



Lexington Humane Pet Sales Ordinance

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Social Services and Public Safety Committee

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Status Quo

- **Two** Lexington pet stores currently sell dogs and cats in store
- Remaining dozen+ pet stores either do not sell dogs/cats or partner with shelters/rescues to promote adoptable pets
- *Why does this matter?*

The Puppy/Kitten Mills to Pet Store Pipeline

- Research shows that pet stores participate in this retail practice sourcing from large-scale commercial breeders (mills) that put profit over the well-being of their vulnerable animals
- There is no federal, state, or industry standard that identifies a “good” puppy mill or a “bad” one, nor a reasonable enforcement mechanism to ensure that Lexington-based retailers meet those standards
- The chain pet store (with a retail location in Lexington) is well-known nationwide to source from massive puppy mills – many with terrible welfare records

Why is a Humane Pet Sales Ordinance Needed in Lexington?

- This ordinance would:
 - **Protect puppies** from the puppy mill-pet store pipeline
 - **Protect consumers** from a wide range of problems, including predatory financing and purchasing chronically ill and/or injured puppies
 - Help **ease the burden** of the Lexington Humane Society, Lexington Fayette Animal Care and Control, and of Fayette County rescue groups by promoting the adoption of healthy, homeless dogs and cats
 - **Send a clear message** that puppy and kitten mills and their inhumane practices are not welcome in Lexington
- This ordinance **would not ban** the acquisition of dogs of any kind from responsible breeders, animal shelters, or rescue agencies
- **488 communities** nationwide have passed similar legislation – including Kentucky's own **Elizabethtown, Radcliff, and Louisville**

The Puppy/Kitten Mill to Pet Store Pipeline

This legislation makes a difference: According to USDA records, the last decade has seen 32,000 fewer dogs in puppy mills.

The data suggests these ordinances are most responsible for this drop-off. In 2012, only 27 laws of this kind were on the books. By the end of 2023, 487 communities – along with 7 states – had enacted these sorts of laws.

32,000 fewer dogs are caged in puppy mills!



Adult dogs per facility

The average number of dogs per USDA-licensed puppy mill dropped from 87 to 57 between 2012 and 2022, as demand for puppy mill dogs has shrunk.

Common Questions

Q: Would puppy-selling pet stores like Petland have to close?

A: **No.** These stores would still be able to sell products and services, and continue partnering with shelters/rescues to promote adoptable animals.

Q: How long would puppy-selling pet stores have to come in compliance with the ordinance?

A: The ordinance would go into effect 30 days after its passage.

Q: What is the consequence for violation?

A: There would be a \$500 fine for each separate offense.

Q: Could I still get the pure-bred dog I want?

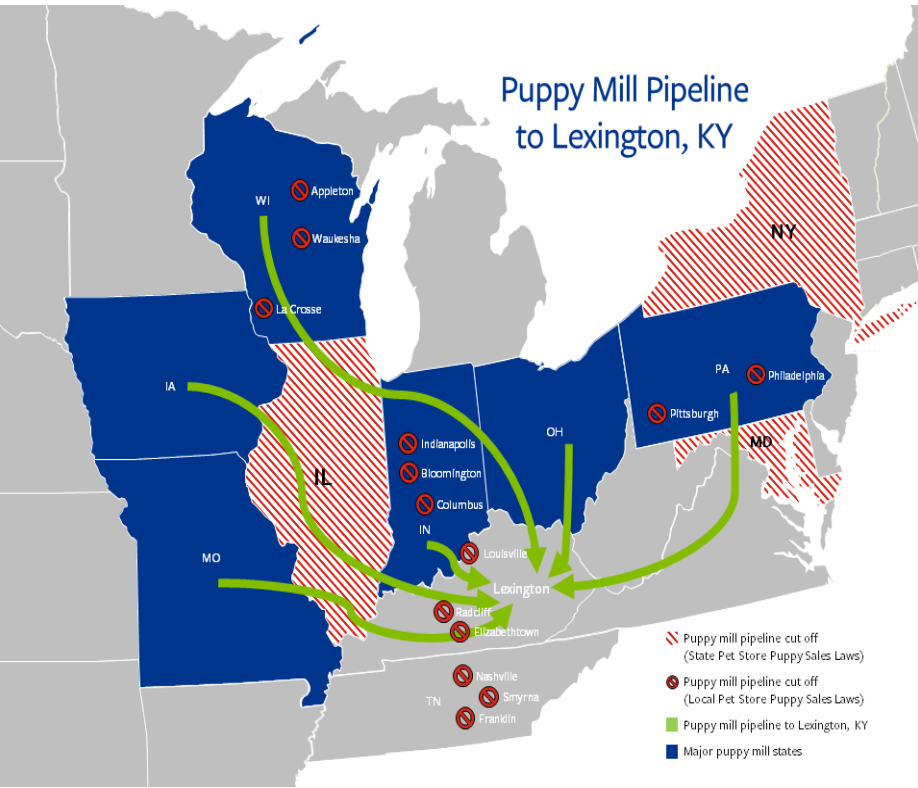
A: Lexington residents would still be able to obtain the pet of their choice by adopting from a local shelter/rescue **or** by seeking out a responsible breeder who sells directly to the public.

Community Support

Community partners, allies in support of ordinance

- Lexington Humane Society
- Local animal rescues
 - **CivicLex partners with Saved by Fate**
- Local animal advocates
- Local veterinarians
- Other pet stores
 - Pet Supplies Plus (locations in Elizabethtown, Lexington) testified in support of Elizabethtown ordinance
- Buyers of sick/deceased pet store puppies
- Other state and national advocacy groups represented by sign-on letter of support

Why pass this ordinance **now?**



While more and more surrounding communities ban this harmful practice, the narrowing pipeline feeds into Lexington, harming our families and businesses. Today.

Is Lexington-Fayette going to be the only other puppy store market in the nation that endorses this business practice?

Will the failure to pass this ordinance attract more retailers that supply their stock with puppy mill puppies? We repeatedly see the pattern with these actors: Where they go, problems follow.

Questions?
