THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

The Humane Society of the United States Invites You to Join us for *Puppy Mill Action Week* Encouraging "Puppy Friendly" Pet Stores

Take action to stop puppy mills November 16 to 22, 2008

Puppy Mill Action Week consists of 7 steps activists can take starting November 16:

1. ***VISIT their local pet stores and encourage them to become a Puppy Friendly Pet Store.*** Store owners who sign and return a pledge to The HSUS declaring that they will discontinue selling puppies in their store by the end of 2008, or who "make official" a current policy of not selling puppies, will receive a poster to hang in their window and a starter package of free information for their customers on how to adopt a pet or find a responsible dog breeder. Pledge materials will be available on www.humanesociety.org/puppymills in November.

2. ***Sign*** the "Stop Puppy Mills" pledge at www.humanesociety.org/puppymills, promising not to shop at stores or Internet sites that sell puppies.

3. ***Ask*** for better laws by contacting government officials and pushing them to end the inhumane treatment of dogs in puppy mills. Sign up for HSUS action alerts at www.humanesociety.org to be notified of future legislation.

4. ***Write*** letters to the editors of newspapers about the pet store/internet puppy mill connection. Download a letter you can sign and send to your local paper at humanesociety.org/puppymills.

5. ***Support*** local shelters by fostering, adopting or volunteering. Puppy mills have a major impact on shelters by contributing to pet overpopulation.

6. ***Purchase*** cool "Stop Puppy Mills" merchandise for holiday gifts and stocking stuffers for fellow animal lovers, at humanesociety.org/puppymills.

7. ***Visit again:*** on the final day of Puppy Mill Action Week, dog lovers are asked to make a follow-up visit to their local pet stores or visit additional stores in their areas and ask them to join the Puppy Friendly Pet Stores campaign. Activists will be asked to work with their local stores to help facilitate partnerships with local animal shelters that will bring new business into the stores and increase the adoption rates of local shelters.

The CRUELTY Behind the Cuteness

You Can Stop It

The dog breeder or pet store you've picked to buy your puppy from might be supporting the notorious "puppy mill" industry. Puppy mills are breeding businesses that raise dogs in shockingly poor conditions. "Breeding stock" animals are caged and continually bred for years, without human companionship and with little hope of ever becoming part of a family. After their fertility wanes, breeding animals may be killed, abandoned, or sold to another mill. The result of all this breeding? Millions of puppies, many with behavior and health problems not easily seen at the time of purchase.

THE HSUS

Without Pet Stores, Puppy Mills Wouldn't Survive

They may seem to know what they're doing, but behind the friendly façade of pet stores often lies the ugly reality of puppy mills. There's only one sure way to combat the tragedy of puppy mills—don't support them. No matter how cute the puppy in the pet store is, please don't buy her. You may feel like you're "rescuing" her, but in reality you're only freeing up space for another puppy mill "product" while supporting and encouraging an industry based on abuse. Unless you personally visit the place your puppy was born and raised—and where the puppy's parents live—there's no way to know that your puppy didn't come from a puppy mill, no matter what a sales clerk tells you. ➜

Online Shopping—the New Face of a Terrible Business

You think you've found the perfect breeders, with a website filled with pictures of cute puppies, claims of how much they adore their "furry babies," and warnings that they only sell to "qualified homes." Everything feels right about this place, but beware—such websites are one of the newest scams puppy mills are running, and there's no way to know by looking at a website or talking to someone over the phone whether you're dealing with a puppy mill.

Websites allow puppy millers to "cut out the middleman" by selling directly to consumers. Not only is this more profitable, but in most states it allows the puppy mill to avoid being inspected by government agencies.

Websites loaded with pictures and promises of a loving home may seem like an ideal spot to find the right puppy for you, but remember that puppy mills house dogs in deplorable conditions, and they churn out puppies for quick sale and shipment. Your purchase could be supporting cruelty.

Heart Set on a Purebred Dog?

Shelters and breed rescue groups have purebred dogs available for adoption every day. Contact The Humane Society of the United States Companion Animals staff at 202-452-1100 or 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037, or visit **humanesociety.org/puppy** for help finding a purebred rescue group or shelter in your area.

For more on puppy mills, and for help finding a breeder who isn't running a puppy mill, visit humanesociety.org/puppy.

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty

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