

MYTH VS. FACT

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True or False?

Statement #1: USDA-licensed facilities are held to the highest standards of care.



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False.

USDA guidelines for commercial breeders outline MINIMAL standards of care. Which means you can meet only the bare minimum requirements and still be considered USDA-licensed.



This is USDA-licensed.



This is also USDA-licensed.



USDA Guidelines Fall Short.

- Limited veterinary care
- No outside cage exercise required
- No enrichment required
- Minimal space requirements (the 6" rule)
- No socialization required
- Minimal (if any) human interaction
- No beds, toys, or other comforts
- Some animals never see the outside of a cage
- Not enough investigators to adequately monitor and inspect



True or False?

Statement #2: There are enough USDA inspectors to oversee commercial breeding operations. Any violations are both enforced by the USDA and are effective in bringing change to improve the animals' living conditions.



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False.

- Approximately 100-110 Animal Welfare Inspectors responsible for 10,000 facilities nationwide (Source: [Washington Post May 2018](#))
- In addition to commercial breeding operations, inspectors are also responsible for inspecting:
 - Animal exhibitors (circuses, zoos, petting farms, wildlife parks)
 - Research facilities (hospitals, universities, pharmaceutical firms)
 - Animal transporters (airlines and trucking companies)
- The USDA admittedly does not have the capacity to adequately inspect and police violators (Source: [APHIS Audit Report](#))
- Many breeders on HSUS's [Horrible 100](#) list are repeat offenders. Yet they are still licensed.





U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of Inspector General



**Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Animal Care Program
Inspections of Problematic Dealers**

Audit Report 33002-4-SF
May 2010

<https://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/33002-4-SF.pdf>

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
APHIS 41-35-078



USDA Animal Care

**Animal Welfare Act AND
Animal Welfare Regulations**



<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/animal-welfare-act>



True or False?

Statement #3: Pet store workers say they source their animals only from responsible breeders, so it must be true.



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False.

Responsible breeders do not allow their animals to be sold in a pet store or online.

Source: Pupquest.org



Responsible Breeders....

- Breed for standard, health & temperament, not profit
- Raise puppies/kittens a home. Not a kennel.
- Want to know everything about the new owner and go to great lengths to make the best match between pet and family.
- Provide the highest level of veterinary care, socialization...even genetic testing.
- Responsible breeders will not load their animals onto a truck like livestock or allow them to be sold via pet stores.
- ALWAYS accept their animal back regardless of age, health or circumstance.



True or False?

Statement #4: Humane Pet Store Ordinance benefits responsible breeders and maintains purebred characteristics.



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True.

Animals and responsible breeders will benefit as the number of commercial breeders decreases.

At the same, time breed standard will be upheld as sub-standard breeding practices are eliminated.



Responsible Breeders....

- Are equally frustrated by the practice of breeding purely for profit
- By decreasing the number of animals available from commercial breeders, consumers will be redirected to source their animals from responsible breeders, licensed rescues and shelters
- Eliminating commercial breeding prevents “watering down” of breed and strengthens breed standard – the #1 priority of responsible breeders



True or False?

Statement #5: Any animal purchased from a pet store is acceptable because I am “saving” that animal.



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False.

- We might see it as “saving” an animal. Pet stores & commercial breeders see it as a “sale”. Their #1 goal is profit.
- Any pet store purchase, regardless of intent, is supporting and rewarding the cruel housing and treatment of animals
- An effective way to stop the mass production of poorly bred animals is to eradicate the source



True or False?

Statement #6: Humane Ordinance is just a ploy for shelters and rescue organizations to make a profit.



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False.

- Anyone involved in animal rescue and sheltering knows that when done according to best practices, it is not a money-making business.
- Shelters and rescues spend thousands of dollars on:
 - rehabilitating animals that were not properly socialized
 - treating animals that were not provided the proper medical care
 - spaying and neutering animals that were sold unaltered
 - caring for unwanted litters of unaltered animals
- Rescue and sheltering carries a large financial and emotional cost.



True or False?

Statement 7: According to the owner of one local pet store chain, pet stores are the “safest place to find your next puppy.”



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Trick question!

Fact: This was an actual claim made by a local pet store owner.

Myth: But the claim is a myth. Commercial breeding isn't safe for anyone...human or animal.

- 2018 CDC report on 17-state multidrug-resistant *Campylobacter* outbreak attributes outbreak in humans to contact with pet store puppies sold through Petland stores (*Source: Centers for Disease Control*)
- Despite overuse of antibiotics, animals often arrive to pet stores sick due to the stress, sub-standard transport conditions, and close proximity to many other sick/stressed animals



For More Information

DuPage County Animal Services Legislative Updates:
<https://www.dupageco.org/animalservices/legislation/>

DuPage County Animal Services Puppy Mill Information Packet:

https://www.dupageco.org/uploadedFiles/DupageCo/Departments/Animal_Care_and_Control/DMS_Files/Puppy%20Mill%20Information%20Packet_October%202018.pdf

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Animal Care Program Inspections of Problematic Dealers Audit Report:

<https://www.usda.gov/oig/webdocs/33002-4-SF.pdf>

The Animal Welfare Act:

<https://www.nal.usda.gov/awic/animal-welfare-act>

HSUS: Puppy Mills and the Animal Welfare Act

<https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/puppy-mills-awa-booklet-lores.pdf>

