

# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP MN PUPPY MILLS

## WHAT IS A PUPPY MILL?

A puppy mill is defined as:

“Any profit-centered breeding facility in which the number of dogs has exceeded the owner’s ability and/or willingness to meet the physical and emotional needs of all of the animals to a degree that permits the animals to have a decent quality of life.”



– Dr. Franklin McMillan, *Understanding and Caring for Rescued Puppy Mill Dogs*

Take action to protect dogs and help stop puppy mills:

### 1. GENERATE AWARENESS

Write letters to the editor, set up library displays, give flyers to your vet clinic, put a bumper sticker on your car, talk to kids. Educate others. Use facts and science to dispel myths. Photos, scientific studies, tool kits, and other materials can be downloaded from these websites:

- **Animal Folks:** [noMNPuppyMills.org](http://noMNPuppyMills.org)
- **Best Friends Animal Society:** [bestfriends.org/resources/puppy-mills](http://bestfriends.org/resources/puppy-mills)
- **ASPCA:** [nopetstorepuppies.com/](http://nopetstorepuppies.com/)
- **HSUS:** [humanesociety.org/issues/campaigns/stop\\_puppy\\_mills/](http://humanesociety.org/issues/campaigns/stop_puppy_mills/)

### 2. MAKE YOUR LOCAL PET STORE PUPPY-FRIENDLY

Help local pet stores implement policies that refuse to sell puppies from commercial breeders and instead support pet adoptions from credible rescue groups. Support pet stores that take a stand against puppy mills.

[www.noMNPuppyMills.org](http://www.noMNPuppyMills.org)

# NO MORE PUPPY MILLS KINDNESS, NOT CRUELTY

### 3. BE VIGILANT — BE A WATCHDOG

The MN Commercial Breeders Licensing and Enforcement bill was signed into law in 2014. Getting a law passed is step one; making sure the law is enforced properly is equally important. If you know or suspect that this law has been violated and/or a breeder has not been licensed, contact:

- **Minnesota Board of Animal Health**  
[www.bah.state.mn.us](http://www.bah.state.mn.us)

If you believe the law is not being enforced as intended, contact:

- **Office of the Minnesota Governor**  
<http://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form/>

### 4. GET TO KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Whether it’s state law, federal or local, legislators represent you. Get to know your elected representatives and continue to share information with them about the puppy mill issue and the inhumane treatment of dogs. Ask for their stance on animal issues.

### 5. FILE COMPLAINTS

If you have evidence that a local, state or federal law has been violated, such as animal cruelty, consumer fraud, or tax evasion, report it. How to file a complaint and links to state authorities can be found at [www.animalfolks.org](http://www.animalfolks.org). Click on Report It page. To file a complaint against a USDA-licensed breeder or dealer, go to: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/complaint-form>.

“Be truthful, gentle and fearless.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

**ANIMALFOLKS**