SUPPORT SF 4365 & THE "NO MORE PUPPY MILL STORES" SECTION

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



This is commonsense, compromise language 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 so long as they adhere to transparency requirements.
- The main opposition to this bill is now neutral due to compromises made.
- Localities retain the authority to prohibit the sale of puppies in pet shops with local ordinances, as 16 Minnesota cities have already done.

THE PROBLEM WITH PUPPY MILL STORES

Puppy mills: Public records show that pet shop puppies come from large-scale, inhumane commercial breeders and brokers, many with terrible animal welfare records. USDA oversight of this industry amounts to federally approved cruelty.

The Pipeline: Pet shop 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 shop cages like products.

Misleading sales tactics: Pet shops often sell puppies for thousands of dollars by lying about their breeders and making false health guarantees.

Sick puppies: Pet shop puppies have the health deck stacked against them. 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: Few can afford a pet shop puppy outright, so sales staff push financing through third party lenders. The National Consumer Law Center warns of puppy loans with up to 189% APR.

Zoonotic disease: The American Medical Association has sounded the alarm about the public health risks of pet shop puppies, noting that antibiotic-resistant infections continue to sicken and hospitalize people.

32,000 fewer breeding dogs

are now caged in USDA-licensed puppy mills than ten years ago—a decrease of about 1/3 in puppy mill size.

9 state and over 500 localities

prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.

LUCRATIVE HUMANE PET STORE MARKET

Minnesota's market will remain open to the massive retail pet industry ($157 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 formerly 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.

Stopping retail puppy sales lessens the burden on taxpayer-funded shelters that regularly take in pet shop puppies who families relinquish.

Residents can also seek out a responsible breeder who treats their dogs like pets and only sells puppies directly to the public.

Humane World for Animals