org)**

Code of Ethics: *Under no condition shall dogs be sold to pet dealers or any other source of commercial distribution.*

**American Whippet Club, Inc.**

**(americanwhippetclub.net)**

*Code of Ethics: No member of this club shall engage in the wholesaling of litters of Whippet puppies, or the sale of breeding stock or individuals to pet shops or other commercial sources of distribution.*

**Basset Hound Club of America**

**(basset-bhca.com)**

*Breeder Code of Ethical Conduct: No member of this club shall engage in the wholesaling of litters or the selling of breeding stock to commercial sales operations.*

**American Maltese Association, Inc.**

**(americanmaltese.org)**

*Member Code of Ethics: I will not knowingly deal with dog wholesalers, commercial retailers, brokers or unethical dog breeders, nor supply dogs for raffles, "give away" prizes or other such projects.*

**American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.**

**(amsc.us)**

*Code of Ethics: The breeder will not sell or dispose of any dog through pet shops, wholesalers, commercial dealers or paid agents.*

**American Pomeranian Club, Inc.**

**(americanpomeranianclub.org)**

*Code of Ethics: I will not sell my puppies to pet shops or commercial pet mill establishments, nor will I donate puppies for raffles or auctions.*

**American Spaniel Club, Inc.**

**(asc-cockerspaniel.org)**

*Code of Ethics: Breeders shall refrain from selling puppies to pet shops either outright or on consignment; refrain from supplying puppies for auctions, raffles, or other such enterprises; refrain from selling to persons whose intention to resell is known or suspected; refrain from breeding litters primarily for the pet market.*

**Australian Cattle Dog Club of America**

**(acdca.org)**

*Breeder Code of Ethics: As an ACDCA Code of Ethics Breeder, I agree that no puppies will be knowingly sold to franchised commercial facilities, puppy brokers, puppy mills or agents thereof.*

**Boston Terrier Club of America, Inc.**

**(bostonterrierclubofamerica.org)**

*Code of Ethics: I will sell no Boston Terrier to a commercial facility, puppy broker, pet shop, puppy mill or their agent.*

**Bulldog Club of America**

**(bulldogclubofamerica.org)**

*Breeder's Code of Ethics: Responsible breeders refuse to sell or recommend breeders who do not conform to the ideals and obligations expressed in this Code and shall not engage in wholesaling litters or in individual sales or consignments of pups or adults to pet shops, dealers, catalog houses or other commercial establishments, nor shall they be donated or given as prizes in contests, raffles, or fund-raising events, no matter how charitable.*

**Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.**

**(chihuahuaclubofamerica.com)**

Code of Ethics: *I pledge to be responsible for all Chihuahuas that I have produced for their entire lifetime by never buying, selling or trading my/our Chihuahuas to research laboratories, pet stores, or to auctions nor placing them in rescue groups.*

**Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.**

**(cspca.com)**

Breeders Code of Conduct: *I agree to never sell or give any puppy or dog to pet stores either on consignment or outright.*

**Collie Club of America, Inc.**

**(collieclubofamerica.org)**

Code of Ethics: *No member shall knowingly sell or place, trade or give any Collie of any age to pet dealers, catalog houses, or other commercial sources; nor shall Collies be given as prizes, auctioned, or exploited to the detriment of the breed.*

**Dachshund Club of America, Inc.**

**(dachshund-dca.org)**

Code of Ethics: *To never supply a Dachshund to pet shops, commercial brokers or dealers, raffles or similar projects.*

**Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.**

**(thedca.org)**

Ethical Guidelines: *I hereby pledge to ensure that puppies and adults produced by my brood bitch or stud dog are never knowingly sold or consigned to pet stores, wholesalers, or commercial dealers.*

**French Bull Dog Club of America**

**(frenchbulldogclub.org)**

Code of Ethics and Sportsmanship: *As a member of the French Bull Dog Club of America, I will not sell a French Bulldog to any commercial facility, puppy brokers, pet shop, puppy mill or agent thereof.*

**German Shepherd Dog Club of America**

**(gsdca.org)**

Club Code of Conduct: *No GSD will be sold to wholesalers or retail stores for the purpose of resale.*  
Breeders Code: *I hereby pledge to refuse to sell or recommend breeders who do not conform to the ideals and obligations expressed in this Code and refuse all sales to dog wholesalers and retailers.*

**Golden Retriever Club of America**

**(grca.org)**

Responsibilities as a Breeder: *Members should not sell dogs at auction, or to brokers or commercial dealers.*

**Greyhound Club of America**

**(greyhoundclubofamericainc.org)**

Ethical Standards: *Breeders shall not knowingly sell or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet stores, puppy brokers or other commercial dealers.*

**Havanese Club of America**

**(havanese.org)**

Code of Ethics: *No Havanese will be sold to pet dealers, pet stores, pet wholesalers, or pet brokers either singly or in litter lots.*

**Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.**

**(minpin.org)**

*Code of Ethics: No Miniature Pinscher shall be sold to commercial facilities; research laboratories; pet shops; brokers who purchase litter lots or individuals for re-sale to pet shops or other commercial facilities, puppy mills or their agents.*

**Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.**

**(ncanewfs.org)**

*Ethics Guide: Responsibilities of Members: To refuse to sell Newfoundland dogs to any pet shop, or any wholesale dealer in dogs, or knowingly to sell or aid or abet the sale of any Newfoundland to a person or agent who will sell the animal through a pet shop.*

**Old English Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.**

**(oldenglishsheepdogclubofamerica.org)**

*Code of Ethics: Puppies may not be sold from any temporary marketplace or transient headquarters, no litters purchased or taken on consignment for resale, nor dogs wholesaled to pet shops, auctions, dealers, contest sponsors, raffles, etc.*

**Papillon Club of America, Inc.**

**(papillonclub.org)**

*Code of Ethics: No member of the Papillon Club of America will sell at wholesale or to retail outlets, brokers, pet shops, mail order houses, or businesses of similar commercial enterprise, or donate a dog to be offered as a prize.*

**Portugese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.**

**(pwdca.org)**

*Section 1 All PWDCA Members shall: Not sell, place or consign any Portuguese Water Dog to a commercial facility, business or agent thereof.*

**Pug Dog Club of America, Inc.**

**(pugs.org)**

*Code of Ethics: No member shall EVER sell or donate dogs for auctions or raffles, or to pet shops, catalog houses, brokers or for resale purposes.*

**Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States**

**(rrcus.org)**

*Code of Ethics: Members will not knowingly furnish puppies or adult dogs for wholesale, pet shops, puppy brokers, commercial facilities, guard dog businesses or agents thereof, or dispose of them as "Give away" prizes or auction items; neither will they sell puppies to nor breed to dogs owned by those whom they have reason to believe may do so.*

**Samoyed Club of America, Inc.**

**(samoyedclubofamerica.org)**

*Code of Ethics: The SCA member does not sell, consign, or transfer puppies, or adults to pet shops, wholesale dealers, contest sponsors, or anyone who is known to degrade the Samoyed breed or purebred dogs, or to individuals contemplating breeding and/or sale to the aforementioned.*

**Scottish Terrier Club of America**

**(stca.biz)**

*Code of Ethics: Not knowingly sell a Scottish Terrier of any age to a pet shop, catalog house, laboratory or any wholesale dealer in dogs (a dealer being a person who regularly buys dogs for sale at profit), or to any person who sells to any of the above.*

**Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.**

**(shca.org)**

Code of Ethics: *I pledge that I will refuse to deal with dog wholesalers or to sell puppies or dogs to pet shops, and I will include in all stud contracts an agreement to be signed by the owner of the bitch that no puppies resulting from the mating will be wholesaled or sold to pet shops.*

**Skye Terrier Club of America**

**(clubs.akc.org/skye)**

Code of Ethics: *To refrain from knowingly selling, trading, or giving Skye Terriers or providing stud service to a commercial breeder, pet shop, research laboratory or any person known to be unethical in his/her dealings in purebred dogs.*

**Spinone Club of America**

**(spinoneclubofamerica.com)**

Code of Conduct: *Members will not sell, transfer or consign a dog to pet shops, unethical breeders, or other commercial ventures including lotteries, raffles or auctions.*

**Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America**

**(sbtca.com)**

Code of Ethics: *Litters shall not be sold to a person en-bloc, to commercial sources, or for purposes of resale.*

**St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.**

**(saintbernardclub.org)**

Guidelines and Statement of Policy: *No member shall buy or sell St. Bernards through commercial pet outlets, nor buy or sell in litter lots, nor sell to persons whose activities tend to degrade the Breed.*

**Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.**

**(ttca-online.org)**

Guidelines for Responsible Breeders: *A responsible breeder does not sell or consign Tibetan Terriers to pet shops or other commercial dealers, nor does he breed his animals to their animals.*

**Weimaraner Club of America**

**(weimaranerclubofamerica.org)**

Code of Ethics: *The owner/breeder shall not breed, sell or consign puppies or adults to pet shops or other commercial dealers.*



# Executive Summary: Scientific studies of dogs and puppies from commercial dog-breeding establishments (puppy mills)

## BACKGROUND

Commercial breeding establishments, or puppy mills, are large-scale facilities where dogs are confined in small enclosures for their entire reproductive lives with little to no exercise or positive human contact. The sole purpose of such facilities is to mass-produce puppies to sell them for profit through retail pet stores and via the Internet.

## SYNOPSIS

In two large-scale studies of dogs from high-volume commercial breeding establishments (one study focusing on the adult breeding dogs and the other on the puppies sold through pet stores), the evidence showed conclusively that these breeding facilities are highly injurious to both groups of dogs, resulting in severe, extensive and long-term harm to the behavioral and psychological well-being of the dogs.

## Study 1: The adult breeding dogs

### WHAT THE STUDY LOOKED AT

This study compared a wide array of psychological and behavioral characteristics of 1,169 dogs formerly kept for breeding purposes in commercial breeding establishments with pet dogs owned by members of the general public.

### RESEARCHERS

Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, Best Friends Animal Society

Deborah L. Duffy, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

James A. Serpell, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

### THE PUBLISHED PAPER

Mental health of dogs formerly used as 'breeding stock' in commercial breeding establishments. FD McMillan, DL Duffy, JA Serpell. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 2011; 135: 86-94.

### WHAT THE STUDY FOUND

- The results showed a broad range of abnormal behavioral and psychological characteristics in the former breeding dogs from large-scale commercial breeding establishments, including significantly elevated levels of fears and phobias; pronounced compulsive and repetitive behaviors, such as spinning in tight circles and pacing; house soiling; and a heightened sensitivity to being touched and picked up.
- The psychological harm demonstrated in these dogs is severe and long-lasting. Much of the harm is irreparable and will remain a continued source of suffering for years after the dogs leave the breeding facility, in some cases for the entire lifetime of the dog.



## CONCLUSIONS

- Current laws at both the national and state levels are not based on current scientific knowledge of animal psychology, quality of life, suffering, and welfare, and are thus inadequate to protect dogs from the psychological harm resulting from living in commercial breeding establishments.
- Legislation to adequately protect the welfare of dogs in confinement needs to be updated to reflect current scientific knowledge.

To obtain a copy of the published study, contact Dr. Frank McMillan ([dr.frank@bestfriends.org](mailto:dr.frank@bestfriends.org)).

## Study 2: The puppies

### WHAT THE STUDY LOOKED AT

This study compared the psychological and behavioral characteristics of 431 adult dogs who were purchased as puppies from pet stores with adult dogs purchased as puppies from small-scale, private breeders.

### RESEARCHERS

Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, Best Friends Animal Society

James A. Serpell, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

Deborah L. Duffy, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

Elmabrok Masaoud, PhD, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

Ian Dohoo, DVM, PhD, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

### THE PUBLISHED PAPER

Differences in behavioral characteristics between dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores and those obtained from noncommercial breeders. FD McMillan, JA Serpell, DL Duffy, E Masaoud, IR Dohoo. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 2013; 242: 1359-1363.

### WHAT THE STUDY FOUND

- Dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores received significantly less favorable scores than breeder-obtained dogs on most behavioral variables measured. Compared with dogs obtained as puppies from noncommercial breeders, dogs from pet stores had significantly greater aggression toward human family members, unfamiliar people and other dogs; greater fear of other dogs and typical life events; and greater separation-related problems and house soiling.
- For no behavior evaluated in the study did pet store dogs score more favorably than noncommercial breeder dogs.
- The chances of a dog developing serious behavior problems is much higher for dogs purchased as puppies from pet stores, as compared to dogs obtained from small, noncommercial breeders.

## CONCLUSIONS

- On the basis of these findings, combined with findings from earlier small-scale studies of dogs obtained from pet stores, until the causes of the unfavorable differences detected in this group of dogs can be specifically identified and remedied, the authors of this study withhold any recommendation that puppies be obtained from pet stores.

- Dogs sold by pet stores are misrepresented to consumers as a high-quality product, because the data now shows that consumers are not receiving what they believe they are paying for. The increased risk of behavior problems that pet store customers face as their dog matures includes aggression issues, which pose a significant risk of human injury. Consumer protective legislation is urgently needed in this area.
- Legislation to improve the conditions in the large-scale commercial breeding facilities supplying puppies to pet stores is needed to assure that the puppies are not at any increased risk of maturing into adult dogs with serious behavior problems.

To obtain a copy of the published study, contact Dr. Frank McMillan ([dr.frank@bestfriends.org](mailto:dr.frank@bestfriends.org)).

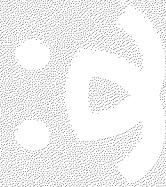
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## Overall Conclusions

- Current laws provide inadequate protection against harm to breeding dogs and puppies associated with commercial breeding establishments.
- Consumers purchasing puppies from pet stores are unknowingly assuming a risk of difficult and serious behavior problems in their dogs, including dog behavior that can endanger their own safety.
- If dogs are to be bred to produce puppies for sale, all of the dogs and puppies should be assured a decent quality of life based on the most current scientific research.

## For More Information

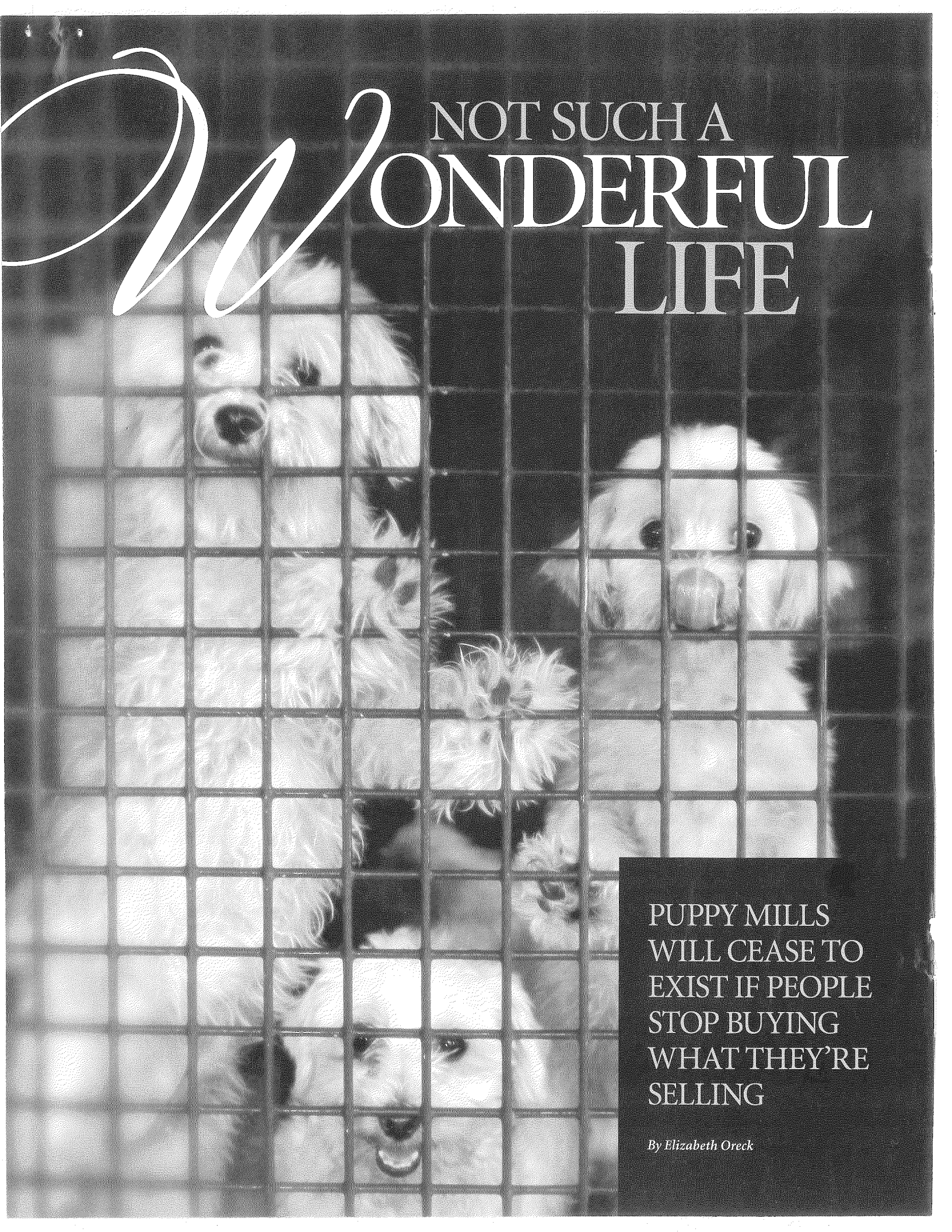
For more about Best Friends Animal Society, go to [bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org). To learn about Best Friends' puppy mill initiatives and what you can do to help, visit [pupmills.bestfriends.org](http://pupmills.bestfriends.org).



# Responsible vs. Irresponsible

<b>Responsible/Hobby Breeders</b>	<b>Puppy Mills/Backyard Breeders</b>
Breed for love/improvement of breed	Breed solely for profit
Screen for genetic defects	Do not screen for genetic defects
Have a small number of dogs	Have a large number of dogs
Usually breed only one breed	Breed multiple breeds
Only sell directly to buyer	Will sell to 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties (pet stores, brokers, online)
Usually spay & neuter	Do not spay & neuter
Dog can always be returned to breeder	Dogs cannot be returned
Dogs generally live in the home	Dogs do not live in the home
Typically breed only once a year	Typically breed every cycle
Will allow you to see where dogs are raised	Will not allow you to visit facility



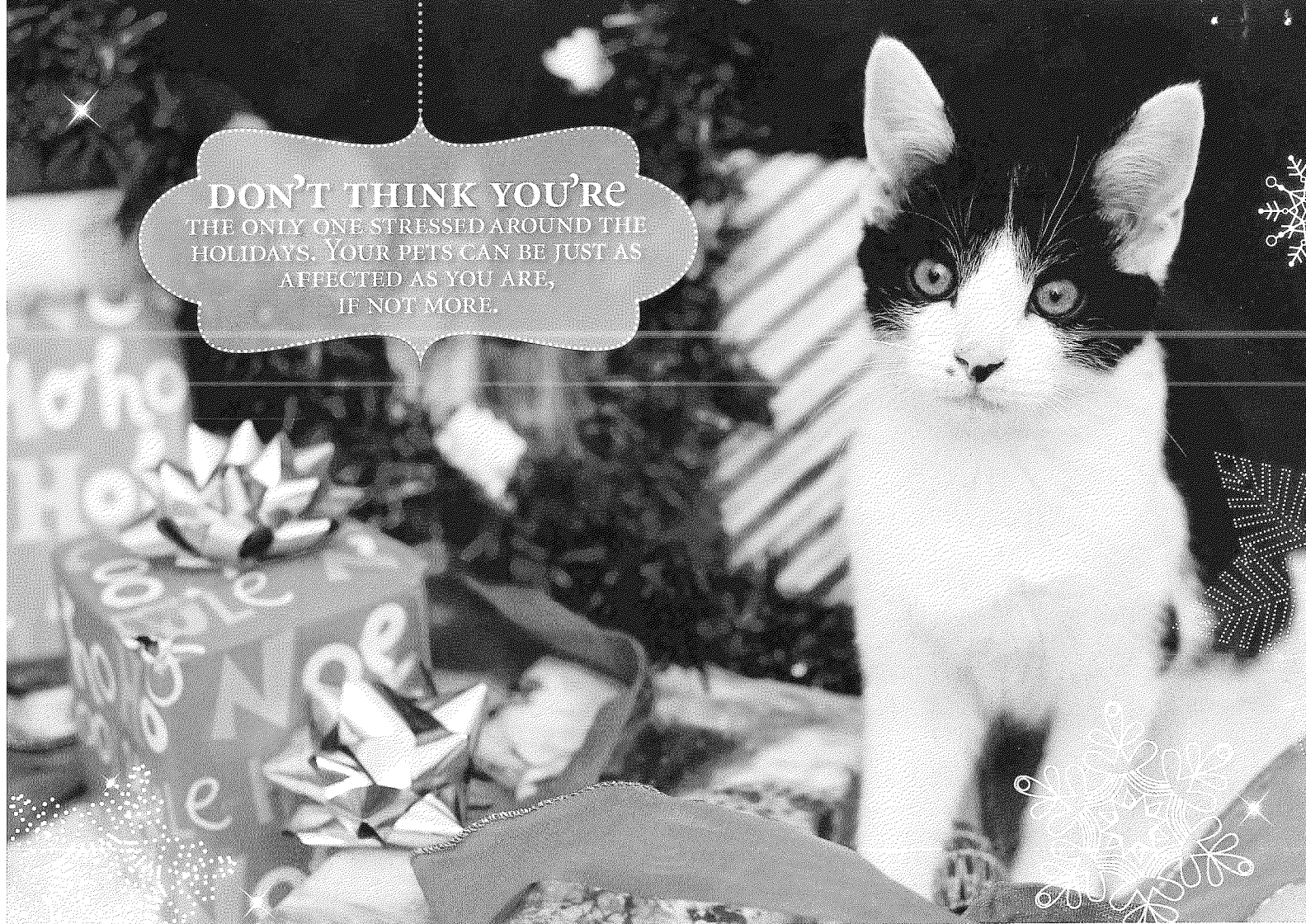


# NOT SUCH A WONDERFUL LIFE

PUPPY MILLS  
WILL CEASE TO  
EXIST IF PEOPLE  
STOP BUYING  
WHAT THEY'RE  
SELLING

*By Elizabeth Oreck*





**DON'T THINK YOU'RE**  
THE ONLY ONE STRESSED AROUND THE  
HOLIDAYS. YOUR PETS CAN BE JUST AS  
AFFECTED AS YOU ARE,  
IF NOT MORE.



#### HELPING PETS TO COPE

Don't think you're the only one stressed out around the holidays. Your pets can be just as affected as you are. Not only is there more hustle and bustle in the house, you may not be able to spend as much quality time as you usually do with your pets. This year, though, help your pet through the holidays with these strategies:

**1) PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN:** "The most effective tool for coping with stress is giving your pet control to shut off the unpleasantness whenever she wants," says Dr. Frank McMillan, director of well-being studies at Best Friends. How can you do that? Give her a secure hiding place where she can retreat anytime. You can make your pet's "safe place" an even more comfy hideout by perhaps soundproofing it with blankets, playing soft music or keeping lights in the area low. Then tell family members and guests that this space is for animals only.

**2) GIVE YOUR PET EXTRA TLC:** You may not think you have time to do this, but your pet needs it. "The more stress your pet feels, the more he needs your companionship," Frank says. For instance, give your dog an extra walk or snuggle more with your cat.

**3) KEEP YOUR PET'S SCHEDULE CONSISTENT:** Because animals thrive on routine, any disruptions in their daily regimen can cause stress. So, stick with their normal feeding, exercise and sleeping schedules as much as possible. 🐾



#### BE A *Santa* TO ANIMALS IN NEED

You don't need the ringing of Salvation Army bells to remind you that the holidays are a time for giving. Just don't forget our furry friends. Millions of cats and dogs enter shelters every year, and while homeless pets need your help year-round, the holidays are a great time to renew your support for them. If you can't give funds, volunteer your time or foster a shelter pet. Contact your local shelter to ask what they need.



**Parker** was about eight years old when he was rescued from a West Virginia puppy mill. Although his early years weren't what any dog deserves, Parker was adopted and now has a wonderful home of his own.

Every year at this time, families across the country look forward to the tradition of enjoying that timeless holiday classic, Frank Capra's *It's a Wonderful Life*. And while we revel in this heartwarming tale of human compassion and salvation, we are likely not thinking about the plight of the hundreds of thousands of dogs in puppy mills. But at no other time of year should these dogs be more top of mind. After all, 'tis the season of the often-requested Christmas gift of a puppy.

And yet, for that puppy under the tree to materialize, we must consider the countless dogs at any given moment living in cramped and often filthy cages, breeding continuously in order to produce as many puppies as possible for the retail pet trade. While Americans dig deep into their pockets to purchase new toys, treats, sweaters or cozy pet beds as holiday gifts for their





beloved furry companions, dogs living in mills receive no such gifts. Not even the opportunity to go for a walk or experience a kind human touch.

Puppy mills are in business to supply pet stores and online retailers, and, as is the case with most retail, the holidays are the most profitable time of year. Puppy sellers capitalize on parents' anticipation of the joy on their child's face when he or she receives that adorable puppy wrapped in a big red bow on Christmas morning. But that gift comes at a cost that far exceeds the dollar amount on the price tag, and it is a price paid every day by breeder dogs on the puppy production line.

#### WHAT IS A PUPPY MILL, ANYWAY?

A puppy mill is a high-volume commercial dog-breeding operation in which profit and maximum production take priority over the health and welfare of the animals. Puppies bred in these factory-like settings are regarded as nothing more than a cash crop commodity, and despite the poor conditions in which the breeder dogs are forced to live, puppy mills are still legal in every state.

Although commercial dog breeders who sell puppies wholesale to pet stores and distributors are licensed and regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the minimum required standards of care do little to protect dogs and nothing to ensure responsible, quality breeding. The dogs can be confined for years at a time, reduced to lives of constant breeding in dirty, stacked, wire-bottomed cages that are required to be only six inches larger than the dog on all sides, and with few, if any, opportunities to play, be walked, or receive basic grooming or veterinary care. There is no requirement that the dogs ever be let out of those cages, even for a moment, to stand on solid ground or experience the sun on their backs. When they are no longer able to produce, they are usually discarded or destroyed.

These are the parents of the puppies who are sold online or shipped to pet stores, where unsuspecting buyers are not informed of the backgrounds of these animals, nor the conditions under which they were bred. There are frequent reports of these puppies having congenital or communicable diseases, which cause heartache and expense for those who purchased them with the mistaken belief that they were buying a healthy pet from the best source possible. So, this is not just an animal welfare issue; it's a consumer protection issue, too.

Tragically, when the cost of caring for a sick puppy becomes more than the buyer can manage, it is not uncommon for that puppy to be surrendered to an overcrowded, taxpayer-subsidized shelter. Not all communities have puppy mills, but nearly every community has some byproduct of puppy mills — either a pet store that imports puppies from out-of-state mills or a shelter that takes in more dogs than they can adopt out. In short, the puppy mill problem impacts all of us.

There is no requirement that the dogs ever be let out of those cages, even for a moment, to stand on solid ground or experience the sun on their backs.

