



# Dane County Humane Society Board of Directors Position Statement Puppy Mills

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## Puppy Mills

Dane County Humane Society (DCHS) opposes commercial dog breeding facilities that prioritize profits at the cost of health and welfare considerations of animals, commonly referred to as puppy mills. The systemic abuses at puppy mills include over-breeding, inbreeding, minimal to no veterinary care, overcrowding, poor ventilation, lack of appropriate sanitation, as well as a lack of adequate food, water, shelter, socialization, exercise, and enrichment.

Animals bought from online sources or pet stores are often linked to puppy mills. Dogs purchased from these commercial mills are frequently malnourished, may suffer from contagious or overbreeding related disease, and may have behavioral problems due to the substandard conditions and lack of necessary socialization, fear, or anxiety they experienced.

We support efforts to improve the standards of care required for dog breeders, such as clean, spacious dog enclosures, continuous access to clean drinking water, adequate nutrition based on life-stage to maintain a dog's good health, regular enrichment, and a timetable regarding how often a female dog can have puppies.

DCHS believes that all animals have a right to the Five Freedoms established by Britain's Farm Animal Welfare Council in 1965, as described below:

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, or disease
- Freedom to express normal behavior
- Freedom from fear and distress

DCHS encourages individuals to first consider adopting pets from animal shelters and rescue organizations in place of those who have been bred for commercial profit.

### References:

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