

Vote Yes on HB 1238

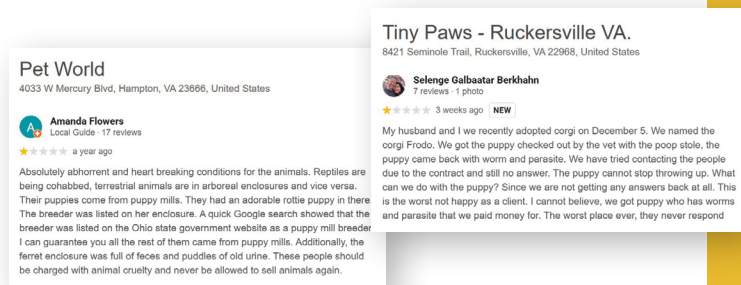
ALLOW LOCALITIES TO REGULATE PET SHOP ANIMAL SALES!

FEBRUARY 2026

Eight states have banned the sale of puppies in pet shops, but the sale of puppies—including those sourced from puppy mills—is still allowed in Virginia, which, like the rest of the country, is struggling with a companion animal overpopulation and homelessness crisis. Some localities in Virginia—like Fauquier County, Greene County, and Prince William County—have struggled to effectively address citizen complaints about pet shops in their communities, as they lack the authority to regulate the sale of animals. **Delegate Irene Shin (House District 8) has introduced HB 1238, which would afford localities the authority to do what works best in their own communities when it comes to the acquisition, marketing, and sale of animals in pet shops.**

Cruelty Cases and Online Reviews Illustrate the Need for Localities to Have the Ability to Regulate Animal Sales

Dreamy Puppy in Chantilly closed after law-enforcement authorities seized 40 to 50 puppies from the store. A Petland location in Fairfax closed after a Humane World for Animals investigation revealed that store managers had failed to provide adequate care to animals in their charge. Google reviews for Virginia's pet stores commonly complain about the sale of sick puppies to the public and poor store conditions:



The Pet Shop Lobby Is Misleading Legislators About Current Practices

The opponents of this bill claim that it would result in more Virginians buying dogs on unregulated platforms and increase scams targeting Virginia's consumers. **However, they don't mention that pet shops in Virginia already source from massive puppy mills and shady dealers, in addition to partnering with predatory lenders.**

During recent visits to Virginia pet shops that sell puppies, PETA documented that none of the breeders who supplied the stores were from Virginia. **Every single store we visited imported dogs from out-of-state puppy mills to sell for thousands of dollars**, taking away homes for the equally deserving and wonderful animals who await adoption in Virginia's animal shelters.

The owner of Puppy La Vie in Fredericksburg admitted that EasyPay, the lender they work with, charged an interest rate of 39% even to someone with a "tier 1, like top of the top" credit score and said that the company was "damn near" to being "predatory." A Pet & Aquatic Warehouse employee said that she had seen **interest rates from EasyPay reach as high as 200%** and that if customers don't pay it off within the 90-day interest-free period, they **"end up paying 12,000 dollars for a 6,000-dollar dog."**



There are massive numbers of dogs at puppy mills and brokers supplying pet stores in Virginia, including, as of their last USDA inspection, the following:

- **XO Pups** (Chantilly) suppliers had a total of **2,599 dogs**, with an average of **186** at each supplier.
- **SuperStar Puppies** (Fairfax) suppliers had a total of **1,644 dogs**, with an average of **164** at each supplier.
- **Pets Plus Inc.** (Stafford) suppliers had a total of **2,706 dogs**, with an average of **142** at each supplier.
- **Tiny Paws** (Ruckersville) suppliers had a total of **2,394 dogs**, with an average of **141** at each supplier.
- **Pet & Aquatic Warehouse** (Lynchburg) suppliers had a total of **1,224 dogs**, with an average of **136** at each supplier.
- **Waggles** (Roanoke) suppliers had a total of **1,992 dogs**, with an average of **133** at each supplier.
- **Pet World** (Hampton) suppliers had a total of **1,612 dogs**, with an average of **179** at each supplier.
- **Pet-Go-Round** (Virginia Beach) suppliers had a total of **2,491 dogs**, with an average of **131** at each supplier.
- **Family Pet** (Chesapeake) suppliers had a total of **996 dogs**, with an average of **199** at each supplier.



Mother dogs and “studs” used by puppy mill breeders spend lonely lives year after year in dismal cages, producing litter after litter.

Pet Shops in Virginia Source From Some of the Worst Puppy Mills and Brokers

Five of the breeders or dealers found to be supplying Virginia pet stores have been included in Humane World for Animals’ [Horrible Hundred](#) annual reports, which list the most problematic breeders and brokers in the country. Others confine massive numbers of dogs in disturbing conditions.

- **Pinnacle Pet** is a large Missouri-based puppy dealer that supplied puppies to XO Pups and had **222 dogs** at its facility during its last USDA inspection. According to [the ASPCA](#), “The USDA cited this broker for nine puppies overheating in a truck in 2015 when the air conditioning malfunctioned. Eight of the nine were dead by midnight after a lack of timely medical care. The rest of the puppies were transported for sale to pet stores without first being examined by a veterinarian, and one of those puppies was found dead on the transport vehicle before arriving to the pet store. Pinnacle Pet has also been cited for lack of proper space for the dogs during transport because the dogs couldn’t turn around while standing, or stand or sit in a normal position.”
- Pets Plus Inc. and Waggles supplier **Angie McDuffee** reportedly operates the largest commercial kennel in Minnesota and had **803 dogs** as of her last USDA inspection. A 2019 [Companion Animal Protection Society investigation](#) into her kennel, AJ’s Angels, revealed dogs warehoused on wire metal flooring, some of whom paced continuously.
- XO Pups supplier **Big Star Kennel LLC** in Iowa had **422 dogs** at its facility during its last USDA inspection. Another supplier to XO Pups, **Precious Pups LLC** had **715 dogs** at its facility as of its last USDA inspection but [calls itself](#) a “small, family operated kennel.”
- Pet-Go-Round supplier **Judy Maassen** had **296 dogs** at the time of her last USDA inspection. Maassen was included in the [2015 Horrible Hundred report](#), which notes, “During an August 2014 visit, a USDA inspector noted that the official Program of Veterinary Care for J Maassen, Inc. listed “gunshot in brain at close range” as the facility’s primary method of euthanasia.
- Superstar Puppies supplier **Creek Side Kennel**, which had **444 dogs** as of its last USDA inspection, was included on the [2021 Horrible Hundred report](#), which notes that a 2021 USDA inspection documented broken surfaces in areas housing dogs, rust and paint issues, and “a trough of dog feces spilling above ground.”

Local officials are struggling to properly regulate pet shops, and this bill would give them the vital ability to adopt an ordinance that works best for their communities. **PLEASE VOTE YES ON HB 1238 TO GIVE LOCALITIES THE ABILITY TO DECIDE WHAT’S BEST FOR THEIR COMMUNITIES.** For questions or additional information, please e-mail DaphnaN@peta.org. Thank you!

PETA