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Puppy Mills

It's Christmas morning and the snow is falling softly outside, creating a clean white glow throughout the neighborhood. A young boy named Nate, covers his eyes as he waits for his father to get his special present; the boy hears soft whining as he opens his eyes. His father ushers in a bounding puppy with vast brown eyes. He decided to name him Kender. The bond between the boy and his pup was instantaneous. The next several weeks were filled with the sunshine, frisbees, and lots of doggy kisses. Everything was perfect. Nate had his best friend who would love him no matter what.

A few weeks later, Nate arrived home from school to find that Kender had become severely ill. They rushed him to the nearest veterinary hospital. as soon as they got there, Kender was taken to the rear ISO unit in the back of the hospital. Kender had been exposed to Parvo. A disease which causes severe dehydration, chronic diarrhea and vomiting. The doctor inquired, "Where did you get your puppy?" Nate turned to his father, more confused than before. The father answered that he had purchased the puppy from a sidewalk sale close to the neighborhood grocery store. The next words the doctor said were distressed, "Those puppies my son, were supplied by puppy mills."

Puppy mills, by status quo, are secret venues where a great quantity of different types of cats or dogs are hoarded and forced to interbreed in order to make a profit. This is more commonly called profit breeding (Prisoners of Greed). A common lie that puppy mills and pet stores will tell you is that the animal has come from a responsible breeder. Which is a cold hard lie because "Responsible breeders would never sell their puppies to pet stores. Responsible

breeders care that their animals go to forever homes” (AZ Puppy Mill Rescue). More often than not the puppies are sold to pet stores from Pet brokers who are the ‘Middlemen’ of puppy mills. They purchase the puppies from mills, many times under a hundred dollars a puppy, and significantly increase the puppies price when they sell them to the pet stores.

Since these puppy mills are secretly owned you might ask, “Where exactly are the vicinities?” These places can be anywhere from abandoned warehouses, old barns, and even at a private residence. They usually all have one thing in common: they’re old and secluded. These places are not regularly cleaned and create a inhumane living condition for the animals. Floors and walls are never cleaned or wiped down, and are usually covered with urine, feces, matted hair, blood and vomit. The animals are housed in 16” x 36” wired cages (“Greed”). The size is similar to that of a bunny cage, which the millers will stuff as many animals in one cage as possible. The cages are then stacked on top of each other three to four cages high with very little space between the stacks. These cages are never cleaned and due to the buildup of feces it causes burns their paws as the acid in the waste eats at their skin. The worn cages will puncture the animals and will allow the legs to slip through, many times breaking the leg. This will often cause infection and the need for amputation (“Rescue”).

In addition with the dirty floors and deadly cages, there is also a concern about the malnutrition these animals receive. The main goal of a puppy mill is to make profit. “They are no longer a living being to these people,” Trebatoski said. “They’re a commodity.” (Schoettler) These venues will do anything to maximize their income. Therefore, they cut back on anything and everything they possibly can including food. The millers will buy the cheapest food on the market, generally causing malnutrition which leads to hair loss, bone mass, muscle loss. The teeth

become easily broken and infected, this infection will be carried into the bloodstream and reach the kidneys. This will ultimately cause kidney failure (ASPCA).

Furthermore there are a great number health concerns that come along with puppy mills specifically in breeding. The breeding animals will be forced to breed from the time they begin to be in heat until they are at the end of their reproduction days, when their worn little body cannot reproduce anymore. They are then brutally murdered usually by being bashed in the head with a rock or shot. Even though sometimes they are sold to nearby laboratories to make more profit or just dumped. Often by the time they reach five years old. ("Greed"). The millers will breed the same animals together over and over again, even with members of the same family. This interbreeding causes problems in the puppies such as dysmorphism (deformed limbs) and mental retardation of the animal.

On the contrary puppy mills lead to many behavioral problems too, the stress that these animals received and the neglect, the animals do not know how to communicate with each other. A recent study was conducted following the adoption of the animals which concluded that these dogs will have many lifelong quirks. Some of these quirks include fear of darkness and many times fear of men. (Puppy Mills Leave Emotional Scars) It was also compared that the fear level in these dogs was higher than the level of fear in normal pet dogs. "The most prominent difference was in the level of fear," McMillan says. "Compared to normal pet dogs, the chance of scoring in the highest ranges for fear was six to eight times higher in the recovered puppy-mill dogs." (Puppy Mills Leave Emotional Scars)

In the light of all this evidence it is easy to see that this inhumane practice needs to be stopped. We have developed a few plans that we believe will help this cause and stop these animals from being in such horrible situations. These propositions have been well thought out

and redefined. Many laws have been proposed, although only a few have passed. Many have failed to pass because there is a small support of the bill but With your help, we could make this bill happen. Our bill is to require all breeding kennels, and puppy mills known and unknown, to register and have annual checkups.

The National Canine Breeding Facility Act seeks to require breeding facility and known mills to get licensed yearly. It would require annual safety, sanitation and animal health inspections It would require animal capacity limits and records on each animal, which includes health check ups and immunizations and other health problems associated with these checks. The welfare of the animals must be maintained in the highest priority, any animal that is not up to standard during annual inspections will immediately be removed from the premises and taken into medical care if needed. Violations of any part of this act will be reviewed by a animal welfare board; instances where the violation is more severe may result in a charge of a Felony and temporary revocation of breeding license. In the event that another severe violation is presented permanent revocation of breeding license will ensure a revoked ownership of the breeding facility in question. This act is facilitated to ensure that breeding practices are to be maintained in a humane way to ensure the health and well being of the main breeding animals and their young.

Who will carry out this law? This law will require all Humane Societies and Animal Services to go to all the local puppy mills and shut them down. This involves saving all the animals on site to the local shelter. Any animal that can be saved and has the potential of a new life shall be put up for adoption after being screened for diseases and behavior problems if any. The local law enforcement will be required to lend at least one officer to go with each group to

maintain the safety of the group. The The main point of this action is to get the law enforced, It is one thing to have a law but another to follow it.

A handful of laws similar to this one that have had failed attempts. What makes this law different is the fact that: first we are including the actual officers of the police department not just the Animal Services, second this law requires all the mills in the local area to be shut down. The local enforce area will be marked by the square miles around the station. This way each group does not get overwhelmed by the amount of mills, and three the owners of the mill will have more serious consequences than any other bill proposed.

The cost of this bill varies, because of the previous attempts of similar laws trying to be past, it will take longer to get this through. Although with a large support basis on the proposed bill it will make it pass easier. Also with more support of the bill it will make the cost go down because of the contributions that will be received. This bill is possible if there is enough support and knowledge of the issue by congress and potential and current voters. This is why it is key that we get everyone involved.

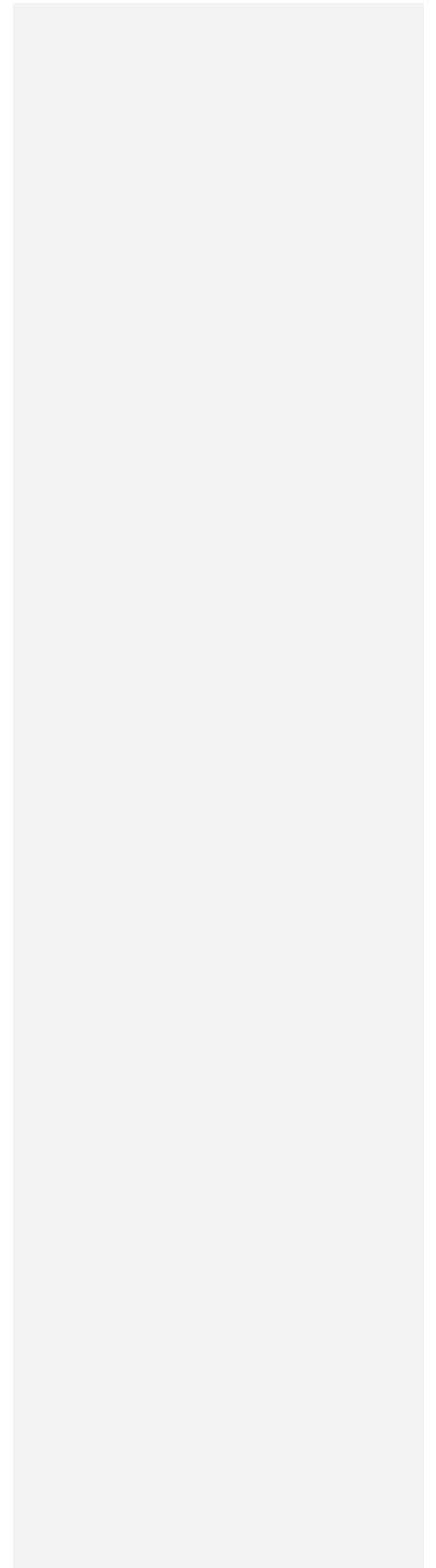
This is not an issue that only law enforcement can help, it is an issue that anyone can help with. Even small tips to your local law enforcement about alleged puppy mills can make a huge impact for these animals. Organizations such as The ASPCA has a hotline where anyone can anonymously call to post a tip or even give detailed information on an alleged puppy mill distributor. On the ASPCA site, under Contact Us, there are a list of numbers and addresses that you are able sift through. This enables you to get up close and personal with the company. One of the most prominent ways that anyone can help with a cause is by simply talking about it, word of mouth spreads like fire. If we can get more people to acknowledge this horrible practice then we can get their support in boycotts, petitions and adoption of rescued dogs.

Comment [1]:

In conclusion, we believe that puppy mills are inhumane and should have stricter consequences. If our proposal is followed it should only be a short time before we start to see major change. The word of mouth is the most important part of this project. We ask as to spread this proposal about. Make our law known. A signature list will be released shortly as we will need everyone's hand. Let's make our community a better place, not just for us, but for the animals as well.

“The question is not, can they reason? Nor can they talk? But can they suffer?”

-Jeremy Bentham



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