



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES**

*Celebrating 60 Years*

August 3, 2015

Dear Community Leaders,

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest and most effective animal protection organization, supports the following proposed legislation and pet store programs. We would like Michigan community leaders to encourage humane pet acquisitions through animal shelters and foster-based animal rescue organizations.

1. The Large Scale Commercial Dog Breeder Act, SB 339, will help to regulate and enact common-sense standards for large-scale dog breeding operations in the state.
2. The Humane Pet Acquisition Ordinance, to prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, long-loved birds and large reptiles in local communities, will help to protect families from irresponsible pet retailers.
3. The HSUS Puppy Friendly Pet Store Pledge encourages pet supply stores to make an official policy not to sell puppies or kittens.

The Humane Society of the United States operates the nation's largest network of animal care centers, and each year, works with state and local agencies, including in Michigan, to rescue thousands of animals from puppy mills, animal fighting operations, other cruelty cases, and natural disasters.

We oppose the sale of dogs, cats, and other animals through pet stores and other commercial operations in which profit undermines proper care, seriously compromising the welfare of the animals. Furthermore, millions of animals are euthanized each year for lack of appropriate homes—a situation made worse by puppy mills. Our investigations of mass-breeding operations that produce animals for wholesale to the pet industry also have exposed such unacceptable conditions as overcrowding; inadequate shelter, sanitation, food, water, and veterinary care; and lack of social or behavioral enrichment. Thus, a local retail sale ban would help to cut off the pipeline of animals from these inhumane breeding operations to unsuspecting consumers.

Sincerely,

Jill Fritz

Michigan Senior State Director