

Why boycott The Family Puppy Stores?



1. Public records provided by the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the USDA prove The Family Puppy purchases puppies from large commercial breeders and brokers located out-of-state where consumers can not easily visit the parents.
2. The Family Puppy's primary Indiana breeder, Marlin Bontrager, had 177 adult dogs in June 2012 with direct violations including not seeking veterinary care for a sick puppy. Also in June, the USDA inspector recorded temperatures in the 90's inside the shelter. Dogs were heavily panting and puppies were stretched out on the wire floor trying to stay cool. Bontrager has a history of violations going back to 2008 including: housing, shelter, primary enclosures, cleanliness, feeding and vet care.
3. USDA, zoning and undercover photos from The Family Puppy's dog breeding kennels show surgical rooms and instruments, electric fencing, matted fur, puppies in small cages, accumulation of grim and feces, wire floors, no shade, rusted cages, chewed surfaces, and limited space.
4. Since 2009, 14 of the 18 primary suppliers have violations to the Animal Welfare Act, including shelters with very high temps, excessive feces, no heat, unlicensed personnel performing surgeries, unattended bite wounds, poor ventilation, feet dangling in wire floors, dirty dogs, accumulated grime and lack of veterinary care.
5. In June, 2010 an Indiana breeder, Lavern Whetstone, was cited for not seeking veterinary care for an animal that was in pain and suffering. Once told to seek veterinary care by the USDA inspector, the kennel had a non-professional remove the membrane of a dog with cherry eyes. This could be considered torture.
6. Most Indiana breeders, on average, house 52 animals with 8-16 different breeds.
7. Commercial breeders lack oversight. The USDA does not inspect all breeders, they do not always inspect annually and they have publicly announced their failure to regulate based on a recent internal audit. The Indiana State Board of Health does not have funding for inspections and not all of The Family Puppy pups come from Indiana. The AKC does not inspect all kennels. The AKC is not a regulatory agency and do not have authority to enforce laws.
8. The Family Puppy does not have exclusive breeders. Since 2009, eight of the store's primary suppliers also supplied other stores, including Petland.
9. The Family Puppy does not pick-up and transport all of their puppies. Since 2010, approximately 250 puppies have been shipped from a broker/distributor, Patrick Fulton, in Minnesota with repeat violations to the Animal Welfare Act, including selling puppies under age and insufficient floor space requirements.
10. Dr. Pinkston, of Swartz Creek Veterinary Hospital, stopped servicing the Flint store on February 29, 2012. The MDA work order included an interview with Dr. Pinkston stating "the puppies were coming in with urine stainings, unkept fur and underweight body conditions." Pinkston was uncomfortable with the store working with brokers. The relationship abruptly ended after a pet store employee brought in a Bichon Frise/Yorkshire Terrier mix with diarrhea, lethargy, vomiting and anorexia. The puppy tested positive for parvovirus. According to Dr. Pinkston's report, John Stottele, the pet store owner refused to accept the diagnosis of parvovirus and ordered the puppy to be euthanized

Learn more about The Family Puppy stores:

<http://michiganpupppymills.yolasite.com/tfppage.php>

The Family Puppy Breeder Photos

The Family Puppy is the largest Michigan puppy-pushing chain with five locations in the southeast Michigan area. Since 2009, over 1,400 pups a year have been shipped from commercial breeders and brokers located in Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, Iowa, and Missouri.



Photo credits: USDA, Elkhart County Zoning and Otter Tail County Sheriff.

Shopping for Puppy?

Humane Society of Huron Valley

3100 Cherry Hill Road, Ann Arbor, MI

(734) 662-5585

11-6pm M-W, 11-7pm Th-F, 11-5pm Sat/Sun

What can you do?

Help our campaign by contacting the mall management. Let the General Manager know that this is unacceptable and you are opposed to puppy selling stores as a patron of the mall. Ask the mall to instead, hold adoption events.

Fountain Walk, Novi (248) 348-8762	Genesee Valley Mall, Flint 810-732-4000
Green Oak Village Place, Brighton, (810) 225-8060	Macomb Mall, Roseville (586) 296-3554
Oakland Mall, Troy (248) 585-3050	



The Puppy Mill Awareness Meetup of Southeast Michigan is working to end the mass production of dogs in commercial kennels ("puppy mills"). Our mission is to educate the public about the cruel cycle of commercial dog breeding and the pet store link. - Pam Sordyl, Founder, 734-718-7100.