



Exposing puppy mills and protecting dogs bred for profit

We're taking on an industry that exploits dogs for profit, with the goal of driving down consumer demand and making business models based on suffering economically nonviable.

Our Stop Puppy Mills campaign works to put inhumane mass breeding operations out of business. We help pass laws that punish cruel practices, mandate higher standards of care, work for bans on pet store sales of puppies from mills and investigate and expose offenders. We show consumers the truth behind cute puppy ads and connect them with shelters and rescues in their communities, where adoptable animals are always waiting for loving homes.

- In 2018, we gathered hundreds of thousands of signatures for our Stop Puppy Mills Ohio ballot initiative campaign, which led Ohio lawmakers to pass one of the strongest laws on commercial dog breeding in the country. The new law bans many of the cruelest and most common practices in puppy mills, including keeping dogs in wire-floored cages, stacking cages, depriving dogs of fresh air and exercise and failing to provide adequate veterinary treatment.

- Maryland became the second state in the country, joining California, to ban the sale of puppies and kittens in pet stores.
- We helped pass 33 more local ordinances to ban or regulate the sale of puppy mill dogs by pet stores, bringing our total to 290. We also defeated multiple state-level attempts by the retail pet industry to outlaw such ordinances.
- We helped defeat a dangerous proposal by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to give private third parties oversight over animal dealers—effectively allowing dealers to inspect themselves, which could potentially allow unchecked abuses. *The Washington Post* attributed the USDA's reversal to the more than 35,000 public comments filed in opposition to its plan, a large percentage of which were the result of emails, action alerts and blogs from the Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society Legislative Fund.
- We released a landmark report, “10 Years of Puppy Buyer Complaints,” detailing more than 5,000 tragic stories we collected from people who unknowingly bought sick or dying puppies from pet stores—providing irrefutable proof of the inhumane and often illegal conduct of puppy mills and retailers.
- Our undercover investigation of two stores run by America's largest puppy-selling retail chain, Petland, found sick puppies hidden in back rooms, overcrowded cages, deceptive staff and a dead puppy wrapped in plastic in a freezer. More than 3 million people viewed our undercover photos and videos on Facebook and the store we investigated in Las Vegas came under scrutiny by law enforcement.