Puppy Mills: Facts and Figures
January 2023

10,000  Estimated number of puppy mills in the U.S. (both licensed and unlicensed)

500,000  Estimated number of dogs kept for breeding in puppy mills (both licensed and unlicensed)

2,335  Number of USDA Class A and B licensed facilities that breed dogs for the pet trade

133,116  Estimated number of dogs kept solely for breeding purposes in USDA licensed facilities

86,525  Estimated number of female dogs kept for breeding at USDA licensed facilities

9.4  Estimated number of puppies per breeding female per year

813,336  Estimated number of puppies produced by USDA licensed facilities each year

3.3 million  Estimated number of puppies sold annually who originated from puppy mills – USDA licensed and non-USDA licensed (not all breeders require a USDA license).

25%  Estimated percentage of dogs in animal shelters who are purebred

1.5 million  Estimated number of dogs and cats euthanized by shelters every year in the U.S.

$4.00 - $7.00  International City/County Management Association budgeting recommendation, per capita, for animal control programs.

$500,000  Estimated cost of a puppy mill bust involving 250 animals.

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1 Not all puppy mills are required to be USDA licensed; in fact, the majority of puppy mills are not USDA licensed.

2 We estimate that for every 1 USDA licensed facility, there are 2 unlicensed facilities.