WHERE NEW YORK PET STORES GET PUPPIES.
THE DIRTY SECRET BEHIND NEW YORK’S LOVE OF PUPPIES

With ample dog runs, off-leash dog parks, pet-friendly dining options, and pet daycares, it’s obvious that New York loves dogs. But New York is also home to one of the highest concentrations of pet stores that sell puppies in the nation—and those puppies come from horrific and cruel commercial breeding facilities.

This report describes in detail where New York 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.
There is no centralized reporting of the number or origin of puppies sold in New York pet stores. However, New York law requires that dogs imported into the state are issued a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI), and a copy must be submitted to New York State’s Department of Agriculture and Markets, which publicly posts filed CVIs on its website. The CVI includes the age, sex, breed, and color of the dog, along with names and addresses of the consignor (seller), and the consignee (purchaser). The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA®) has collected and analyzed more than 16,000 CVIs from 2018-2021 reflecting 42,188 puppies exported to New York State pet stores.

In addition, the ASPCA has reviewed official inspection reports created by the federal and relevant state agencies who oversee commercial dog breeders and dealers.

Commercial breeding of dogs is regulated on the federal level by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Dog dealers who breed or sell dogs wholesale or “sight unseen” must be licensed by the USDA. This includes both breeders who sell to pet stores or third parties for resale and dog brokers who buy puppies from breeders for resale. Breeders who have fewer than four breeding females or sell directly to consumers in person are not required to be licensed by the USDA.

The ASPCA requested and reviewed all available documentation related to USDA-licensed facilities through February 2022, including periodic inspection reports that document inspectors’ observations, the number of dogs in inventory, enforcement actions, and photographs and videos taken of the facility during inspections.

Although this report refers to documented violations of care, a facility licensed by the USDA that is “compliant” is not an indication that the facility provides humane care or even meets the minimum standards of care required by the law. USDA’s failure to document violations and take action against the facilities it licenses has been widely reported.

This report also includes all available information from state inspections of pet stores conducted by New York State’s Department of Agriculture and Markets.

All inspection photos in the report were provided to the ASPCA via state or USDA records requests.

New York pet stores frequently advertise that they “screen and vet” a network of “responsible breeders” and that the puppies are “top rated,” but based on the review of CVIs, puppies sold in New York pet stores are typically shipped from commercial breeding facilities or “puppy mills,” primarily located in the Midwest.

Almost half of the puppies (43%) shipped to New York pet stores arrive by truck from Missouri, which is home to nearly 750 commercial dog breeders, the largest number of any state in the U.S.

Following Missouri, Iowa and Kansas export the second and third highest number of puppies to New York pet stores.

About one-in-four puppies shipped to New York State pet stores come from dog brokers. Dog brokers are middlemen who buy high volumes of puppies from both licensed and unregulated breeders and then resell and transport the puppies to pet stores. Dog brokers allow retailers to more “efficiently” stock their stores with any breed on demand.

Over the time frame reviewed, 78% of all New York pet stores were shipped puppies from brokers, including 18 stores in New York City, where a city-wide law prohibits stores from buying from any source other than commercial breeders.
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JAKS Puppies Inc. is one of largest puppy brokers in the country, selling and shipping puppies to pet stores and resellers in more than 20 states. More pet stores in New York bought from JAKS Puppies Inc. than any other broker.

In 2019, the State of Iowa sued JAKS Puppies Inc., alleging that they illegally laundered hundreds of designer puppies through sham Iowa nonprofit “rescues” to pet shops in states and cities who had prohibited the sale commercially bred dogs. The lawsuit accused the “nonprofit” organization (called Hobo K9 Rescue) operated by JAKS Puppies Inc.’s owners of misleading consumers about the true source of the puppies and for abusing their Iowa nonprofit status to circumvent state and local laws banning the sale of “puppy mill” dogs. The nonprofit was dismantled, and the owners were fined.

However, because USDA-licensed entities can legally sell dogs to stores in states that don’t have laws restricting where animals are sourced, like New York, JAKS Puppies Inc. is still moving dogs into the state. JAKS Puppies Inc. has supplied puppies to stores including Left Paw, Luxury Puppies, Puppy Experience, Puppy City, Selmer’s Pet Land, Pet Palace, Worldwide Puppies and Kittens, Central Park Puppies, Puppy Paws, Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Shake-A-Paw Hicksville, Pet Resources, and Citipups.

Tiffany’s LLC is a Missouri-based puppy broker and breeder who shipped to at least 17 New York pet stores. In 2018, a state inspector found that 35 puppies had died at Tiffany’s LLC’s facility, including several from the highly contagious parvovirus, without receiving any veterinary care. During the inspection, the owner admitted that puppies with parvovirus are rarely taken to a veterinarian because the owner said, “most die within 24 hours.” Tiffany’s LLC supplied puppies to Worldwide Puppies and Kittens, Vanity Pups Boutique, Pet Resources, Puppy City, Puppy Paradise, Tropical Pets, Northern Aquarium + Pets, Teacup Pup Corp, Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Shake-A- Paw Hicksville, Canine Corral, Selmer’s Pet Land, Shake-A-Paw Lynbrook, Left Paw, Puppy Paws, NY Breeders, and Central Park Puppies.

Preferred Canines is a commercial puppy broker based in Ohio and has shipped over 900 puppies to four pet stores in New York: Petland Cicero, Shake-A-Paw Lynbrook, NY Breeder, and Puppy Paradise. Another USDA-licensed broker operating as Golden Seal uses the same Ohio address as Preferred Canines. Both Golden Seal and Preferred Canines are operated by Abe N. Miller, who has bred and sold puppies under at least ten different business names including Quail Creek, DLM Kennel, Comfort Canines, Holmes for Canines and House of Pets. Miller has had a long history of USDA violations dating back to 2006. He has been cited for buying puppies from unlicensed breeders, transporting underage puppies, and failing to provide veterinary care.

Select Puppies LLC, an Iowa-based dog broker shipped the puppies into New York State pet stores. Select Puppies LLC is operated by Brian Mohrfeld. Mohrfeld has operated as a puppy broker at the same address under several business names (Perfect Puppies, MTE Puppies, PetsPlus), cancelling his license and relicensing several times. While operating under the name Perfect Puppies, he was cited for buying over 500 dogs from unlicensed breeders. Mohrfeld was listed as the President of Choice Puppies, a puppy broker facility in Missouri, whose license was canceled in 2019. Brian Mohrfeld and Select Puppies are named as Defendants in Petconnect Rescue, Inc. v. Salinas, the ongoing California lawsuit alleging that both were involved in transporting puppies for the “puppy laundering” scheme where puppies were brought into the state, fraudulently represented as “rescues,” and sold in California pet stores. At the last federal inspection, Select Puppies had over 200 dogs. This facility supplied puppies to Puppy City, Luxury Puppies, Shake-A-Paw Hicksville, Shake-A-Paw Lynbrook, Left Paw, American Kennels, Pup Town, Puppy Paws, and Pet Zone.

Pinnacle Pet is a major Missouri-based commercial puppy broker with a 2018 self-reported gross revenue of over $9 million from sales of puppies. Nearly 600 puppies were shipped by Pinnacle Pet to seven New York pet stores in the between 2018-2021. In 2018, Pinnacle Pet was cited by the USDA for failing to provide veterinary care to a puppy that was “returned.” However, Pinnacle Pet appealed to the USDA to remove that violation from its website and now appears to have no compliance issues. Pinnacle Pet’s CEO serves on the Board of Directors of the Pet Advocacy Network, a trade group that regularly lobbies on behalf of the pet industry. Pinnacle Pet supplied puppies to Pet Zone Queensbury, Pet Zone Albany, Pet Zone Poughkeepsie, Luxury Puppies, Pet Zone Watertown, Puppy Experience, and Teacup Pup Corp.

Becky Busboom is a Nebraska-based commercial dog broker. According to Colorado state records, shortly after Busboom delivered puppies to a pet store there in 2019, the puppies broke out with distemper, a deadly and highly contagious disease. Some puppies had been sold and exposed other dogs to the disease. At least 10 dogs were euthanized as a result. The same month Busboom delivered sick dogs to Colorado, she also shipped puppies to New York. The USDA has also cited Busboom for giving pig medication to puppies who had loose stools. This facility supplied puppies to NY Breeders, Shake-A- Paw Hicksville, Shake-A-Paw Lynbrook, Worldwide Puppies and Kittens, Puppy Experience, Luxury Puppies, NYC Breeders, Selmer’s Pet Land, NY Breeders, Westchester Puppies and Kittens, and Canine Corral.
BJ’s & Guys LLC is a huge puppy broker operation in Kansas that houses nearly 1,000 dogs. BJ’s has been cited by the USDA for lack of veterinary care, chewed live electric power cords, and failing to control heat. BJ’s supplied puppies to NY Breeders, Puppy Experience, Luxury Puppies, Selmer’s Pet Land, Sportsman’s Kennels, and Worldwide Puppies and Kittens.

Marvin Newswanger is an Iowa-based commercial dog breeder with over 540 dogs and is a major source of New York pet store puppies. USDA inspectors noted that flooring allowed the feet of Yorkie, Pomeranian, and Boston Terrier puppies to fall through cages, inadequate veterinary care, and cleaning and sanitization issues. This facility has not been inspected since March of 2019. This dog breeder sold puppies to Astoria Pets, Puppy Experience, Sportsman’s Kennels, and Puppy Boutique.

Samuel Beachy is a Missouri-based commercial breeding facility with nearly 200 dogs who supplies puppies to one-third of New York’s pet stores. The USDA has documented dogs with untreated eye injuries and dental issues, dirty “self-feeders” (automatic food dispensers) and failure to provide enough cage space for nursing dogs and their puppies. Beachy supplied puppies to Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Puppy Paradise, Gabby Pets, NY Breeders, Selmer’s Pet Land, Puppy City, Bronx Zoo-Rama Pets, NYC Breeders, Tropical Pets Inc, Sportsman’s Kennels, Luxury Puppies, Puppy Paws, Puppy Boutique, Worldwide Puppies and Kittens, Pets Unlimited, and Puppy Experience.

Rebecca Eiler is a dog breeding operator based in Kansas with over 550 dogs. Her facility has been linked to another problematic dog breeder, Jeff Fortin. Eiler has shipped thousands of dogs to New York pet stores. Eiler had 1,200 dogs killed after a highly contagious disease outbreak was identified at her facility. Eiler was previously co-owner of a large dog breeding facility in Nebraska that has a history of animal welfare violations including dogs without protection from the cold and frozen water bowls. Eiler supplied puppies to Puppy Experience, Astoria Pets, Crosby Pet Center, Pet Resources, Bronx Zoo-Rama Pets, Puppy Paradise, NYC Breeders, Puppy City, Luxury Puppies, Northern Aquarium + Pets, Shake-A-Paw Hicksville, Shake-A-Paw Lynbrook, Groomingdalz, Selmer’s Pet Land, Left Paw, Manhattan Puppies and Kittens, American Kennels, Puppy Paws, and NY Breeders.

Judy Koehn runs a massive commercial dog breeding facility in Kansas with over 400 dogs and a long history of USDA violations. Inspectors observed dogs with untreated illness and disease—including a dog with “buildup of loose feces at the base of his tail and rear end, with piles of loose, reddish brown colored feces with mucous,” dogs that were matted and had overgrown toenails, and at least 20 litters of puppies without inventory records or identification. Inspection reports documented multiple litters of puppies in outdoor housing without veterinarian approval, accumulation of fecal waste, food receptacles with chewed edges that were trapping dirt, a dog with its backbone and hip bones “easily felt,” and dogs kept in dangerous housing. This breeding facility supplied puppies to Northern Aquarium + Pets, Puppy Paradise, Hey Pets, Master Pups, Left Paw, Teacup Pup Corp, NYC Breeders, Pup Town, Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Bronx Zoo-Rama Pets, Vanity Pups, Astoria Pets, Luxury Puppies, and NY Breeders.
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Joyce Cairns was a commercial dog breeder that supplied puppies to at least 11 New York pet stores. Cairns shipped puppies to Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Astoria Pets, Puppy Paradise, Left Paw, Pup Slope, Northern Aquarium and Pets, American Kennels, Bow Wow Babies, Hey Pets, Vanity Pups, Teacup Pup Corp, and NY Breeders. At the most recent inspection, Cairns had nearly 160 dogs and cancelled her federal license in January of 2022. This facility has a long history of federal violations including failing to provide clean water, food, and housing. Feeders were contaminated and floors were wet and soiled with feces, resulting in “soiled dog coats.” Dogs were heavily matted, dirty and had overgrown nails. Cairns did not provide veterinary care to sick and injured dogs. Inspectors noted dogs with dental disease and missing teeth, a dog who was “reluctant” to walk, a dog with hair loss and exposed skin that was “thick and scaly,” and another that was very thin with the spine “visually protruding” with vertebrae and points of the hip, easily touched.

Cindy and Richard Jensen operate a large commercial dog breeding facility in Kansas with almost 400 dogs. Federal violations include holes dug under enclosures that could lead to injury and plastic water receptacles with chewed, sharp, jagged edges. This facility supplied puppies to Left Paw, Bow Wow Babies, Astoria Pets, Shake-A-Paw Lynbrook, Westchester Puppies and Kittens, American Kennels, NYC Breeders, Puppy Experience, Vanity Pups, Bronx Zoo-Rama Pets, Crosby Pet Center, Puppy City, Puppy Paws, NY Breeders, Pickapup Boutique, Q Puppies, and Luxury Puppies.

Dustin and Jill Westercamp are commercial dog breeders in Iowa. Federal violations for this facility include unsafe outdoor enclosures and incomplete identifying information for dogs. This facility shipped puppies to Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Bronx Zoo-Rama Pets, Manhattan Puppies and Kittens, and Citipups.
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Justin and LaNae Jackson run a commercial dog breeding operation with over 400 dogs. The USDA has cited many violations at this facility, including underweight and sick dogs, rusty kennels and broken floors, limited shade, and shelter in housing, grime and rust in the feeders, a dog with open ear wound, a dog with swollen mass in between the toes, and expired medication. The breeder supplied puppies to Astoria Pets, Vanity Pups, Worldwide Puppies & Kittens, Crosby Pet Center, Bronx Zoo-Rama Pets, Puppy Paradise, Northern Aquarium + Pets, Q Puppies, Hey Pets, Teacup Pup Corp, Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Selmer’s Pet Land, Left Paw, American Kennels, Pets Unlimited, and NY Breeders.

Holly Iben is a commercial dog breeder in Iowa with over 100 dogs. This facility received USDA violations that include a Yorkshire Terrier with two loose top teeth and buildup of brown material, and reddened gums. The inspector noted the dog must be evaluated by a veterinarian and that the facility didn’t have identification numbers on the cage cards for two different litters. This facility supplied puppies to Arcadia Pets and American Kennels.

Sally Culver runs a Missouri-based breeding operation that has been cited by the USDA for violations including a female Boston Terrier that was observed to be very thin with her ribs, backbone, and hips “easily seen.” Other violations were related to two litters of 4.5- and 5-week-old puppies that were being housed outdoors without any bedding and were “observed to be shivering and seeking areas of warmth.” The temperature on the previous night was noted to be less than 30 degrees Fahrenheit. Sally Culver shipped puppies to Central Park Puppies, Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Bow Wow Babies, and Left Paw.
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**Angela Smith** is a commercial dog breeder in Missouri with a history of federal animal care violations, including dogs with open ear and neck wounds, dogs with loose stool, dogs vomiting, “thick yellowish matter” in eyes, excessively long toenails, sharp screws protruding into enclosures and puppies without identification. After receiving an official warning by the USDA for failure to provide adequate veterinary care, Smith canceled her license. Since then, she has reapplied and is now an active federal licensee. Smith has not been inspected since 2019. This breeder supplied puppies to **NY Breeders** and **NYC Breeders**.

**Tina Boyd** owns a commercial dog breeding facility with almost 100 dogs in Missouri. This facility received USDA violations including puppies with excessive amount of excreta in the enclosure, several water receptacles in outdoor enclosures with green or dark brown water, and an accumulation of grime on the access doors. This breeder shipped puppies to **Citipups**.

Tina Boyd operates a breeding facility that has received USDA violations for inadequate care, including excessive excreta in the enclosure, dirty water receptacles, and grime on access doors. She re-applied for her license and is now an active federal licensee. She has not been inspected since 2019.

Angela Smith is a breeder in Missouri with a history of federal violations, including open wounds, loose stool, vomiting, and sharp screws protruding from enclosures. She was warned by the USDA for failure to provide veterinary care and later canceled her license. Since then, she has re-applied and is currently an active federal licensee.
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Raymond Lawson is a Missouri-based commercial dog breeder with nearly 100 dogs and a history of USDA violations. Federal inspectors noted very high levels of ammonia at his facility, causing irritation to the nose and throat to one of the inspectors. There were no windows or doors opened in the facility and no vents. Water receptacles were frozen, the inspector noted “several of the receptacles had lick spots” in the ice “where the dogs were attempting to drink.” When dogs were given water, they drank immediately, and some drank for “more than 20-60 seconds.” Inspectors noted a Shiba Inu shaking her head and tilting it to the right with “very wet, heavy, and yellowish discharge” in the ear and “adhered to the hair around the ear” with the skin appearing “reddened and inflamed.” Other violations were issued for standing wastewater on the ground, a mixture of “feces, food, green and black slimy material, and crawling, wiggling and flying insects.” This breeder shipped puppies to Citipups, Astoria Pets, Pup Slope, Luxury Puppies, Westchester Puppies and Kittens, Bronx Zoo-Rama Pets, and Vanity Pups.

Lloyd Buck is a licensed dog breeder in Missouri with federal violations that include a dog with two sores on each front leg that were pink and wet, her tail and both ears were “almost completely hairless” and red, and she had receding gums and teeth that were “completely covered in dark brown material” with “grey material along the gum line.” This breeder shipped puppies to Puppy Boutique, NYC Breeders, and NY Breeders.
Daniel Gingerich operated a USDA-licensed breeding facility in Iowa from 2019 to 2021. After receiving his license, Gingerich refused to let USDA on to his property. Gingerich moved dogs to multiple facilities across the state and did not disclose that information to USDA. Yet, USDA did not terminate his license.

When the USDA finally inspected the property, over a year after he was first licensed, they found emaciated dogs, dogs with abnormal eye, ear, skin, tail and leg conditions, dogs in heat distress, dogs without water and dogs with moldy food, dogs with untreated wounds and lesions, dogs with painful matting, dogs with contagious illnesses such as parvovirus and distemper, and dogs without enough space to turn around in their cages. The USDA continued to document issues like these for months.10

During this time, Gingerich was permitted to operate—buying, breeding, and selling thousands of dogs—until the Department of Justice finally stepped in.11

While he was licensed, Gingerich’s puppies were sold to pet stores all over the state. Stores in the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Westchester and on Long Island all bought puppies from Gingerich’s Iowa facility and resold them to New York families.
Gingerich shipped dogs to at least 18 New York pet stores.

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<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Pet Store Name and Location</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Bronx Zoo-Rama Pets (Bronx)</td>
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<td>Astoria Pets (Astoria)</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Shake a Paw (Hicksville)</td>
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<td>Sportsman's Kennel (Manorville)</td>
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<td>Puppy Paradise (Brooklyn)</td>
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<td>Crosby Pet Center (Bronx)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>American Kennel (NYC)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Puppy Experience (Aquebogue)</td>
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THE TRUTH ABOUT NEW YORK PET STORES.

Puppy-selling pet stores in New York reveal a landscape rife with deception and sick puppies.

Pet Zone operates a chain of puppy selling stores in Albany, Poughkeepsie, Watertown, and Queensbury, and is the subject of an ongoing lawsuit brought by the state alleging employees medicated puppies to mask illnesses from buyers, failed to have puppies seen by a veterinarian, then falsified records to cover it up.\(^\text{12}\)

Worldwide Puppies and Kittens (Bellmore) was ordered to pay $35,000 in restitution to consumers, following an investigation by the state, for knowingly selling pets with life-threatening illnesses, including parvovirus, giardiasis, acute respiratory infection, pneumonia, internal parasites, and kennel cough, along with other illnesses.\(^\text{13}\)

Westchester Puppies and Kittens (Hartsdale) agreed to pay a $7,500 civil fine for falsely advertising that it specialized in the sale of high quality, responsibly bred animals, when, in reality, the store sold animals that were bred at large-scale commercial mills.\(^\text{14}\)

Shake a Paw (Lynbrook and Hicksville) was sued by the New York Attorney General for the stores’ practice of selling sick and injured puppies to unknowing consumers. The case is ongoing.\(^\text{15}\)

According to inspection reports:

- **Allies Pet Corner (Rochester)** failed to provide evidence that puppies received a veterinary exam before they were sold, failed to provide evidence that puppies were provided with opportunity to exercise, and comingled puppies without proof of vaccination.
- **Livingston’s Animal Kingdom (Binghamton)** sold dogs without health certificates and offered dog for sale under eight weeks of age.
- **R&K Pet Shop (Bronx)** failed to provide evidence of vaccinations and failed to have required paperwork for source of dogs.
- **Pickapup Boutique (Merrick)** failed to vaccinate 11 puppies in the store, failed to license 13 dogs, and failed to accurately account for prescription medications.
- **The Puppy Experience (Aquebogue)** did not provide treatment for a dog with skin lesions, had medications on the premises that were not described in the veterinary plan, failed to provide proof of vaccinations, and failed to license dogs.
- **Westchester Puppies and Kittens (Hartsdale)** had sick dogs who were not receiving veterinary care, dogs in cages too small for “normal” movement, dogs who were wet from sitting in their own waste, and dogs in rusty and dirty cages.
- **Puppy City (Brooklyn)** accepted a shipment of puppies without CVIs.
- **NY Breeder (White Plains)** had dirty cages, a puppy showing signs of illness that wasn’t being treated, and failed to separate sick dogs.
- **Pet World (East Rochester)** had no proof that a veterinarian had visited in a year.
- **Puppy Paws NYC (Ozone Park)** did not have the required veterinary plan or proper records for dogs sold, and they had incomplete rabies certificates.
- **Pup Town (Manhattan)** had a sick puppy that was not receiving veterinary care and mixed sick puppies in isolation with new puppies. Pup Town also did not have acquisition or sale records.

Lawmakers have attempted to improve animal welfare and protect consumers by enacting laws that regulate the retail sales of dogs while still permitting puppies to be sold in stores.

New York State licenses and inspects pet stores to ensure that dogs are properly cared for while at the store and that consumers purchasing dogs are provided with certain information about the animal’s health, medical history, and origin.\(^\text{16}\) **According to inspection reports 70% of retailers have been cited for violations in the past five years alone.**\(^\text{17}\)
A close look at puppy-selling pet stores in New York reveals an uncomfortable truth—they have been allowed to misrepresent, deceive, and blur the reality of where their puppies come from. And while communities and states around the country have enacted laws to shut down the puppy mill pipeline, New York has become the one of the largest remaining outlets for puppy mills. How can this go on in a state that loves dogs so much?

IT IS TIME FOR NEW YORK TO DO MORE TO PROTECT ANIMALS AND FAMILIES.

IT’S TIME TO SHUT DOWN THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE IN OUR STATE.

aspc.org/nypups
SOURCES AND CITATIONS


2 The ASPCA's analysis is limited only to CVIs provided by New York's Department of Agriculture and Markets. Twelve New York pet stores were not found in any import documents for the 2018-2021 time period reviewed for this report.


16 New York Agriculture and Markets Chapter 69 ARTICLE 26-A, Care of Animals By Pet Dealers, Sections 400-408.