

State Puppy Mill Chart

This chart summarizes state laws that regulate large-scale commercial dog breeding operations, commonly referred to as “puppy mills.” Because federal laws are woefully inadequate, **it is critical that states use their power to enact higher standards of care and oversight for commercial breeders that go above and beyond the bare minimums required by the federal Animal Welfare Act.**

Who & what is covered by the federal law?

The Animal Welfare Act does set minimum welfare standards for dogs in puppy mills, but these standards are extremely inadequate, and there is a massive regulatory loophole which exempts from federal oversight any commercial dog breeders who sell directly to the public, including over the Internet.¹ Under USDA regulations, dogs are legally kept in abhorrent conditions—spending their entire lives crammed in filthy, overcrowded stacked cages, often in very poor health—as they are forced to produce litter after litter of puppies who are then sold to unwitting consumers. Regulatory deficiencies coupled with poor enforcement means that many of these dogs are not provided with even the most basic care. For this reason, it is imperative that states set standards of care and take enforcement into their own hands.

What to look for in state laws?

- **Licensing.** Breeders should be required to hold licenses that carry adequate fees to help fund enforcement. Limits on the number of breeding dogs that can be kept in a facility are somewhat effective, but ideally should be accompanied by licensing.
- **Standards of care.** Some important considerations are:
 - **Cage space.** The USDA only requires a cage to be approximately six inches longer than the length of a dog (not counting the tail) in each direction, but cages should be *at least* twice that large.
 - **Exercise.** Provisions that require one or more daily exercise periods are unenforceable, though still better than nothing. Instead, dogs should have constant, unfettered access to an outdoor exercise run.
 - **Wire flooring should be prohibited.**
 - **Stacking of cages should be prohibited.**
 - **Vet care.** Breeders should be required to provide a hands-on veterinary exam for every dog annually or prior to every attempt at breeding, whichever occurs more frequently.
 - **Humane euthanasia.** Laws should include a provision requiring humane euthanasia by a licensed veterinarian for any dog requiring euthanasia.
- **Inspections** should be mandatory, occur prior to licensing, and at least once per year thereafter. Inspections conducted at the discretion of the enforcing agency are still better than no inspections at all.

¹ The USDA has proposed a rule that would help close this loophole which exempts breeders who sell directly to the public, including those who sell over the Internet. We’re hopeful that this loophole will be closed, but the rule still would not require more stringent standards of care or improved enforcement—so we need to continue working at the state level!

The Road Ahead

Over the last few years, more and more states have been considering and enacting puppy mill legislation. Even in those states with the most regulation, though, there is much work left to be done. We should continue to lobby for improved standards of care across the board, including increased cage space, adequate rest between breeding cycles, mandatory annual inspections, and tougher penalties for non-compliance, among other things. It is also important to remember that these laws hinge on enforcement. Strong standards of care are meaningless if inspections are never conducted and violations go unpunished. Therefore, in addition to pushing for stronger state laws, it's important to work with enforcing agencies to make sure laws are being enforced.

KEY

- ☑ This aspect of the law is among the strongest in the country.
- ✓ This aspect of the law goes beyond USDA's bare minimum, but still needs significant improvement/is too difficult to enforce.
- ✘ Standard completely excluded from law
- U USDA minimum standard only in place
- ! Warning! This aspect of the law is highly insufficient.
- 👍/👎 Thumbs up/Thumbs down

State Puppy Mill Laws



State	Definitions	Licensing	Inspections	Standards of care	Enforcing agency	Other notes	Citations
Alabama		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Alaska		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Arizona		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Arkansas		! None	! None	! None	! None		
California	<p>"Breeder" means a person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other association that has sold, transferred, or given away all or part of three or more litters or 20 or more dogs during the preceding 12 months that were bred and reared on the premises of the person, firm, partnership, corporation, or other association.</p>	! None	! None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U Cage space U Exercise ✓ Flooring * No stacking U Veterinary care * Humane euthanasia 	State Department of Health Services		West's Ann. Cal. Health & Safety Code § 122045 to 122110 and 122145
Colorado	<p>"Dog breeder" means any firm, person, or corporation which is engaged in the operation of breeding and raising dogs for the purpose of selling, trading, bartering, giving away, or otherwise transferring same, excluding racing greyhounds that are not intended to be companion pets.</p> <p>"Dog breeder, large scale operation" or "large scale operation dog breeder" means a dog breeder that transfers at least one hundred dogs per year, excluding racing greyhounds that are not intended to be companion pets.</p> <p>"Dog breeder, small scale operation" or "small scale operation dog breeder" means a dog breeder that transfers at least twenty-five but no more than ninety-nine dogs per year.</p>	YES	DISCRETIONARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U Cage space ✓ Exercise ✓ Flooring * No stacking U Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia 	State Department of Agriculture		§ 35-80-101 to 35-80-117 and 8 CO ADC 1201-11-25
Connecticut	<p>"Kennel" means one pack or collection of dogs which are kept under one ownership at a single location and are bred for show, sport or sale.</p>	YES, required for any owner or keeper of a kennel who breeds more than two litters of dogs annually	DISCRETIONARY (applies to any location, required by a town to be licensed, keeping ten or more breeding dogs)	! No substantive standard	Dept. of Agriculture/state animal control; local animal control		C.G.S.A. § 22-327 and 22-342
Delaware		! None	! None	! None	! None		
District of Columbia	<p>"Commercial animal breeder" means any person, firm, organization, or corporation engaged in the operation of breeding and raising more than 25 animals per year for sale or in return for consideration.</p>	YES		Standards not set because there are no commercial animal breeders in DC			DC ST § 8-1821.01
Florida		! None	! None	! None	! None		

State Puppy Mill Laws



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Georgia	<p>“Pet dealer” or “pet dealership” means any person who sells, offers to sell, exchanges, or offers for adoption dogs, cats, birds, fish, reptiles, or other animals customarily obtained as pets in this state. However, a person who sells only animals that he or she has produced and raised, not to exceed 30 animals a year, shall not be considered a pet dealer under this article unless such person is licensed for a business by a local government or has a Georgia sales tax number. The Commissioner may with respect to any breed of animals decrease the 30 animal per year exception in the foregoing sentence to a lesser number of any animals for any species that is commonly bred and sold for commercial purposes in lesser quantities. Operation of a veterinary hospital or clinic by a licensed veterinarian shall not constitute the veterinarian as a pet dealer, kennel, or stable under this article.</p>	YES	Mandatory for new facilities; otherwise, DISCRETIONARY	! No substantive standards	Commissioner of Agriculture		Ga. Code Ann., § 4-11-1 to 4-11-10
Hawaii		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Idaho		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Illinois	<p>“Dog dealer” means any person who sells, offers to sell, exchange, or offers for adoption with or without charge or donation dogs in this State. However, a person who sells only dogs that he has produced and raised shall not be considered a dog dealer under this Act, and a veterinary hospital or clinic operated by a veterinarian or veterinarians licensed under the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004 shall not be considered a dog dealer under this Act.</p> <p>“Kennel operator” means any person who operates an establishment, other than an animal control facility, veterinary hospital, or animal shelter, where dogs or dogs and cats are maintained for boarding, training or similar purposes for a fee or compensation; or who sells, offers to sell, exchange, or offers for adoption with or without charge dogs or dogs and cats which he has produced and raised. A person who owns, has possession of, or harbors 5 or less females capable of reproduction shall not be considered a kennel operator.</p> <p>“Cattery operator” means any person who operates an establishment, other than an animal control facility or animal shelter, where cats are maintained for boarding, training or similar purposes for a fee or compensation; or who sells, offers to sell, exchange, or offers for adoption with or without charges cats which he has produced and raised. A person who owns, has possession of, or harbors 5 or less females capable of reproduction shall not be considered a cattery operator.</p>	YES	DISCRETIONARY investigations, though mandatory upon complaint of purchaser	! No substantive standards	Department of Agriculture		§ 225 ILCS 605/1 to 605/22

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Indiana	<p>“Commercial dog breeder” means a person who maintains more than twenty (20) unaltered female dogs that are at least twelve (12) months of age.</p> <p>“Commercial dog broker” means a person: (1) who is a Class “B” licensee under 9 CFR 1.1; and (2) who sells at least five hundred (500) dogs in a calendar year.</p> <p>Exemptions for: (5) a person who breeds at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the person's dogs as sport dogs for hunting purposes; or (6) a person who breeds at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the person's dogs as service dogs or as dogs for use by the police or the armed forces.</p>	YES (called a registration)	! None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U Cage space U Exercise ✓ Flooring × No stacking U Veterinary care × Humane euthanasia <p>*incorporates USDA regulations by reference</p>	Board of Animal Health	While inspections are not specifically provided for by law, the Board of Animal Health may enforce the provisions when the Board determines that sufficient funds have been deposited in the commercial dog breeder and broker fund to permit enforcement.	IC 15-21
Iowa	<p>“Commercial breeder” means a person, engaged in the business of breeding dogs or cats, who sells, exchanges, or leases dogs or cats in return for consideration, or who offers to do so, whether or not the animals are raised, trained, groomed, or boarded by the person. A person who owns or harbors three or fewer breeding males or females is not a commercial breeder. However, a person who breeds any number of breeding male or female greyhounds for the purposes of using them for pari-mutuel wagering at a racetrack as provided in chapter 99D shall be considered a commercial breeder irrespective of whether the person sells, leases, or exchanges the greyhounds for consideration or offers to do so.</p>	YES	DISCRETIONARY	! No substantive standards	Department of Agriculture		I.C.A. § 162.1 to 162.10A
Kansas	<p>“Animal breeder premises” means any premises where all or part of six or more litters of dogs or cats, or both, or 30 or more dogs or cats, or both, are sold, or offered or maintained for sale, primarily at wholesale for resale to another.</p> <p>“Animal distributor premises” means the premises of any person engaged in the business of buying for resale dogs or cats, or both, as a principal or agent, or who holds such distributor's self out to be so engaged.</p> <p>“Kennel operator” means any person who operates an establishment where four or more dogs or cats, or both, are maintained in any one week for boarding, training or similar purposes for a fee or compensation.</p> <p>“Hobby breeder premises” means any premises where all or part of 3, 4 or 5 litters of dogs or cats, or both, are produced for sale or sold, offered or maintained for sale. This provision applies only if the total number of dogs or cats, or both, sold, offered or maintained for sale is less than 30 individual animals.</p> <p>“Retail breeder premises” means any premises where all or part of six or more litters or 30 or more dogs or cats, or both, are sold, or offered or maintained for sale, primarily at retail and not for resale to another.</p>	YES	Mandatory for new facilities; otherwise, DISCRETIONARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U Cage space U Exercise U Flooring × No stacking ✓ Veterinary care ☑ Humane euthanasia <p>*incorporates USDA standards by reference for USDA licensed animal distributors and animal breeders</p>	Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health	👉 Recent victory: Greyhounds no longer exempted under Kansas Pet Animal Act!	K.S.A. 47-1701 to 47-1737 Kansas Pet Animal Act

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Kentucky		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Louisiana	Any individual or business with five or more dogs and who breeds and sells dogs retail, wholesale, or to the public.	YES *CAP: Prohibits possession of more than 75 dogs for breeding purposes	! None	! None	Governing body of each municipality	👉 Even though LA has licensing and a cap, the absence of standards of care and lack of inspections makes this a weak law.	LSA-R.S. 3:2772
Maine	<p>“Breeding kennel” means a location where 5 or more adult female dogs or cats capable of breeding are kept and some or all of the offspring are offered for sale, sold or exchanged for value or a location where more than 16 dogs or cats raised on the premises are sold to the public in a 12-month period.</p> <p>Exemption for kennel licensed by a municipality under section 3923-C when the dogs are kept primarily for hunting, show, training, sledding, competition, field trials or exhibition purposes and not more than 16 dogs are offered for sale, sold or exchanged for value within a 12-month period.</p>	YES	DISCRETIONARY	! No substantive standards	Commissioner of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Resources		7 M.R.S.A. §§ 3907 to 3944 and 4015
Maryland	<p>Differs by county.</p> <p>In Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Montgomery, Howard, Talbot, and Washington Counties: Anyone who owns or has custody of 15 or more unspayed female dogs over the age of 6 months kept for the purpose of breeding the dogs and selling their offspring; and sells dogs from six or more litters in a year.</p>	YES	DISCRETIONARY (with advance notice) for any person engaged in the business of buying, selling, trading, or breeding dogs, or of a kennel where 25 or more dogs are kept	! No substantive standards	Local enforcement		MD Code, Art. 24, § 11-501 MD Code, Criminal Law, § 10-616
Massachusetts	“Kennel” means one pack or collection of dogs on a single premises, whether maintained for breeding, boarding, sale, training, hunting or other purposes and including any shop where dogs are on sale, and also including every pack or collection of more than three dogs three months old or over owned or kept by a person on a single premises irrespective of the purpose for which they are maintained.	YES	DISCRETIONARY	! No substantive standards	Police commissioner of Boston and the clerks of other cities and of towns		M.G.L.A. 140 § 136A to 147B
Michigan		! None	! None	! None	! None		

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Minnesota	"Commercial breeder" means a person who possesspossesses or has an ownership interest in animals and is engaged in the business of breeding animals for sale or for exchange in return for consideration, and who possesses ten or more adult intact animals and whose animals produce more than five total litters of puppies or kittens per year.	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY for new facilities and once per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia 	Board of Animal Health	Minnesota passed its first-ever puppy and kitten mill law in 2014!	Minnesota Statutes §§ 347.57 to 347.64
Mississippi		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Missouri	<p>"Commercial breeder" means a person, other than a hobby or show breeder, engaged in the business of breeding animals for sale or for exchange in return for a consideration, and who harbors more than three intact females for the primary purpose of breeding animals for sale;</p> <p>Standards only apply to "any person having custody or ownership of more than ten female covered dogs for the purpose of breeding those animals and selling any offspring for use as a pet."</p>	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY for new facilities and once per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flooring (for new enclosures and for all by 2016) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate rest between breeding cycles 	Animal Welfare Official/State Veterinarian (Department of Agriculture)		V.A.M.S. 273.325 to 273.357 Animal Care and Facilities Licensing and Regulation
Montana		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Nebraska	<p>"Commercial breeder" means a person engaged in the business of breeding dogs or cats:</p> <p>(a) Who sells, exchanges, leases, or in any way transfers or offers to sell, exchange, lease, or transfer thirty-one or more dogs or cats in a twelve-month period beginning on April 1 of each year;</p> <p>(b) Who owns or harbors four or more dogs or cats, intended for breeding, in a twelve-month period beginning on April 1 of each year;</p> <p>(c) Whose dogs or cats produce a total of four or more litters within a twelve-month period beginning on April 1 of each year; or</p> <p>(d) Who knowingly sells, exchanges, or leases dogs or cats for later retail sale or brokered trading.</p>	YES	MANDATORY (new facilities and once every 24 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia <p>*incorporates USDA regulations by reference</p>	Bureau of Animal Industry of the Department of Agriculture with the State Veterinarian in charge	Nebraska has a strong definition of commercial breeders by defining them both in terms of the number of animals sold, the number of litters produced, and the number of breeding animals owned.	§ 54-625 to 54-643 Commercial Dog and Cat Operator Inspection Act

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Nevada	<p>“Breeder” means a dealer, operator or other person who is responsible for the operation of a commercial establishment engaged in the business of breeding dogs or cats for sale or trade. The term does not include a person who breeds dogs or cats as a hobby.</p> <p>“Kennel” means a place where at least 10 dogs of not less than 6 months of age are kept, harbored or maintained for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boarding; 2. Training; or 3. Breeding for sale to a retailer or dealer. 	YES (called a permit)	DISCRETIONARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adequate rest between breeding cycles 	Board of County Commissioners	 All dogs and cats sold must be microchipped!	N.R.S. 574.210 to 574.440
New Hampshire	<p>“Commercial kennel” means any person, business, corporation, or other entity that transfers 10 or more litters or 50 or more puppies in any 12-month period.</p>	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY (at least every 6 months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia 	Department of Agriculture, Markets, and Food		N.H. Rev. Stat. § 437:1 to 437:9 and N.H. Code Admin. R. Agr 1702.01 to 1702.10
New Jersey	<p>“Kennel” means any establishment wherein or whereon the business of boarding or selling dogs or breeding dogs for sale is carried on, except a pet shop.</p>	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY (annual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia 	State Department of Health and Senior Services or local boards of health		N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.1 to 4:19-15.19 and N.J.A.C. 8:23A-1.1 to 1.13
New Mexico		 None	 None	 None	 None		
New York	<p>“Pet Dealer” means any person who engages in the sale or offering for sale of more than nine animals per year for profit to the public. Such definition shall include breeders who sell or offer to sell animals; provided that a breeder who sells or offers to sell directly to the consumer fewer than twenty-five animals per year that are born and raised on the breeder’s residential premises shall not be considered a pet dealer as a result of selling or offering to sell such animals.</p>	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY (annual)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia 	Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets	 New York passed a 2013 bill that allows localities to regulate commercial breeders and pet stores!	McKinney's Agriculture and Markets Law §§ 401 to 407
North Carolina		 None	 None	 None	 None		
North Dakota		 None	 None	 None	 None		

State Puppy Mill Laws

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Ohio	"High volume breeder" means an establishment that keeps, houses, and maintains adult breeding dogs that produce at least nine litters of puppies in any given calendar year and, in return for a fee or other consideration, sells sixty or more adult dogs or puppies per calendar year.	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY (annual)*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia	Department of Agriculture	🗨️ Ohio finally passed a crucial bill in 2012 to regulate commercial breeders! * Every other year, these inspections can be performed by the attending vet for the facility instead of the state inspector.	R.C. § 955.02
Oklahoma	"Commercial breeder" means any individual, entity, association, trust, or corporation who possesses eleven or more intact female animals for the use of breeding or dealing in animals for direct or indirect sale or for exchange in return for consideration.	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY (annual)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cage space* <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flooring* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia	State Board of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry)	*Cage space requirement only applies to new facilities or facilities replacing their cages. 25% of cage floor must be solid surface. Stacking only allowed with barrier or drainage system.	4 Okl.St. Ann. § 30.1 to 30.17 Commercial Pet Breeders Act of 2012
Oregon	Standards of care apply to any person that possesses, controls or otherwise has charge of at the same time 10 or more sexually intact dogs that are eight months of age or older.	❗ No licensing CAP: Prohibits possession of more than 50 breeding dogs.	❗ None	<input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia	❗ None	🗨️ Even though Oregon has a cap and some good standards in place, there is no means of enforcement!	O.R.S. §§ 167.374 to 167.376 and O.R.S. § 167.310

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Pennsylvania	<p>“Commercial kennel” means a kennel that breeds or whelps dogs and: (1) sells or transfers any dog to a dealer or pet shop kennel; or (2) sells or transfers more than 60 dogs per calendar year.</p> <p>“Dealer” means a person who: (1) publicly or privately sells or offers for sale any dog belonging to another person for consideration, a fee or a commission or percentage of the sale price; (2) transfers dogs at wholesale for resale to another; or (3) offers or maintains dogs at wholesale for resale to another.</p> <p>“Dealer kennel” means a kennel operating within the Commonwealth which: (1) publicly or privately sells or offers for sale any dog as an owner, agent or assignee for a fee, commission or percentage of the sale price; (2) transfers dogs at wholesale for resale to another; or (3) offers or maintains dogs at wholesale for resale to another. The term does not include a pound, shelter or common carrier or a kennel defined elsewhere in this section.</p> <p>“Kennel” means any establishment in or through which at least 26 dogs are kept or transferred in a calendar year, or a boarding kennel as defined in this act.</p> <p>“Private kennel” means a kennel not meeting the definition of “commercial kennel” where dogs are kept or bred by their owner, for the purpose of hunting, tracking and exhibiting in dog shows, performance events or field and obedience trials.</p> <p>“Out-of-state dealer” means a person who does not reside in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and who: (1) sells or offers for sale a dog in this Commonwealth belonging to another person, for any type of consideration, fee, commission or percentage of the sales price; or (2) transfers a dog in this Commonwealth for resale to another for any type of consideration, fee, commission or percentage of the sales price.</p>	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY for new facilities and at least twice per year	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lighting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Temperature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ventilation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia	Department of Agriculture		3 P.S. § 459-101 to 459-219
Rhode Island	<p>"Dealer" means any person who sells, exchanges, or donates, or offers to sell, exchange, or donate animals to another dealer, pet shop, or research facility, or who breeds dogs and/or cats for the purpose of selling or donating to another dealer or pet shop, or research facility.</p>	YES	DISCRETIONARY	<input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia	Director of Environmental Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Licensing exemption for thoroughbred dogs kept for breeding and stud purposes.	Rhode Island § 4-13-10 & § 4-19-1 to 4-19-21 and Rules and Regulations Governing Animal Care
South Carolina		! None	! None	! None	! None		
South Dakota		! None	! None	! None	! None		

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Tennessee		! None	! None	! None	! None	☹ Unfortunately, the Tennessee Legislature did not renew the Commercial Breeder Act, so it expired in June of 2014.	
Texas	"Dog or cat breeder" means a person who possesses 11 or more adult intact female animals and is engaged in the business of breeding those animals for direct or indirect sale or for exchange in return for consideration and who sells or exchanges, or offers to sell or exchange, not fewer than 20 animals in a calendar year.	YES	MANDATORY for new facilities and at least once every 18 months. More frequent inspections for high-risk facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U Cage space U Exercise U Flooring × No stacking ☑ Veterinary care ☑ Humane euthanasia ☑ Adequate rest between breeding cycles 	Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation		TX OCC § 802.001 - 251 16 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 91
Utah		! None	! None	! None	! None		
Vermont	<p>"Pet merchant" means any person who operates a pet shop or who acts as a dealer.</p> <p>"Pet dealer" means any person who sells or exchanges, or who offers to sell or exchange cats, dogs, or wolf-hybrids, or any combination thereof, from three or more litters of cats, dogs or wolf-hybrids in any 12-month period.</p>	YES	DISCRETIONARY	! No substantive standards	Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Division of Food Safety and Consumer Protection; municipal clerk	👉 Vermont passed a law in 2013 that clarifies the definition of pet dealer and eliminates legal loopholes.	20 V.S.A. § 3583 to 3684 20 V.S.A. § 3901 to 3914 20 V.S.A. § 4301 to 4304 and Animal Welfare Regulations

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State	Definitions	Licensing	Inspections	Standards of care	Enforcing agency	Other notes	Citations
Virginia	<p>"Commercial dog breeder" means any person who, during any 12-month period, maintains 30 or more adult female dogs for the primary purpose of the sale of their offspring as companion animals.</p> <p>"Kennel" means any establishment in which five or more canines, felines, or hybrids of either are kept for the purpose of breeding, hunting, training, renting, buying, boarding, selling, or showing.</p> <p>"Dealer" means any person who in the regular course of business for compensation or profit buys, sells, transfers, exchanges, or barter companion animals.</p>	<p>NO, but business license from locality required for commercial dog breeders</p> <p>CAP - 50 dogs over the age of one year at any time for breeding purposes. Local ordinance may increase cap.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY for commercial dog breeding facilities (at least twice annually and upon receipt of a complaint)</p> <p>DISCRETIONARY for dealers and kennels (triggered by complaint)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care (for commercial breeders only, otherwise ✓) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limits on age of breeding females 	State Veterinarian for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or his assistant; any animal control officer, and any public health or safety official		VA Code Ann. § 3.2-6507.1 to 3.2-6555
Washington	Any person who owns, possesses, controls, or otherwise has charge or custody of more than ten dogs with intact sexual organs over the age of six months and keeps the dogs in an enclosure for the majority of the day.	<p>! No licensing</p> <p>CAP - 50 intact dogs over the age of six months</p>	! None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cage space ✓ Exercise <input type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking ✓ Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limits on age of breeding females 	! None	<p>! A cap with standards but no enforcement mechanism is insufficient! Also, breeders licensed before 2010 do not have to comply with the cap.</p>	RCW16.52.310
West Virginia	"Commercial dog breeder" means any person who: (a) maintains 11 or more unsterilized dogs over the age of one year for the exclusive purpose of actively breeding and (b) is engaged in the business of breeding dogs as household pets for direct or indirect sale or for exchange in return for consideration.	YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MANDATORY, twice per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cage space <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia 	County Assessor	<p>! Commercial dog breeders cannot operate if they have been convicted of animal cruelty.</p>	West Virginia § 19-20-26

State Puppy Mill Laws

State	Definitions	Licensing	Inspections	Standards of care	Enforcing agency	Other notes	Citations
	<p>"Dog breeder" means a person who sells 25 or more dogs in a year that the person has bred and raised, except that "dog breeder" does not include a person who sells 25 or more dogs in a year that the person has bred and raised if all of those dogs are from no more than 3 litters.</p> <p>"Dog breeding facility" means a place at which dogs are bred and raised and from which 25 or more dogs are sold in a year, except that "dog breeding facility" does not include a place at which dogs are bred and raised and from which 25 or more dogs are sold in a year if all of the dogs that are sold in a year are from no more than 3 litters.</p> <p>"Dog dealer" means a person, other than an out-of-state dog dealer, who sells, distributes, or trades, or offers for sale, distribution, or trade, 25 or more dogs in a year that the person has not bred and raised or who operates an auction at which 50 or more dogs are sold or offered for sale in a year.</p> <p>"Out-of-state dog dealer" means a person who is not a resident of this state who brings 25 or more dogs into this state for sale in this state in a year.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Cage space ✓ Exercise U Flooring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No stacking ✓ Veterinary care <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Humane euthanasia 			
Wisconsin		YES	MANDATORY (new facilities and once every 24 months) Does not apply to out-of-state dealers.		The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; humane officers		W.S.A. 173.41
Wyoming		! None	! None	! None	! None		