

Support SB 2280

This legislation will prohibit the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet stores within Will and DuPage County unless sourced from an animal control facility, shelter, animal care facility, or a rescue organization. Cities with home rule authority in Will and DuPage County can exempt themselves from the provisions.

The Illinois Association of County Board Members supports this bill.



This bill will allow Will and DuPage County to protect their consumers from a flawed sales model.

- HSUS investigations reveal time and time again that pet stores dupe consumers into supporting cruel puppy mills by lying about where their puppies come from.
- Consumers often spend thousands of dollars caring for sick pet store puppies, in some cases, only to suffer the heartbreak of their new pet dying.
- Consumers often end up with behaviorally challenged puppies who were not properly socialized by the mill nor the pet store, and struggle to transition from life in a cage to life in a family.
- The CDC¹ has linked contact with pet store puppies to an outbreak of an antibiotic resistant strain of *Campylobacter* that has infected 11 people in Illinois as well as 102 people in 16 other states, causing 23 of them to be hospitalized. This is likely the result of pet stores pumping sick puppies with antibiotics to appear healthy to consumers.

This bill will allow Will and DuPage County officials to adequately address a local issue that is not sufficiently addressed at the state or federal level.

- Last year, the General Assembly enacted a law that dictates which commercial breeders pet stores can source from. The HSUS and other animal welfare groups took a neutral stance on the legislation because it does not stop stores from sourcing from puppy mills and is nearly impossible to enforce. A USDA license, contrary to pet store rhetoric, does not disqualify a breeder from being a puppy mill. Federally licensed breeders face minimal USDA regulation. Standards of care are shockingly low, allowing breeding dogs to spend their entire lives in filthy wire cages only 6 inches larger than the dog, and enforcement is severely lacking, according to the USDA itself.
- Additionally, the USDA is moving in the wrong direction on this issue and jeopardizing transparency. The USDA is redacting all pertinent information from animal welfare inspection reports posted on their website and available via public records request, making it nearly impossible for a consumer or local law enforcement to know if a breeder is compliant with federal and/or state law. The USDA also recently announced it is considering allowing third party inspections of commercial breeders, which would likely result in a self-regulated puppy mill industry.

This bill will promote animal welfare, adoption and responsible breeders.

- It is well-documented and indisputable by anyone outside of the puppy mill pipeline that puppy mills (inhumane commercial breeding facilities that disregard the wellbeing of dogs for profit) supply pet stores with puppies; documentation shows that Illinois pet stores are no exemption.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/campylobacter/outbreaks/puppies-9-17/index.html>

- Cutting off the puppy mill to pet store supply chain will decrease the demand for puppies raised in puppy mills, which the majority of Illinois constituents would find shocking, appalling and unacceptable.
- This bill will help shift the pet market towards humane sources, including shelters and rescues that are burdened with finding families for homeless pets, thousands of whom are euthanized each year in Illinois alone.
- Responsible breeders, who care deeply for their dogs, will continue to provide Illinoisans with healthy, socialized dogs. They won't be impacted by this bill because they already don't sell to pet stores, as their breed clubs discourage it and they demand to meet buyers in person.

This bill is business friendly.

- Stores that sell commercially raised puppies adhere to an outdated and socially unacceptable business model, and are an outlier in their own industry.
- The huge majority of pet stores, including the largest and most successful chains and small mom and pop shops, do not sell puppies, proving that pet stores do not need to sell puppies to be successful.
- 125 pet stores have signed the HSUS Puppy Friendly Pet Store Pledge in Illinois, declaring they do not sell commercially raised puppies and will not do so in the future.
- The HSUS pet store conversion² staff is here to assist puppy-selling pet stores in Illinois with their conversion to the humane model that doesn't rely on sale of puppies from cruel mills.

This bill reinforces an ongoing effort at the local level to better protect consumers and animals in Illinois.

- Ordinances prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops, unless obtained from a shelter or rescue have passed in Chicago, Cook County, Waukegan, Crest Hill, and Warrenville,. SB 2280 is an extension of that effort to protect consumers from being misled into supporting a cruel industry and ending up with a sick or behaviorally challenged pet from a pet store.
- More than 250 localities in the U.S., as well as the state of California, have passed similar laws.

²http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/puppy_mills/facts/puppy_friendly_pet_stores.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/