Help Protect Against Puppy Mills

Your Guide to Ensuring Pet Stores are Utilizing Responsible Breeders

Arizona recently passed a state law requiring pet stores to disclose the source of its animals on all in-store and online marketing materials, and includes a three-strike penalty for stores who continue to buy puppies or kittens from breeders that violate federal animal welfare laws.

The new law requires pet stores to clearly display the following information on each animal’s cage and in all online marketing materials:

- Name of breeder
- USDA license number for breeders required to be licensed under USDA*
- The federal website where prospective pet buyers can look up information about the breeder

The law also requires Arizona pet dealers to source their puppies from breeders that have not violated provisions of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

You can help combat puppy mills by:

1. Visiting your local pet store (in person or online) and making sure the correct information is being clearly displayed.
2. Looking up the USDA license and confirming the breeder is in good standing.

*Breeders that own four or less breeding female dogs or cats on premises and sell offspring that are born and raised on premises, as pets, are exempt from USDA licensure.

The following guide provides instructions on what information you should look for and how to access the USDA’s website to research breeder information.
STEP 1: Look for Name of Breeder

Pet stores must include the name of the breeder each animal is being sourced from. Breeder information should appear similar to the below example:

In Store

Online
STEP 2: Look for the USDA License Number

Pet stores must include the USDA license number for the breeder each pet is being sourced from. The USDA license number should appear similar to the below example:

In Store

Online
STEP 3: Look for the federal website

Pet stores must include the federal website where would-be buyers can look up information about the breeder. The federal website should appear similar to the below example:

In Store

![Image of in-store example]

Online

![Image of online example]
STEP 4: Visit the Federal Website to Research Breeder Information

Once you’ve ensured that the pet store is following the correct protocols for listing all relevant information, visit the federal website to look up information on the breeder. You should be able to find the website at this link. Once there, click on the link that says “Are you seeking an inspection report for a particular entity?”
STEP 5: Look up the Breeder’s Information

When you click on the link titled “Are you seeking an inspection report for a particular entity?” it will take you to the following page. You will then need to enter the breeder’s USDA number in the field labeled “Certificate Number.”
STEP 6: Access the USDA Inspection Reports on the Breeder

You will then access the USDA inspection reports on the breeder by clicking the link in the bottom left-hand corner.
STEP 7: Access the USDA Inspection Reports on the Breeder

There may be multiple reports available.
STEP 8: Review the Reports

Review each report to ensure the breeder has been compliant during all past inspections.
STEP 9: Report Violations That You Discover

If you observe that a pet store has not provided all required information or that a breeder who sources pets has been non-compliant in a report, please email advocacy@azhumane.org with your findings.