



July 19, 2015

Dear Community Leaders,

The Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association at Michigan State University's College of Veterinary Medicine supports the following proposed legislation and pet store program:

1. The Large Scale Commercial Dog Breeder Act SB 339 will help to curb puppy mills in the state.
2. The Humane Pet Acquisition Ordinance would prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, long-lived birds and large reptiles in local communities and protect families from irresponsible pet retailers.
3. The Puppy Friendly Pet Store program encourages pet supply stores to make an official policy not to sell puppies or kittens.

Our organization is comprised of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students at Michigan State University who advocate for the humane treatment of all animals. We support these legislative measures and programs because the commercial sale of these animals are a burden to society as well as the animals themselves. Peer-reviewed literature published in *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* indicates that dogs sold at pet stores are at a greater risk for behavioral problems than those obtained from noncommercial breeders. Another study in *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* found that breeding dogs at commercial establishments were significantly more likely to have health and behavioral problems, including higher rates of fear. The impulse buying of animals that takes place routinely at pet stores only contributes to the cycle of animal homelessness that drain municipal, state, and citizen resources every year. The City of Warren spent over \$20,000 on a 2013 cruelty case related to just one pet store: Greenwood Pets and Plants. Mill busts in counties all over Michigan similarly burden animal control and law enforcement. Please support the humane treatment of our animals and our taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,

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