



SUPPORT HB26-1011: Ending the Puppy Mill Pipeline in CO

(Majority Leader Monica Duran & Representative Karen McCormick,
Majority Leader Robert Rodriguez)

THE ISSUE

Many Coloradans are shocked to learn that there is still a market in our state for puppies from puppy mills. This is due to a largely unregulated industry that relies on highly deceptive practices to profit at the expense of consumers and the welfare of our beloved dogs.

Puppy mills are commercial dog-breeding facilities that produce large numbers of puppies in cruel conditions. These out-of-state puppy mill breeders send their puppies into Colorado through a pipeline of middlemen, called brokers, to sell them to the unsuspecting public through more third-party sellers, including online and retail stores.

Third-party sellers rely on deception to operate their businesses by falsely representing the puppies they sell as healthy dogs from responsible breeders. In reality, state and federal records reveal that retail stores and brokers in Colorado source their puppies from puppy mills.

Ultimately, consumers end up paying the price with sky high price tags for the dogs and then with more veterinary bills. Furthermore, many retailers utilize predatory financing, often locking in their hopeful customers to high-interest loans or lease-to-own schemes.

While retailers and brokers will advertise that they source puppies from highly regulated USDA-licensed breeding facilities, the reality is that holding a USDA license does not require humane care or mean the facility has not violated the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Furthermore, this under-regulated industry harms responsible breeders as they do not sell to pet stores or utilize brokers. Currently, pet stores and brokers line the pockets of primarily out-of-state puppy mills, rather than responsible, local breeders.

EXISTING LAW

Currently, there is no statewide comprehensive law that addresses third-party sellers selling puppy mill puppies in Colorado.

While there is an existing law (C.R.S 30-80-108.5) that requires only retail stores to disclose certain information about the source of the dogs they are selling, this law has not prevented puppy mill dogs from being sold to the public. Notably, this law does not apply to other third-party sellers that sell puppy mill dogs like brokers or online retailers.

THE PROPOSAL

Colorado law should comprehensively protect consumers and our beloved pets and support local shelters, rescues, and responsible breeders.

HB26-1011 is a proven and data-based approach to achieve that by:

- Ending the sale of dogs and cats through third party sellers, specifically retail stores and brokers.
- This does not apply to:
 - Shelters and rescues,
 - Brokers selling law enforcement dogs or service dogs,
 - Individuals rehoming a pet.

This bill will ensure that consumers can work directly with responsible breeders or adopt from a shelter or rescue, while making it harder for unregulated actors to perpetuate a deceptive market for puppy mill dogs.

SUPPORT

Over 26 cities in Colorado have passed laws to prevent the sale of puppies at pet stores and 82% of Coloradans support state-wide legislation that would end the sale of puppies through brokers and retail stores.





THE TRUTH CAN'T BE DENIED.

According to state and federal records, these are the commercial breeding facilities that supply puppy-selling Colorado retail stores (photos from USDA inspections):

Cindy Hubers. 4-4-2022.



Cindy Hubers. 4-4-2022.



Charles and Debbie McGinnis. 10-3-2023.



Rebecca Mosshart. 3-15-2016.

These are verified complaints submitted to the Better Business Bureau from consumers who purchased puppies from Colorado retail stores:

“When I purchased the puppy I believed I was receiving a healthy dog....The first night she had blood in her stools and didn't have a healthy appetite like the store said she did. The pet store stated they didn't see any blood in her stools before they sold her to me....After three vet visits and at a staggering cost of \$2499.72 it was recommended by the vet that she be euthanized. I was told she would not live another day due to organ failure and several other problems.”

“On March 8, 2025, I purchased a ... puppy, for \$2,288.48...On my scheduled vet appointment March 13, in the vet office my puppy began getting sick with diarrhea and throwing up, nothing before this. My vet said let's do a parvo test and it came back positive, and told me to go to the emergency vet hospital immediately.. I called the pet store to let them know what was going on and to let them know she was in a kennel with other dogs and I was concerned and they assured that "they would take care of it"... I have been getting the run around with the managers and owners name (I have all emails to prove this)..."



Questions? Sabrina Pacha: 720.938.9473 | Susanna Mizer: 970.690.8164

PET STORE INDUSTRY SUPPORT FOR HB 1011

Only seven pet stores in Colorado sell puppies, while hundreds operate on a humane business model that does not rely on the sale of puppy mill puppies and deception. These 74 Colorado pet stores endorse ending retail sale of puppies in our state, and urge support of HB 1011.

Chuck and Don's - Aurora

Maw and Paw Pet Market - Aurora

Scales 'N Tails - Aurora

Chuck and Don's - Arvada

Chuck and Don's (Hidden Lake) - Arvada

Chuck and Don's (Ralston Plaza) - Arvada

Paws N' Play - Arvada

Pet Wants Boulder - Arvada

Chuck and Don's - Boulder

Flatirons Natural Pet Market & Wash - Boulder

Purrfect Pause Cat Cafe - Boulder

Scales 'N Tails - Boulder

Chuck and Don's - Castle Rock

Earthwise Pet - Centennial

Earthwise Pet - Colorado Springs

Earthwise Pet (Powers Pointe) - Colorado Springs

Furry Friends (Centennial Blvd) - Colorado Springs

Furry Friends (Hartsel Dr) - Colorado Springs

Republic of Paws (Academy Blvd) - Colorado Springs

Republic of Paws (Stetson Hill Blvd) - Colorado Springs

Republic of Paws (W Colorado Ave) - Colorado Springs

Dingo's Natural Pet (Reunion) - Commerce City

Biscotti Hound Dog Biscuit Bakery - Denver

Chuck and Don's (Cherry Creek) - Denver

Chuck and Don's (Holly Hills) - Denver

Chuck and Don's (Mayfair) - Denver

Ciji's Natural Pet Supplies - Denver

Fish Den - Denver

Kriser's - Denver

Mouthfuls - Denver

Paws N' Play (Beeler Park) - Denver

Pet Station - Denver

A Pet's Paradise - Denver

Quality Paws Natural Pet - Denver

Simpawtico Healthy Pet Products - Denver

Three Dog Bakery - Denver

Urban Dogg Uptown - Denver

Urban Dogg Washington Park - Denver

Pet Haus - Durango

Exotic Birds of Denver - Englewood

Kriser's - Englewood

Chuck and Don's - Erie

Our Pet Spot - Erie

Chuck and Don's - Firestone

Chuck and Don's - Fort Collins

Wagz Pet Market & Grooming - Fort Collins

Chuck and Don's - Greenwood Village

Kriser's - Greenwood Village

Golden Spur Feed & Supply - Golden

Aquatic Art - Highlands Ranch

Chuck and Don's - Highlands Ranch

Paw Prints - Highlands Ranch

Chuck and Don's - Lafayette

Gigi and Co. Pet Products - Lafayette

The Happy Beast - Lafayette

Chuck and Don's - Lakewood

Pet Wants Denver - Lakewood

World of Birds - Lakewood

Chuck and Don's - Littleton

Barky Mountain Grooming - Littleton

A Paw Spa - Littleton

Riley's Natural Pet Supply - Littleton

Chuck and Don's - Longmont

Dee-O-Gee - Longmont

Ray's Tank - Northglenn

Earthwise Pet - Parker

Furreal CBD - Parker

Pet Evolution - Parker

Chuck and Don's - Thornton

Chuck and Don's (Thorncreek Crossing) - Thornton

Chuck and Don's - Westminster

Dingo's Natural Pet - Westminster

Best Friends Pet Care - Wheat Ridge

Cosmo's Dog Bakery & Pet Supplies - Wheat Ridge

**COLORADO VETERINARY PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR
STOPPING THE SALE OF PUPPY MILL PUPPIES (HB 1011)**

February 2026

Dear Chair McCormick, Vice Chair Mauro, and Members of the Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources Committee,

We, the undersigned Colorado veterinary professionals, support HB 1011, legislation that would stop the sale of mill-bred puppies and kittens by pet stores and brokers. In lieu of these sales, we encourage pet stores to offer their communities pet products and services, and to partner with animal shelters and rescues to host adoption events. This has proven to be a successful and humane business model.

At puppy mills, water and food supplies are often contaminated, dogs are forced to live in confined quarters on painful wire flooring, there is little to no human attention, there is often makeshift “medical” care administered by lay people, and mother dogs are bred repeatedly with no regard for their health, welfare, or genetic vigor. Serious genetic disorders are amplified due to indiscriminate breeding practices.

The associated consumer fraud and disregard for animal health must be stopped. The breeding and management practices at puppy mills are the antithesis of what is recommended by veterinary professionals to raise healthy and behaviorally sound pets. As experts in animal health, we are frustrated that we often see these sick puppy mill pets AFTER they have been purchased, often for thousands of dollars.

It is well documented that most pet store puppies come from these inhumane mass breeding facilities, and the result is a slew of serious acute and chronic health issues we see in our practices regularly. Common illnesses and inherited disorders often seen in pet store puppies include:

- Intestinal parasites such as worms, giardia or coccidia
- Highly contagious, and potentially deadly respiratory issues such as CIRDC (canine infectious respiratory disease complex) and pneumonia
- Highly contagious, and potentially deadly diseases such as parvovirus and distemper
- Inherited, chronic and painful orthopedic, eye, ear, neurologic and skin disorders.

Some respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases common in pet store puppies have zoonotic potential, meaning they can sicken humans, with children and elderly and immunocompromised people at the greatest risk. In September 2021, the [American Medical Association](#) published an article on the “increasing public health threat” of antibiotic-resistant *Campylobacter* infections linked to pet store puppies. The CDC has also warned of the public health risks associated with pet store puppies, publishing multiple outbreak advisories and notices of ongoing investigations.

Veterinarians also see families struggling to manage behavioral issues of pets obtained from pet stores. Our experiences are in line with a review of several published studies in the [Journal of Veterinary Behavior](#) that reported that dogs born in high-volume breeding facilities and sold through pet stores “revealed an increased incidence of behavioral and emotional problems” compared to dogs from other sources. The most consistent finding was an increase in aggression towards people.

We urge you to join eight states and more than 520 localities—including Denver, Fort Collins, and dozens more in Colorado—across the nation in passing legislation to stop the sale of commercially-bred pets in pet stores. In doing so, you will protect animals and families from the cruelty, financial toll, and heartbreak that so often occur after buying puppies and kittens in pet stores. Those looking for a new pet will still be able to adopt from a shelter or rescue or purchase from a responsible breeder who sells directly to the public.

Signed by the following Colorado veterinary professionals:

- Dr. Susan L. Barden, Denver, Veterinarian
- Dr. Shaefer Bennett, Fort Collins, Veterinarian
- Baylee Bezona-Garbo, Pueblo West, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Stephanie Buchholtz, Johnstown, Veterinarian
- Lucas Burcl-Gonzalez, Westminster, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Kelly Clements, Arvada, Veterinarian
- Dr. Annelise Cummings, Berthoud, Veterinarian
- Dr. Michelle Dally, Denver, Veterinarian
- Dr. Tracy Duerksen, Lakewood, Veterinarian
- Dr. Janice Facinelli, Denver, Veterinarian
- Dr. Kari Frankhouse, Severance, Veterinarian
- Brooke Garcia, Denver, Veterinary Technician
- Ashley Gates, Grand Junction, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Jon Geller, Fort Collins, Veterinarian
- Evangelina Gomez-Mancillas, Fort Collins, Veterinary Student
- Dr. Brooke James, Berthoud, Veterinarian
- Dr. Kelly Keeney, Boulder, Veterinarian
- Victoria Klimuk, Longmont, Veterinary Student
- Dr. Cheryl Kolus, Fort Collins, Veterinarian
- Andrea Lawless, Denver, Veterinary Technician
- Kathryn McLemore, Colorado Springs, Veterinary Technician
- Gloria McClure, Aurora, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Stacy McVicker, Denver, Veterinarian
- Melissa Novak, Lakewood, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Cathy Ortloff, Lone Tree, Veterinarian
- Dr. Christine Petrovec, Fort Collins, Veterinarian
- Dr. Angelina Piccoli, Arvada, Veterinarian
- Kimberly Pisowicz, Denver, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Erica Rambus, Denver, Veterinarian
- Dr. Pamela Rose, Canon City, Veterinarian

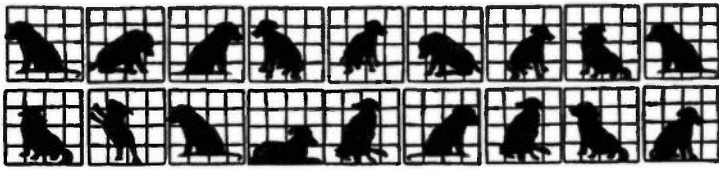
Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance

- Suzane Speer, Aurora, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Christine Stanton, Fort Collins, Veterinarian
- Dr. Neil Tenzer, Estes Park, Veterinarian
- Shelly Vogt, Gunnison, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Melissa Ward, Castle Rock, Veterinarian
- Dr. Dana Windsor, Fort Collins, Veterinarian
- David Windsor, Crested Butte, Veterinary Technician
- Sara Wolcott, Aurora, Veterinary Technician
- Dr. Jeffrey Young, Conifer, Veterinarian

Contact: Pam Runquist, MS | Senior Managing Director, Humane Veterinary Medical Alliance (HumaneVMA), the veterinary division of Humane World for Animals
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COLORADO'S PUPPY MILL PIPELINE

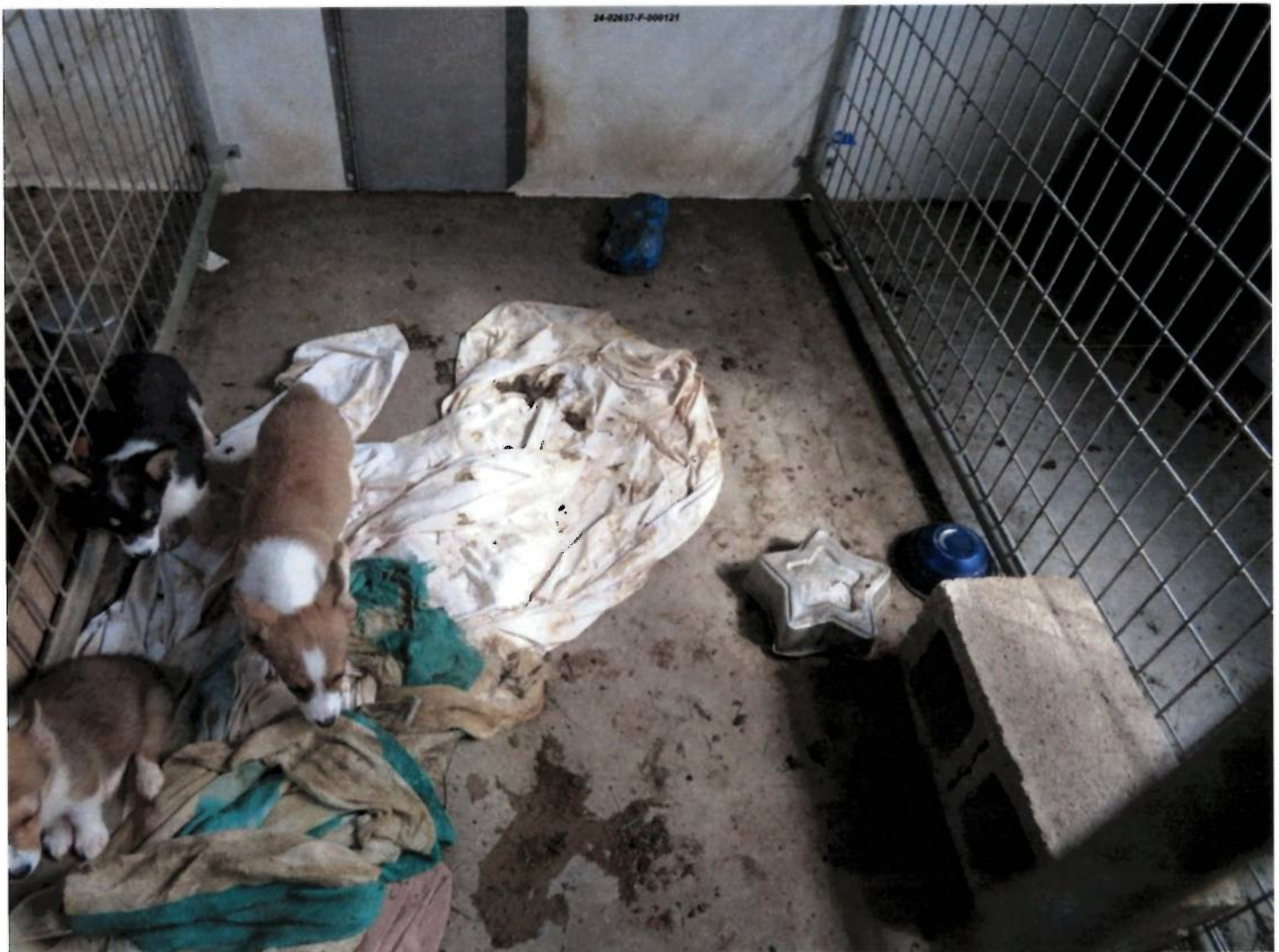




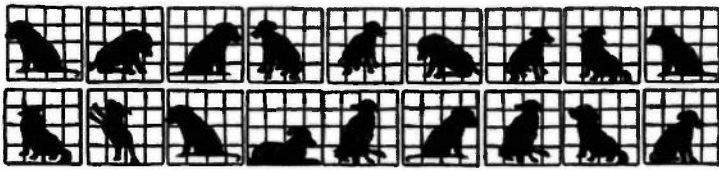
SHUT DOWN THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE, COLORADO.

The Dirty Secret Behind Colorado's Love of Puppies

Colorado's landscape is filled with miles of dog-friendly hiking trails, mountains, and plenty of space for dogs to live the good life. But Colorado is also home to retail pet stores that sell puppies, and those puppies come from horrific and cruel commercial breeding facilities. Retail pet stores and online sellers frequently advertise that their puppies come from responsible breeders and assure to their customers that the puppies they sell are healthy. But in reality, pet stores get their puppies from commercial breeding facilities (a.k.a. puppy mills).



This report describes in detail where Colorado pet stores really get their puppies – the pipeline of commercial breeders, brokers, and transporters who ship puppies to pet stores to be sold to the public. It also provides indisputable evidence that this business is built on deception, it exploits animals and consumers, and perpetuates puppy mill cruelty.



SHUT DOWN THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE, COLORADO.



What is the puppy mill pipeline?

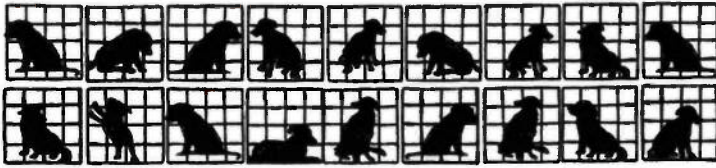
Puppy mills are commercial dog-breeding facilities that produce large numbers of puppies in cruel conditions. These out of state commercial breeders send their puppies into Colorado through a pipeline of middlemen, called brokers, who ship them to pet stores or utilize online storefronts to sell them to the unsuspecting public through deceptive practices. By ending the sale of dogs in stores and through brokers, we can shut down the puppy mill pipeline, ending a lifetime of cruelty that these dogs are subjected to and protect consumers.

The USDA & Lack of AWA Enforcement

While retailers and brokers will advertise that they source puppies from USDA-licensed breeding facilities, the reality is that holding a USDA license does not equate to providing humane care or that the facility has not violated the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). For example, 45% of the commercial dog dealers licensed by the USDA during 2024 never even had a compliance inspection. Of those that did, one out of every five USDA inspections uncovered failures, including:

- Failures to provide proper food and water, shelter, and necessary veterinary care
- Instances of dogs who could not walk, dogs living in waste, dogs with painful wounds, and dogs suffering from contagious and deadly diseases.
- Instances in which dogs died in barn fires, in fights with other dogs, from the cold, or with no explanation at all.

Inspection reports from Fiscal Year 2024 alone from the USDA detail over 800 violations to provide even minimal care. Despite this high number, only two dog dealers who violated the law in 2024 lost their USDA license, and only two others who violated the law in 2024 paid any sort of fine. Most notably, not a single dog was removed from these facilities.



SHUT DOWN THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE, COLORADO.

Colorado Law

In Colorado, the Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA) is the law governing animal care facilities, including pet stores. It is enforced by the PACFA Program, which is the licensing and inspection program dedicated to protecting the health and well-being of pet animals in facilities. Pet stores are required to disclose information to a prospective purchaser in writing, prior to the sale of a dog or cat. That includes the purchase price of the dog or cat, the interest rate or range associated with any financing or credit card offered to the prospective purchaser.

They must also provide any applicable federal or state license numbers and an unredacted list of all violations of any federal or state law the dog or cat breeder, broker, or transporter received in the previous two years on a federal or state inspection report that is publicly available.

What this looks like in practice, however, still does not achieve the goal of protecting consumers from negative financial and emotional consequences that can come from purchasing a sick dog. Although stores are required to disclose some information, most of the information is only available to people in the physical store or only required to be available as someone considers purchasing a pet. Even if all of the information about the origins of the puppies was available, there is no guarantee that the puppy in the pet store came from a good breeder. A breeder having very few or even no violations at the state or federal level in the last two years does not mean that they are a high-quality breeder.

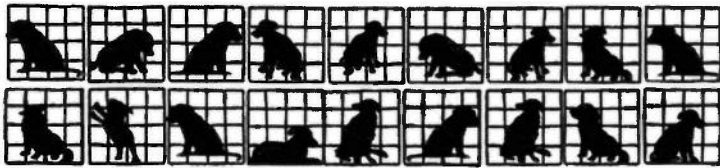
Colorado Pet Retailers

Puppies from puppy mills are being sold to unsuspecting consumers in Colorado. The lack of AWA enforcement at the federal level and the minimal information that retailers in Colorado provide to customers only makes the problem worse. This system hurts Coloradans and the dogs who are being cruelly bred for the sake of breeders and sellers to make a profit. More needs to be done to put an end to the puppy mill pipeline in Colorado.

Local Laws & Public Opinion

Over 26 cities in Colorado have prevented the sale of puppies at pet stores. In a recent poll conducted by Keating Research for the ASPCA, researchers found that 82% of Coloradans would support state-wide legislation that would prevent the sale of puppies in pet stores.





SHUT DOWN THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE, COLORADO.

Almost every retail pet store in Colorado sources from commercial brokers.

Dog brokers are distributors who obtain puppies in bulk from commercial breeders and re-sell the puppies to retailers. They offer one-stop shopping for pet stores and make it easy for them to offer the range of the kinds of puppies customers want to buy. Breeders are happy to work with brokers because many brokers will buy most or all the puppies a breeder has available and are willing to truck puppies over long distances to their final retail destinations, including Colorado. **At least two thirds of the puppies being sold at Colorado retail pet stores come from brokers.**

Pet stores and brokers selling puppies rely on deception to operate their businesses, preying on hopeful new pet owners by falsely representing the puppies they sell as healthy dogs from responsible breeders. State and federal records reveal that retail stores, online store fronts, and brokers selling dogs in Colorado source from commercial breeding operations. Hopeful new pet owners pay thousands of dollars for these puppies expecting healthy dogs. They often pay thousands more to care for a puppy suffering from infectious disease, behavioral problems, or hereditary conditions due to poor breeding. This financial burden is often exacerbated by the predatory financing schemes that these pet dealers offer so customers can purchase their new pet.

Brokers selling to Colorado Pet Stores

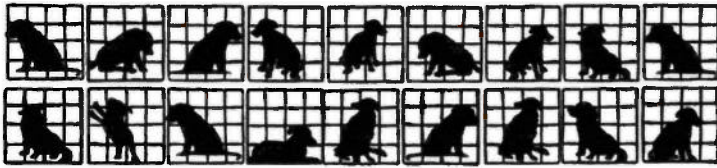
In 2025, these three brokers alone brought at least 3,000 puppies into Colorado.

Crittersville is a commercial dog broker based out of Culbertson, Nebraska. They supply to multiple states across the country, and are one of the primary sources supplying to Colorado pet stores. They supplied to Aquatic Dog, Perfect Pets, Pet Paradise, Pet Ranch, and Gone Wild Pet & Supply.

Nebraskaland Pets (a.k.a Big Dog Country Kennel) is another huge Nebraska-based commercial dog broker. They have two sites, one in Atkinson and the other in Stuart, NE. At their last USDA inspection, they had over 250 dogs at just one site, just a fraction of the number of dogs that pass through their facility each year. They supplied to Pet Ranch and Perfect Pets.

Loveable Gold Star is a large commercial dog broker in Montgomery, Indiana. Despite buying, selling and shipping hundreds of dogs, there are rarely animals present when USDA inspects this facility, which means in addition to not knowing where the animals come from, there is little transparency around the conditions in the facility, or during transport from the commercial breeder or to stores. They supplied puppies to Pet City and Peak Legacy Ranch.





SHUT DOWN THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE, COLORADO.

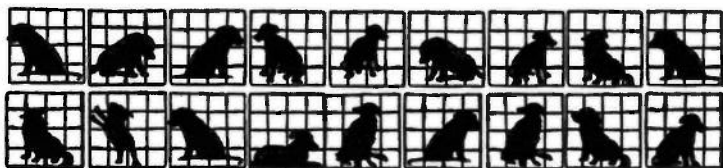
Every retail pet store in Colorado sources from commercial dog breeders. This is where pet store dogs in Colorado come from.

Linda, Stanley, and Bethany Korver are long-time USDA licensees who operate a commercial dog breeding facility in Orange City, Iowa. In 2023, two back-to-back USDA inspections documented a staggering 22 violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Enclosures were filthy and covered in dirt, grime, dust, excreta, fur, water, cobwebs, and bird poop. Water receptacles were contaminated. When USDA returned for the second inspection three months later, many of the violations had not been corrected. Before this, in 2016, the USDA had previously cited them for dirty enclosures. They also found a lethargic and thin dog who was so underweight that her ribs and backbone were easily visible and felt. They supplied puppies to **Aquatic Dog**.

Cindy Hubers is a large-scale commercial dog breeder in Harrison, South Dakota, keeping over 200 dogs in her facility at any given time. Hubers has been cited by the USDA for over 20 violations of the Animal Welfare Act in the past 15 years, and has received at least 2 Official Warnings for her violations (in 2010 and 2022). These violations include, in 2022, when she was issued an Official Warning for a dog with severe tartar build-up on his teeth, causing inflammation and gum recession. She has also been cited repeatedly for failing to keep enclosures clean and in good repair and for keeping dogs in enclosures too small for them to even turn around. Hubers has supplied puppies to Perfect Pets and **Aquatic Dog**.

Charles and Debbi McGinnis operate Monarchs Kennel, a commercial breeding facility in Bolivar, Missouri. They have been cited for 19 separate violations of the Animal Welfare Act in the last ten years, including multiple severe instances of failing to provide veterinary care to dogs or leaving dogs without access to water. One inspection noted an adult dachshund who was found lethargic and very thin, with missing fur and lesions across his body after he were attacked by another dog. The facility left him unexamined and untreated by a veterinarian until the USDA ordered the facility to do so a month later. In June 2025, an adult Lasha Apsos was whimpering and trying to bite at a large ball made of matted fur and feces the size of a baseball hanging from his rear end. The facility failed to notice and left him with redness and inflammation, until inspectors ordered them to take action. Other inspections have found dogs kept outside in Missouri heat or housed in enclosures with excessive build-up of dirt, grime, feces, and urine. The McGinnises supplied puppies to **Linda's Pups**. Linda's Pups claims on its website that they sell only their own dogs, or those from "other breeders we have known long-term and friends."





SHUT DOWN THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE, COLORADO.

Jeanne Becker, a commercial dog breeder in Osborne, Kansas, has been cited multiple times in the last ten years, including repeatedly failing to be present for inspections, denying the USDA the ability to check on her dogs. In 2017, inspectors found a dog with painful dental disease, her tooth loose and her gumline receding. And in 2016, enclosures were found to be filthy, covered in excreta that had not been cleaned. Becker supplied puppies to **Perfect Pets**.

Lendar Kennels, operated by **Leonard Miller**, keeps nearly 100 dogs in his Topeka, Indiana facility. They supplied puppies to **Pet City** and **Peak Legacy Ranch**.

Eli Schrock runs Hillview Kennels in Drakesville, Iowa. In 2024, they were found to be keeping puppies in filthy enclosures “heavily contaminated with fecal material”, as well as in incompatible groupings which put the puppies at risk. Prior to that, in 2022, they received citations for missing vaccines and deworming treatment for their puppies. They supplied puppies to **Pet City**.

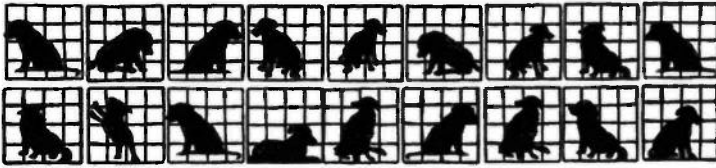
Rebecca and Sam Mosshart, who operate **SBM Kennel**, have been in the commercial dog breeding business for a long time, at least 25 years, changing their name and license numbers multiple times throughout. They operate out of Protection, Kansas. They have a history of failing to provide safe or clean housing enclosures for their dogs. In their last inspection had nearly 300 dogs in their facility. They supplied puppies to **Perfect Pets**.

Jacqueline Roesener is a commercial dog breeder in McDonald, Kansas, who has been cited recently in May 2025 for missing records of dogs that had arrived at her facility, inhibiting the ability to trace animal movements, and not appropriately sampling for parasites among their dog population, which can lead to illness and infection outbreaks. Previously, in 2015, dogs were kept outdoors in 19 degrees F without enough bedding to stay warm. Roesener has supplied puppies to **Aquatic Dog**.

Thomas Emard is a commercial dog breeder in La Plata, New Mexico. In 2024, he was cited for multiple veterinary care violations in 2024, when they could not provide documentation of when the last time a veterinarian had checked in on the dogs or when they had last had a physical exam. Prior to that, in 2022, they were cited for multiple dogs and puppies with no identification – blocking USDA inspectors the ability to trace dogs and puppies from the facility. Emard supplied puppies to **Perfect Pets**.

Pleasant View Kennel is run by **Leroy Yoder** in Utica, Minnesota. They keep around 250 dogs at any given time. This facility supplied puppies to **Pet City** and **Peak Legacy Ranch**.





SHUT DOWN THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE, COLORADO.

Karen Veurink, has, on multiple occasions, had veterinary care issues at her facility in Harrison, South Dakota, including dogs with missing teeth, painful and swollen gums, toe nails so long they were curving around, eye conditions, and oozing lesions on their faces or paws. Veurink supplied puppies to **Aquatic Dog**.

Shadow Valley Kennel operates out of Bloomfield, Iowa. At their last inspection in April 2025, they had over 100 dogs in their facility. They supplied puppies to **Pet City and Peak Legacy Ranch**.

Keith Jensen operates out of Freeman, South Dakota. Between 2014 and 2017, Jensen failed to be present for inspections on at least 6 different instances. He has also received citations for excessively rusty, dirty, and falling-apart enclosures where the animals live, housing animals in an outdoor enclosure without adequate shelter from the elements, and failing to provide clean drinking water to his dogs. Jensen supplied puppies to **Aquatic Dog** and **Perfect Pets**.

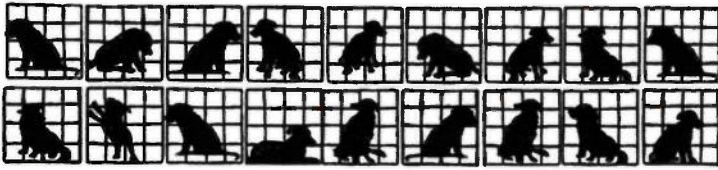
Jeanne Becker is a commercial dog breeder in Osbourne, Kansas, with multiple USDA violations over the years. She has been cited for keeping dogs in enclosures with excessive build-up of feces, and failing to treat a dog with painful dental disease. She has also failed to provide USDA access to her facility for an inspection on multiple occasions. She supplied puppies to **Aquatic Dog**.

Sunset Grove Kennel is a commercial breeding facility in Hazelton, Iowa. In 2024, they received citations for failing to following their own veterinary care plan, and for improperly storing vaccines that they intended to give to the dogs. They supplied puppies to **Pet City**.

Joseph Yoder operates a commercial dog breeding facility in Garnett, Kansas. In 2023, USDA inspectors cited them for using expired medicine on their dogs, failing to perform heartworm testing for over 2 years, and missing paperwork regarding other veterinary protocols. They supplied puppies to **Pet City and Peak Legacy Ranch**.

Timothy Mast operates T C Kennels in Cambria, Wisconsin, where he had nearly 150 dogs at any his last inspection. He supplied puppies to **Pet City**.





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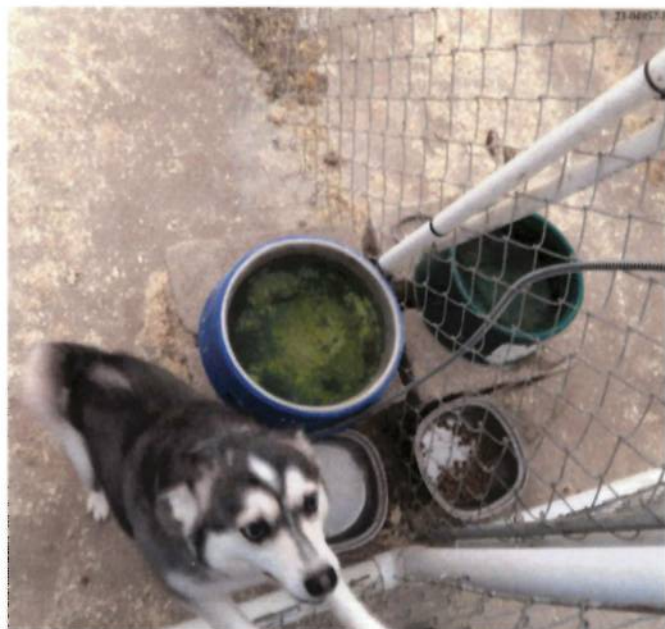
Consumers in Colorado are being hurt by the puppy mill pipeline

“When I purchased the puppy I believed I was receiving a healthy dog....The first night she had blood in her stools and didn't have a healthy appetite like the store said she did. The pet store stated they didn't see any blood in her stools before they sold her to me....After three vet visits and at a staggering cost of \$2499.72 it was recommended by the vet that she be euthanized. I was told she would not live another day due to organ failure and several other problems.”

“On March 8, 2025, I purchased a ... puppy, for \$2,288.48...On my scheduled vet appointment March 13, (5 days later) in the vet office my puppy began getting sick with diarrhea and throwing up, nothing before this. My vet said let's do a parvo test and it came back positive, and told me to go to the emergency vet hospital immediately. On my way there I called the pet store to let them know what was going on and to let them know she was in a kennel with other dogs and I was concerned and they assured that "they would take care of it"... I have been getting the run around with the managers and owners name (I have all emails to prove this)..."

“On June 6, 2025 we purchased a Pomeranian puppy for \$3000.00 and it died in 2 days. We took it to the vet but they could not save it. When I contacted the store for reimbursement the manager said we would have to wait until they heard back from the breeder. So we waited and they never contacted us. When I called and asked what was going on and if we can get our money back they called the police on us.”

Excerpts from a few complaints that Colorado consumers submitted to the Better Business Bureau



Online Puppy Sales

Another arm of the puppy selling industry includes online sales. Commercial breeders and brokers are increasingly turning to the Internet to sell puppies. Some websites might call themselves “puppy finders” or “puppy concierges.” Instead of physically buying and then re-selling puppies, these companies create fancy, massive online pet stores, making “matches” between their network of breeders and the unwitting online shopper. While online sellers claim to be sourcing puppies from breeders who have high welfare standards, the overwhelming number of breeders who supply puppies through these websites are large, commercial mills in the Midwest.

