outreach, and advocacy

Ending puppy mill cruelty through education,



## **Puppy Mill Statistics** An estimated 167,388 breeding dogs are currently living in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)-

- Over 2 million puppies bred in mills each year. An estimated 1.2 million dogs are euthanized in shelters every year. Thousands of commercially-bred puppies are shipped into Illinois and sold from
- Illinois pet stores each year. \* These statistics are sourced from the
- report (available here) and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Pet Statistics (link here).

What is so wrong with puppy mills?\*\*

being of the dogs. may be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture or unlicensed. In order to sell to a pet store, the breeder must be licensed, though many still sell

to pet stores without a proper license.

is a large concentration in the Midwest.

mills in the United States. Amish and

Mennonite communities (particularly in

Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania) also

Missouri has the largest number of puppy

- have large concentrations of puppy mills. Puppy mills breed all types of dogs – everything from Labrador Retrievers, Boxers, and English Bulldogs to teacup Yorkies – you can find nearly every breed. Breeding parents spend their lives in 24hour confinement to cages. It is common
- unsanitary conditions. Dogs living in puppy mills receive little to no veterinary care (and puppy mill owners often provide veterinary care without anesthesia or veterinary training). Mothers are bred every heat cycle and are usually killed when they can no longer produce.
- heartbreak, and stress for their owners. The bottom line is that puppy mills are all about profits. Any money spent on veterinary care, quality food, shelter, or
- There are two primary sales outlets for puppies bred in puppy mills: (1) pet stores, and (2) the Internet. Nearly all puppies sold at pet stores come from puppy mills. Pet stores are

the primary sales outlet for puppy mills

in business.

held accountable).

California or Florida.

and are essential for keeping puppy mills

Both licensed and unlicensed mills sell to

pet stores (many mills sell to pet stores without the required license and are not

Puppies are bred in mills and then

shipped all over the country. For

example, puppies bred in the Midwest may be shipped on trucks to southern

confined in a small space where diseases can be easily transmitted. Many puppies do not survive. \*\* The information on this page and our Puppy Mill FAQs has been compiled based on first-hand experience with the rescue

and rehabilitation of dogs from puppy mills,

reports and regulations, investigation of pet

stores and the source of their dogs, and

resources provided by national

years of researching USDA inspection

organizations with significant expertise on the puppy mill industry, including the HSUS, the ASPCA, and Best Friends Animal Society.

Disclosure

# Rockford IceHogs Holiday PSA

Location

The Puppy Mill Project

### licensed commercial facilities for breeding purposes this very moment.\* There are an estimated 10,000 puppy mills in the United States (this includes both licensed and unlicensed facilities).

- Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) 2014 Puppy Mill Facts and Figures
- Puppy mills are dog breeding operations that put profit over the health and well-Puppy mills may be large or small. They
- thousands of dogs. Smaller does not necessarily mean better. The conditions in small facilities can be just as cruel as larger ones. Puppy mills are everywhere, though there

Puppy mills can house hundreds or

to see wire cages stacked on top of each other. They generally do not have

protection from heat, cold, or inclement

Dogs in puppy mills live in dirty,

weather.

Many puppy mills do not practice humane euthanasia. Dogs are killed in cruel ways, including shooting or drowning.

Puppies are taken from their mothers too

young and can develop serious health or behavioral issues due to the conditions in

which they are bred and shipped. This

leads to expensive veterinary bills,

profit margin. Where are puppy mill puppies sold?

staff to care for the dogs cuts into the

- The shipping conditions are inhumane. They can be forced to go up to 12 hours without food or water, and they are
- **SEARCH** Enter a search term...

The Chicago Pet Project is a

with images of notable

Mission, a fund created to pay for the veterinary

costs of rescued mill dogs. Preview some of the

beautiful coffee table book filled

Chicagoans and their beloved

pets. All proceeds go to Millie's

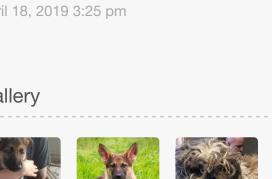
The Puppy Mill Projec... thepuppymillproject.org Thank you to the Rockford IceHogs for standing up for dogs this holiday season.

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## photo shoots and purchase your copy here. Get the Facts Approximately 25 percent of the dogs in shelters are purebred. The Pet Store Myth When you buy a puppy in a pet store, it does not save that puppy. It perpetuates a cycle of cruelty and supports the puppy mill industry.

Highlight

TPMP is a federal 501(c)(3) and Illinois Not For Profit Corporation. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. RT @JohnPGoodwin: Well, yes, when you get sued for your role in a multi-state disease outbreak that even put



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