
Pet Store Conditions

Mary Edwards



Overview: Pet stores that sell puppies from commercial breeders.

- What is *not* visible
- What *is* visible
- Pending Ohio State Laws for commercial breeders. How does that compare to what pet stores do?
- What research shows about commercially bred and sold puppies.
- What can you do to change the story?

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Afh45-zl_lc&feature=youtu.be



If the flooring surface consists of a material that is not solid, it has a solid resting area that can accommodate the full length of the dog while lying down. It does not consist of wire made of metal, including metal wire that is coated with another material. (Ohio State Law).

Provide the dog with an opportunity for daily exercise. "Exercise" means activity that allows a dog to extend to full stride, play, and engage in other types of mentally stimulating and social behaviors. (Ohio State Law)



Julian



- **Provide the dog an opportunity to safely access the outdoors during daylight hours. (Ohio State Law)**
- **Provide the dog with daily environmental enrichment in the dog's primary enclosure. "Enrichment" means any modification in the environment of a confined dog that seeks to enhance the dog's physical and psychological well-being by providing stimuli that meets the dog's breed-specific needs. (Ohio State Law)**
- **No owner, manager, or employee of a pet store shall negligently sell, deliver, barter, auction, broker, give away, or transfer : A dog that is less than eight weeks old. (Ohio State Law)**

No dog dealer, kennel operator, or cattery operator shall separate a puppy or kitten from its mother, for the purpose of sale, until such puppy or kitten has attained the age of 8 weeks. (Illinois State Law)

- **Breeders can no longer house dogs in isolation. (Ohio State Law)**



Puppy Socialization: Why, When, and How to Do It Right

By Liz Donovan

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- From [7 weeks to 4 months of age](#), your puppy goes through a socialization period that permanently shapes his future personality and how he will react to things in his environment as an adult. Gently exposing him to a wide variety of people, places, and situations now makes a huge, permanent difference.
- Also, it's important to note that when you buy a puppy from [a responsible breeder](#), the process can start even earlier. Gentle handling by the breeder in the first several weeks of your puppy's life is helpful in the development of a friendly, confident dog. At as early as [3 weeks of age](#), puppies may begin to approach a person who is passively observing them, and having a knowledgeable breeder to encourage a positive experience with people is beneficial to the puppy's adult behavior.
- The idea behind socialization is helping your puppy become acclimated to all types of sights, sounds, and smells in a positive manner. Proper socialization can prevent a dog from being always fearful of children, for example, or of riding in a car, and it will help him develop into a well-mannered, happy companion. Also, having a dog who is well-adjusted and confident can even go as far as to save his life one day. According to the [American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior](#), improper socialization can lead to behavior problems later in life. Also, the organization's position statement on socialization reads:
"Behavioral issues, not infectious diseases, are the number one cause of death for dogs under three years of age."



Differences in behavioral characteristics between dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores and those obtained from noncommercial breeders

Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, DACVIM; James A. Serpell, PhD; Deborah L. Duffy, PhD; Elmabrok Masaoud, PhD; Ian R. Dohoo, DVM, PhD

- Sexually intact pet store dogs were 3 times as likely to have owner-directed aggression as were sexually intact dogs acquired from breeders, and pet store dogs were nearly twice as likely to have aggression toward unfamiliar dogs (dog-directed aggression). Pet store dogs were also 30% to 60% more likely to have stranger-directed aggression, aggression to other household dogs, fear of dogs and nonsocial stimuli, separation-related problems, and touch sensitivity.
- Prenatal stress
- 8 weeks of age puppies are hypersensitive to stressful experiences and may have long lasting consequences/i.e. inadequate socialization.
- Compared with dogs obtained as puppies from NCBs, dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores had significantly greater aggression toward human family members, unfamiliar people, and other dogs; fear of other dogs and nonsocial stimuli; separation-related problems; and urination and defecation problems in the home. On almost all behavioral variables measured, pet store dogs received less favorable scores than breeder-obtained dogs.
- Until the causes of the unfavorable differences detected in this group of dogs can be specifically identified and remedied, we cannot recommend that puppies be obtained from pet stores.

How do pet stores address issues?

- 4 year warranty and no return policy on puppies other than very specific health reasons.
- No recourse on a dog with a behavior problem (unlike a reputable breeder)
- Put the responsibility on the general public or rescue organizations if the puppy, or dog, does not work out.

What can you do to change the story ?

- If there are these types of stores in your area visit them and look for the things I talked about. Look at their books and take pictures if you can.
- Find people that have purchased pets from these stores and have had problems. Talk to your local shelters about animals from these conditions and get the stories.
- Research-use scientific journals to present findings or understand and underscore what you are seeing.
- Talk to others-especially those that have been in the “trenches” for awhile, or have experience. Network. However, you will soon become knowledgeable.
- Talk to your city council about the conditions in pets stores that sell commercial animals. Talk about municipalities that have passed an ordinance. Ask them to change to a humane model.
- Have your talks ready and practice. If you have a time limit, divide your information with other speakers.
- Have courage-you are doing a good thing.

*“Do what you feel in your heart to be right —
for you’ll be criticized anyway.”*

Eleanor Roosevelt

