



[ Stop Puppy Mills ]



THE HSUS

# THE CRUELTY

## Behind the Cuteness



THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

## You Can Help Stop Puppy Mills

Don't be fooled: the person or pet store you've picked to buy your puppy from might be supporting the notorious puppy mill industry. Puppy mills are breeding businesses that raise dogs in shockingly poor conditions. "Breeding stock" animals are caged and continually bred for years, without human companionship and with little hope of ever becoming part of a family. After their fertility wanes, breeding animals may be killed, abandoned, or sold to another mill. The result of all this breeding? Millions of puppies, many with health and behavior problems not easily seen at the time of purchase.

## Pet Store Deception

They may seem to know what they're doing, but behind the friendly façade of pet stores often lies the ugly reality of these puppy mills. There's only one sure way to combat the tragedy of mass breeding operations—don't support them. No matter how cute the puppy in the pet store is, please don't buy her. You may feel like you're "rescuing" her, but in reality you're freeing up space for another puppy mill "product" while supporting and encouraging an industry based on abuse. Unless you personally visit the place where your puppy was born and raised—and where the puppy's parents live—there's no way to know that your puppy didn't come from a puppy mill, no matter what a sales clerk tells you.

## Heart Set on a Purebred Dog?

Shelters and breed rescue groups have purebred dogs available for adoption every day. Contact The Humane Society of the United States Companion Animals staff at 202-452-1100 or 2100 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037, or visit [humanesociety.org/puppy](https://www.humanesociety.org/puppy) for help finding a breed rescue group or shelter in your area.

## Websites and Classifieds—the New Face of a Terrible Business

Don't believe everything you see online or in the classifieds—a world of cruelty might be lurking behind that cute little puppy picture. If you think you've found the perfect breeder on a website showcasing adorable photos, claims of how they cherish their "furry babies," and promises that they sell exclusively to "qualified homes," be on alert—such websites are among the newer scams that puppy mills are running. There's no way to know whether you're dealing with a puppy mill by simply looking at a website or talking to someone over the phone.

Selling online and through classified ads allows puppy mill operators to "cut out the middleman" and sell directly to consumers. It's more profitable, and it allows puppy mills in many states to avoid inspection. Remember that puppy mills house their dogs in deplorable conditions and churn out puppies for quick sale and shipment. **Don't support this cruelty; always visit the breeder's home in person before you buy.**



# About The HSUS

The HSUS is the nation's largest and most powerful animal protection organization, backed by 11 million Americans, or one in every 28. Established in 1954, The HSUS seeks a humane and sustainable world for all animals, including people. We are America's mainstream force against cruelty, exploitation, and neglect, and also the nation's most trusted voice extolling the human-animal bond.

For more information about puppy mills, visit [humanesociety.org/puppermills](http://humanesociety.org/puppermills).

For help finding a humane breeder, visit [humanesociety.org/puppy](http://humanesociety.org/puppy).

To report a puppy mill operation, call 877-MILL-TIP (645-5847).

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty



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