

WHY BREEDER REGULATION

TEN REASONS TO REGULATE COMMERCIAL DOG AND CAT BREEDERS

- 1. *Protect animals*** - Animal anti-cruelty statutes are vital but they kick in *after* the cruelty occurs, and only if a person sees the cruelty or conditions, reports it and the sheriff investigates. Regulation is preventative — allowing for inspections so cruelty can be prevented *before* it occurs.
- 2. *Reduce burden on communities*** - Relying on cruelty investigations and prosecution as a means to encourage ethical business standards is costly for local law enforcement, animal control and the courts. Regulation is based on compliance to standards — for efficient use of resources.
- 3. *Protect consumers*** - Unscrupulous breeders sell unhealthy dogs and cats to unsuspecting consumers who then may incur thousands of dollars in veterinarian bills to treat their sick dog or cat. Regulation will help consumers by differentiating between good and bad breeders.
- 4. *Protect taxpayers*** - Pet transactions are taxable. In 2010, Animal Folks MN conducted a study showing that 74% of sampled breeders did not hold a sales tax permit. Regulation will make it easier to collect sales tax from dog and cat breeders, contributing additional revenues to the State.
- 5. *Reduce strain on animal shelters and rescue groups*** - Humane societies and rescue groups receive sick, neglected and abused animals from disreputable breeding facilities, in addition to handling stray, abandoned and other unwanted animals. They must raise millions of dollars to provide animal care, shelter and adoption. Regulation will help reduce the burden on nonprofits. Also: Humane societies and rescue groups are licensed and inspected under MN Stat. 34731.
- 6. *Protect public health*** - Unsanitary conditions (i.e., excessive feces, urine, improper disposal of carcasses) can spread disease to humans. Regulation protects the public through inspections.
- 7. *Close USDA loopholes*** - The USDA licenses certain dog/cat breeders and dealers — those who sell wholesale (i.e., to pet stores). A recent audit by the Inspector General of the USDA's regulatory actions has concluded that the USDA has failed to protect animals from harm. State regulation would close federal loopholes and ensure enforcement within the State of Minnesota.
- 8. *Provide clear authority*** - Minnesota has no state authority to oversee this industry, respond to complaints or ensure compliance. Regulation designates a state agency to assume responsibility.
- 9. *Raise standards overall*** - Many breeders now sell dogs and cats through the Internet, hiding kennel conditions and offering “discounted” prices. Regulation provides transparency so standards are raised overall and reputable breeders can compete fairly.
- 10. *Make Minnesota a leader*** - Other states (including Wisconsin and Iowa) have passed breeder regulation. Some breeders are moving out of regulated states and to *unregulated* states.

HELP STOP INHUMANE DOG AND CAT BREEDING IN MINNESOTA

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