



HUMANE SOCIETY

LEGISLATIVE FUND™



Support the Puppy Protection Act (H.R. 1624)

Introduced by Reps. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA), Jim McGovern (D-MA), and Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)

Tens of thousands of dogs are suffering needlessly in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulated puppy mills. Puppy mills are commercial breeding facilities that mass-produce puppies for sale as pets. The USDA regulates those that sell to pet stores or sight-unseen over the internet. PPA would require better care for dogs in these facilities.

PPA is Good for Dogs and Breeders

Quality breeders often already exceed USDA standards as providing adequate space and veterinary care keeps dogs healthy and consumers purchasing their puppies happy.

- Americans are dog lovers who do not approve of dogs living in atrocious conditions.
- Healthful practices prevent zoonotic diseases (like brucellosis) from making both pets and people sick.
- Current USDA standards for dog breeders are mere survival standards. They allow dozens or even hundreds of dogs to be kept in small, stacked wire cages. Small dogs can be caged for their entire lives in a space no bigger than a dishwasher.
- Current standards allow dogs to endure extreme outdoor temperatures for up to four hours at a time which can result in dogs dying by freezing or overheating.
- Increasing the standards will prevent harm to tens of thousands of animals as well as prevent great expense and heartache to an untold number of unsuspecting consumers.

PPA Will Level the Playing Field for Responsible Breeders

- At least half of USDA-licensed dog breeders already follow PPA standards because they are in states that have rules similar to proposed PPA requirements.
- Uniform standards will level the playing field and allow fair competition.
- The vast majority of responsible breeders already meet the PPA standards.
- Small hobby breeders, those with four or fewer breeding females, are already exempt.

Commonsense Care

The bill amends the AWA to prevent basic cruelties. **PPA would end:**

- Continual confinement in stacked, wire cages.
- Cramped conditions.
- Painful wire flooring that can trap or injure paws.
- Dogs left for hours in extreme weather conditions.

PPA would require:

- Prompt veterinary care for illness or injuries.
- Enough space for dogs to run and play.
- Breeders to offer unwanted dogs for adoption instead of killing/destroying them.

PPA exempts small, responsible breeders.

Rosie's Story:

- A pet store surrendered Rosie, who required a \$4,000 surgery.
- Rosie had skeletal defects that her vet says were caused by poor breeding.
- Her forever family paid the bills and loves her unconditionally; PPA would protect dogs from inhumane care and families from unexpected expenses and heartache.

