

Humane Pet Sales Bill: FAQ



What problems do puppy-selling pet stores pose?

There is a huge lack of transparency when a puppy is purchased from a pet store. The majority of puppies sold at pet stores come from puppy mills with inhumane conditions. Consumers are often misled with deceptive sales tactics and false promises about a puppy's health, behavior, and breeder. Financing options with high interest rates are also part of the sales pitch.

If this bill passes how will I buy a puppy?

People can still purchase a puppy in the breed of their choice directly from a responsible breeder or adopt from a shelter or rescue organization. In fact, according to the [American Pet Products Association](#), only about four percent of dogs are obtained from pet stores nationwide, so there will be no significant impact on consumer choice. There is no evidence that passage of the bill will drive people to purchase dogs and cats through unregulated internet sources, since many pet store purchases are impulse buys, often facilitated by pet store staff.

Why don't responsible breeders sell to pet stores?

Responsible breeders believe in transparency and only sell directly to the public so that they can screen prospective buyers in person. They create detailed contracts for their buyers, provide introductions to the parent dogs, and will always take the puppy back if something doesn't go well. This could not be done if they handed their puppies over to a truck driver to be transported to a pet store, displayed like a product, and sold to anyone with a credit card. Furthermore, most breed clubs discourage selling to pet stores as a matter of ethics.

How will this bill impact pet stores?

The vast majority of pet stores in Washington are already in compliance with this bill and do not sell puppies. The very few remaining pet stores in Washington that do sell puppies would be given time to transition their business model to one that instead focuses on products and services, which dominate the nearly \$100 billion pet market. Please refer to the Humane Pet Sales and Business page to learn more.



Will animal shelters/rescues benefit from this bill?

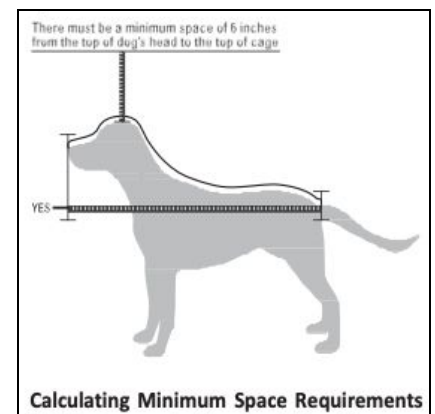
The majority of animal shelters/rescue groups are non-profit organizations with no financial gain from adoption. Most adoptions cost around \$300 which covers the cost of the animal's spay or neuter procedure, microchipping, and required shots. Often these fees do not cover staff time and medical attention necessary for some animals. Animal shelters/rescue groups are honest and transparent about the challenges that can come with adoption, making sure the adopter understands the animal's medical needs and rescue history. This bill allows pet stores to host adoption events for animal shelters and rescues, which will give dogs in those facilities an additional opportunity to find their forever home.

What about restricting the source of pet store puppies?

Restricting the sale of pet store puppies to only those derived from USDA-licensed facilities would be ineffective. A USDA-licensed breeder can still operate as a puppy mill, as facilities are only required to adhere to basic survival standards. Not only are the standards lacking, but so is enforcement.

What does a USDA/federal license really mean?

Pet stores often boast about sourcing from USDA-licensed breeders, but federal standards are shockingly low. A USDA license merely means that a breeder has 5 or more breeding female dogs and passed a pre-license inspection. It says nothing about how a breeder treats their animals. USDA standards allow dogs to be confined in stacked, wire cages only six inches larger than the dogs themselves for their entire lives denying them exercise, socialization, and basic veterinary care.



From the USDA's Website

Didn't Washington already ban puppy mills?

Although Washington has one of the stronger commercial dog breeder laws in the country, our regulations do not prevent the sale of puppy mill puppies because pet stores import puppies from out of state which Washington has no jurisdiction over.