

Large Scale Commercial Dog Breeder Act SB 339 / HB 4898



Allegan County 350 dogs

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.



Missaukee County 170 dogs

“By knowing where the facilities are and doing education and outreach for them we can actually prevent a lot of problems.”

- Nancy Frank, Veterinarian with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

In 2012, authorities removed more than 350 dogs from a commercial breeding kennel in Allegan County that had spiraled out of control. The mother dog at left is shown nursing her puppies under layers of feces-matted fur. The animals were found soaked in urine, with severe dental problems and fleas. Stronger laws and oversight could have prevented this facility from declining to this condition, and could have prevented the significant expenses for investigation, evidence gathering, animal care, and court proceedings incurred by local agencies.

Once in effect, this law will:

- Require registration and minimal standards of care at breeding facilities with 15 or more intact female breeding dogs. HB 4898 requires a minimal registration fee.
- Establish a limit of 50 intact female breeding dogs .
- Help to prevent inhumane puppy mills from establishing themselves in Michigan.
- Help to prevent large-scale cruelty or neglect cases like those in Allegan County in 2012 and Missaukee County in 2013.

Bill facts:

- Primary sponsor Sen. Steven Bieda (D-9) and Rep. Mike McCready (R-40)
- Prohibit selling puppies at less than 8 weeks of age.
- Require vaccinations, parasite treatment and health certificates signed by a veterinarian, annual reporting, and daily record-keeping.
- Give the MDARD authority to make rules for minimum standards (i.e. housing, sanitary conditions, enclosure space, exercise, and veterinary care of dogs).
- Launched by Michigan Humane Society.
- Supported by the Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers and the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association.

Please support SB 339 / HB 4898 to require registration and standards for large-scale dog breeding facilities in Michigan!

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