

Say No to Inhumane Commercial Breeding Conditions: The bulldog below (left) lives in a barrel on wire floors at a USDA licensed facility in Branch County. Another dog at the same facility has untreated inflammations in his eyes. (Photo Credit: 2010 USDA)



Under the Puppy Protection Act, this kennel would need to make some changes: (1) reduce the number of intact breeding dogs from 85 to 50, (2) provide solid cage floors, (3) provide exercise, (4) seek veterinary care, (5) provide rest between breeding cycles, and (6) have unstacked cages.

Limit the number of animals: As evidenced by the Allegan County case, the potential for neglect and inadequate care increases significantly when the number of breeding animals becomes unmanageable. A limit on the number of breeding animals would prevent the introduction of overcrowded, large-scale breeding operations into Michigan as they become more restricted in other states. Four states (VA, LA, OR and WA) currently have caps limiting the number of intact breeding dogs that can be kept at one facility.



Typical commercial kennel
Photo Credit: 2012 Noble County (Indiana) Zoning Dept.

Protect Consumers: Sick puppies sold by puppy mills typically can cost their new owners hundreds or even thousands of dollars in veterinary care, if they live long enough to be sold. The lack of proper health screening and careless breeding at puppy mills often results in a prevalence of inherited health issues that trickle down to the unborn puppies. Some owners get rid of dogs because of bad behavior, not understanding the real causes behind the behavior, causing more animals to flood shelters that are already filled to capacity.

State action is needed: 35 states have laws to license or regulate dog and cat breeders. In 2009, a Michigan kennel study showed that approximately 230 licensed kennels would fall under this new law. In 2012 a Metro Detroit area Classified Ads Study showed most internet sellers did not have a county kennel license which means no animal welfare inspections. Large scale commercial breeding operations should be licensed and monitored just like other legitimate small businesses in the state.

Please support SB 117/118 to require the humane treatment of dogs in Michigan breeding facilities!

