

# SUPPORT SF 1943 / HF 2627

## THE “NO MORE PUPPY MILL STORES” BILL

A matted dog at a puppy mill that supplied puppies to a MN pet shop. *WI DATCP, 2021*



**SF 1943 / HF 2627 is a commonsense, compromise bill** that prohibits any new pet shops from selling puppies—a big step toward protecting Minnesota consumers and pets from the deceptive and cruel puppy mill-to-pet store pipeline and stopping out-of-state bad actors pushed out of their states from moving here.

- The three existing puppy stores may continue selling puppies from the same location and under the same ownership so long as they adhere to licensing and disclosure requirements.
- Localities retain the authority to prohibit the sale of puppies in pet shops with local ordinances, as 16 Minnesota cities have already done.

### THE PROBLEM WITH PUPPY MILL STORES



**Puppy mills:** Public records show that pet shop puppies come from large-scale, inhumane commercial breeders and brokers, many with terrible animal welfare records. [USDA oversight of this industry amounts to federally approved cruelty.](#)



**The Pipeline:** Pet shop puppies are born into cruel and unsanitary conditions, taken from their mothers at just 7-8 weeks old, crammed into cages and trucked across the country near other stressed and sick puppies, and then placed in pet shop cages like products.



**Misleading sales tactics:** Pet shops often sell puppies for thousands of dollars by lying about their breeders and making false health guarantees.



**Sick puppies:** Pet shop puppies have the health deck stacked against them. We receive a constant stream of complaints from consumers who ended up with sick pet store puppies, high veterinary bills, and sometimes the heartache of their new pet dying.



**Predatory lending:** Few can afford a pet shop puppy outright, so sales staff push financing through third party lenders. [The National Consumer Law Center warns of puppy loans with up to 189% APR.](#)



**Zoonotic disease:** [The American Medical Association](#) has sounded the alarm about the public health risks of pet shop puppies, noting that antibiotic-resistant infections continue to sicken and hospitalize people.

## 32,000 fewer breeding dogs

are now caged in USDA-licensed puppy mills than ten years ago—a decrease of about 1/3 in puppy mill size.

## 8 state and over 500 localities

prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.

### LUCRATIVE HUMANE PET STORE MARKET



Minnesota’s market will remain open to the massive retail pet industry (\$152 billion and counting) that is dominated by the sale of pet products and services, with dog and cat sales steadily declining for years.



Stores that formerly sold puppies are now thriving with a products and services model, with some adding high demand services like grooming, training, or daycare.

### ETHICAL PET SOURCES



Most residents will be able to obtain the pet of their choice by adopting from a local shelter or rescue, including breed specific rescues.



Stopping retail puppy sales lessens the burden on taxpayer-funded shelters that regularly take in pet shop puppies who families relinquish.



Residents can also seek out a [responsible breeder](#) who treats their dogs like pets and only sells puppies directly to the public.



3/26/26

**RE: Testimony in Opposition to HF 2627**

Chair and Members of the House Judiciary, Finance & Civil Law Committee,

As the advocacy voice of the responsible pet care community, the Pet Advocacy Network represents the interests and expertise of retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, pet owners, and others involved in the many aspects of pet care across the United States. Our association promotes animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, fosters environmental stewardship, and ensures healthy pets' availability through our local, state, and federal work. In addition, we routinely advocate for legislative and regulatory proposals to protect the health, safety, and availability of companion animals.

HF 2627 is intended to address concerns about animal welfare, but policies like this often lead to unintended consequences. When regulated, transparent sources for obtaining pets are restricted, demand does not disappear. It shifts into less visible markets where oversight is limited and consumers have fewer protections.

We are already seeing concerning signs of this dynamic impacting Minnesota. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVIs) show some Minnesota-based "rescues" sourcing puppies from out-of-state auctions and then reselling those puppies to meet consumer demand for specific breeds. These organizations are distinct from open intake municipal shelters, which do important work in their communities. This activity can create confusion for consumers about where their pets are coming from and highlights a gap in transparency that this bill does not address.

Responsible small businesses operate within a framework of accountability, sourcing from federally licensed breeders subject to inspection under the Animal Welfare Act. These standards provide oversight and consumer protections that do not exist in many online or informal transactions.

While the bill includes a grandfather clause for the one remaining business, it effectively caps regulated, transparent options rather than strengthening them. If the goal is to protect animals and consumers, the focus should be on enforcement of existing laws and accountability for bad actors.

I have personally fostered and rescued dogs and believe adoption is an important option, but it should remain one of several responsible pathways available to families. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose HF 2627.

Thank you for your consideration.

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