

2011 Detroit Pet Store Disclosure Survey

Version 6

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Between March and September of 2011, Puppy Mill Awareness of Southeast Michigan members posed as puppy shoppers to question 23 Detroit-area pet stores about their suppliers.

The investigation was conducted in support of **S.B. 574** the new **"Pet Lemon Law"** introduced in August by Senator Steven Bieda (D-Warren) which includes breeder disclosure requirements.

The problem:

The puppy shoppers found that a total of 13 out of 23 establishments did not provide breeder names, 100 per cent of the establishments did not provide details about the puppy's parents beyond sire and dam names, and 95 percent did not allow viewing of the parents.



How disclosure requirements will help consumers:

Breeder information, such as names and addresses, can help protect conscientious Michigan customers from unknowingly contributing to animal neglect and abuse at kennel operations. As of 2009, puppy buyers have access to kennel inspection reports and inventories online through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) website. With access to kennel information, buyers can make more informed decisions when purchasing their next family member.

With disclosure requirements, pet stores would be held more accountable for working with licensed kennels. Kennels who sell to pet stores must be licensed by the USDA to sell wholesale. Licensing will ensure the kennels are inspected – generally at least once a year. However, this will still not ensure animals are living in healthy environments. Because of this, the public should avoid pet stores and choose to adopt an animal instead through local animal shelters, humane societies and animal rescue groups.

The results from the investigation have been forwarded to law makers with key recommendations outlined in this report.

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Survey Questions & Answers

1. “Where do the puppies come from?”

The puppy shoppers found that a total of 13 out of 23 establishments did not provide breeder names. Of the stores that did provide some breeder names, the information is only provided when asked or in a book located away from the cages. Breeder information was not provided on any cage window. Two stores did not consistently provide breeder information. All stores with websites were not disclosing any breeder information on their websites.

When asked for breeder information such as names and locations, some stores provided the following replies:

- “Ed from Iowa. He's a judge and does his own surgeries.”
- “All puppies come from reputable breeders.”
- “All breeders are AKC registered.”
- “Licensed USDA breeders, local breeders* and the owner.”
- “Yes, all of them come from actual local breeders*. We stick pretty much in the local county.” In Monroe? “Pretty Much. Every once in a while I will go to Dundee or Flatrock.”
- “Grand Rapids*, Grayling* and Sterling Heights*, Michigan.”
- “Cadillac* and Yale Michigan.”
- “All local breeders*, not out of state”. Detroit area? “Yes”.
- Do you work with breeders? “We don’t. We usually find them. If people had accidental litters. We don’t take the puppy mills. A lot of times....every breeder we get...are really bad breeders and the come with fleas. I always say, we pretty much rescue them. If we don’t take them, they might end up somewhere at the pound.”
- “Upper Michigan* and not farther than Ohio.”
- “Kansas, Ohio, and Michigan.”
- “All come from Michigan or Ohio. All breeders that we know. No puppy mills.”
- “We can not regulate the breeders in Michigan, so we work with breeders in Ohio and Kansas.”
- Larry Szabo in Belleville and another breeder in Sterling Heights*. Chihuahuas were from a breeder an hour away. Other states include Ohio and Minnesota.
- First visit: An employee breeds the dogs himself. Two college friends of the owner who also breeds. Some other breeders are local. During the second visit, paperwork was provided to the puppy buyer showing a kennel in Arkansas: Jerry Kirby, J&J Kennel, 2245 C R 246 KNOBEL, AR 72435. [This kennel had inventories for 70 dogs and ships 743 miles to Detroit.]
- “We buy the puppies from a broker, but they definitely don't come from puppy mills.” [Both puppies paperwork stated the breeder name was Wanda Kretzman from Cushing Minnesota (Clearwater Kennels). This kennel has an online animal Abuse Case, houses 800 dogs with violations such as kennels below standard size, others had exposed, sharp edges, selling puppies deemed too young, failure to remove feces from primary enclosures daily, and not certifying the dates that dogs had last been fed and watered.]

* According to the USDA, there are no licensed breeders in these areas.

2. Do you have any information about the parents?

The survey also found that 100 per cent of the establishments did not provide details about the puppy's parents beyond sire and dam names when asked. Buyers were asking for registration papers, sire and dam names, size, health problems, temperament, photos, or coloring. One store replied "All bichons look alike." And another "I don't think he was going to get that big."

3. Can we meet the puppy's parents?

When prompted by the shoppers on whether they could see the puppies' parents, 95 percent said no. Only one store offered to arrange a visit to see additional puppies, however, when the buyer tried to set up an appointment all the puppies were already sold.

The shoppers received these responses:

- "The breeder runs a foster home with mentally impaired people and it would be upsetting for them."
- "The breeder is a widow. I handle the sales."
- The store compared it to a child adoption and stated "the birth parents do not want any contact."
- "The breeders do not want to deal with the public."
- "The breeders do not like to deal directly with customers and that is why pet store was there."
- "The breeders are out of state."
- "There is no reason to see the parents because you are not purchasing from the breeder."
- "We have exclusive agreements with the breeders stating we can not share their information."
- "You can not see the male because he is from another breeder in order to reduce the cost involved. The female is typically inseminated after they secure the semen from the male."

4. Has the puppy been seen by a veterinarian and do you have the shot records?

Not all stores were forthcoming with health certificates either, with 7 of the 16 questioned not offering the information.

- One store stated they will provide the certificate upon purchase.
- Some stores provided a shot record that showed stickers with dates and deworming information with no veterinarian signature.
- One store stated they do their own vaccinations.
- One store took the paperwork back when questions were being asked about the certificate. When the shopper followed up with the veterinarian the store stated they work with, the veterinarian stated they were not providing health certificates. The veterinarian had received a letter from the MDA stating they are no longer required.

Pet stores are required by law to provide 30-day health certificates to purchasers. They are not required to provide them to potential buyers.

Proposed “Pet Lemon Law” S.B. 574

The results from the investigation have been forwarded to lawmakers with key disclosure recommendations such as providing the following information to potential buyers:

(a) The name, address, and USDA license number of the breeder and any broker who has had possession of the animal; the date of the animal's birth; the date the pet dealer received the animal; the breed, sex, color, and identifying marks of the animal; the individual identifying tag, tattoo, or collar number; the name and registration number of the sire and dam and the litter number (does not apply to mixed breeds); and a record of inoculations, worming treatments, and medication received by the animal while in the possession of the pet dealer or pet shop.

(b) A statement signed by the pet dealer or pet shop that the animal has no known health problem, or a statement signed by the pet dealer or pet shop disclosing any known health problem and a statement signed by a veterinarian that recommends necessary treatment.

Information about S.B. 574 can be found here:
<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2011-SB-0574>



Buyer Recommendations

Puppy Mill Awareness recommends avoiding all pet stores even if they work with licensed USDA breeders. There are many alternative places to ‘adopt’ a puppy including the following:

Local Shelters: Year round, adult dogs and puppies are waiting to be adopted at local shelters. Shelters offer healthy, often pre-owned and pre-trained dogs at low prices. A List of Michigan Shelters can be found here:

[http://www.michiganpetfund.org/userfiles/file/Final%20Listing%20for%20the%20Website\(6\).pdf](http://www.michiganpetfund.org/userfiles/file/Final%20Listing%20for%20the%20Website(6).pdf)

Veterinarians: Veterinarians are also another good source for dogs needing homes.

Adoption Events: In the summer, adoption events are held all over the Detroit area bringing rescue groups and shelters together. The Michigan Humane Society has “Meet your Friend at the Zoo” adoption event and Hayes and Friends holds “Pet-a-Palooza” which find homes for over 400 animals each year at the Palace of Auburn Hills. You are also likely to find a rescue group’s adoptable pets at a local pet supply store like Petco and PetSmart.

Petfinder.com: Most shelters and rescue groups post their available pets on Petfinder.com. Just type in your zip code and to will find a list of organizations near that area.

USDA Licensing

The USDA inspects breeding and brokering facilities for their compliance under the Animal Welfare Act, which covers basic standards of animal housing, food, water, ventilation, and transport. However, this alone does not guarantee a humane environment for animals in these facilities. In fact, 50% of licensed kennels do not or will not meet minimum standards. What the USDA considers acceptable in some large-scale facilities may in fact horrify much of the general public. In addition, many of the breeders who supply pet stores in this report have repeatedly been cited for noncompliance of even those basic standards of the Animal Welfare Act.

MAM Kennels in Lamar, Missouri—was featured in an HSUS investigation and included on their “Missouri’s Dirty Dozen” list. USDA inspection reports show that MAM Kennels was cited for repeated violations related to severe overcrowding, lack of shelter or bedding, dogs without the minimum space required, and no veterinary care for two years. One violation report read,

“There are 2 dogs - a yellow lab in pen #6 and a rottweiler in pen #64 that have injuries and need to be seen by a Veterinarian. The lab is limping on the left front paw. The rottweiler is walking with a humpbacked gait and is very thin. Both of these animals must be seen by a veterinarian to access their medical condition.”

MAM kennels supplies puppies to Westland Dog Food Co in Westland and Petland in Novi Michigan.

Michigan puppy buyers will not likely come across a local USDA commercial breeder selling directly in the paper or online. There are only six located in Michigan and they are not operating near the Detroit area and likely sell wholesale.

USDA Inspection Reports of dog breeding and brokering facilities can be found online here: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/eoia/



THE TRUTH ABOUT MINIMUM STANDARDS

The federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) requires wholesale dog breeders to be licensed and inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA set forth “minimum standards” that these breeders must meet in order to obtain a license.

PRIMARY ENCLOSURES

The cage where a dog will live its entire life is referred to as a primary enclosure. By USDA standards, this cage must be at least six inches longer, wider, and taller than the dog inside it. This is where breeding dogs live their entire lives.

WIRE FLOORS

Most commercial breeders use wire flooring on their cages so that feces and urine fall through the openings. This setup is just another cruel aspect of the dog industry. Attempts at changing the regulations to allow for a more humane life for the dogs trapped in puppy mills have been met with resistance. Instead of requiring a thicker gauge wire that wouldn’t cut into the paws of the dogs, USDA required the wire to be coated, on the pretense that this was a humane alternative to bare wire. USDA even replaced the word “wire” with “mesh,” after breeders complained that consumers didn’t like hearing the dogs lived on wire.

SOLID RESTING SURFACES

At one time, all cages were required to have a solid resting surface that allowed dogs to escape the painful wire flooring. USDA removed that requirement from the regulations after dog industry “experts” claimed the dogs soiled their resting surfaces, and the hair, urine and feces presented more of a health hazard than the wire floors. The fact that a dog would rather live in its own waste than to live on wire floors is not something USDA seemed to take into consideration before changing the regulations.



Courtesy of PetShopPuppies.org

Michigan USDA Licensed Kennel

These photos were taken at Mathew Schwartz's kennel located in Quincy Michigan in February 2011 and July 2010 during USDA inspections.

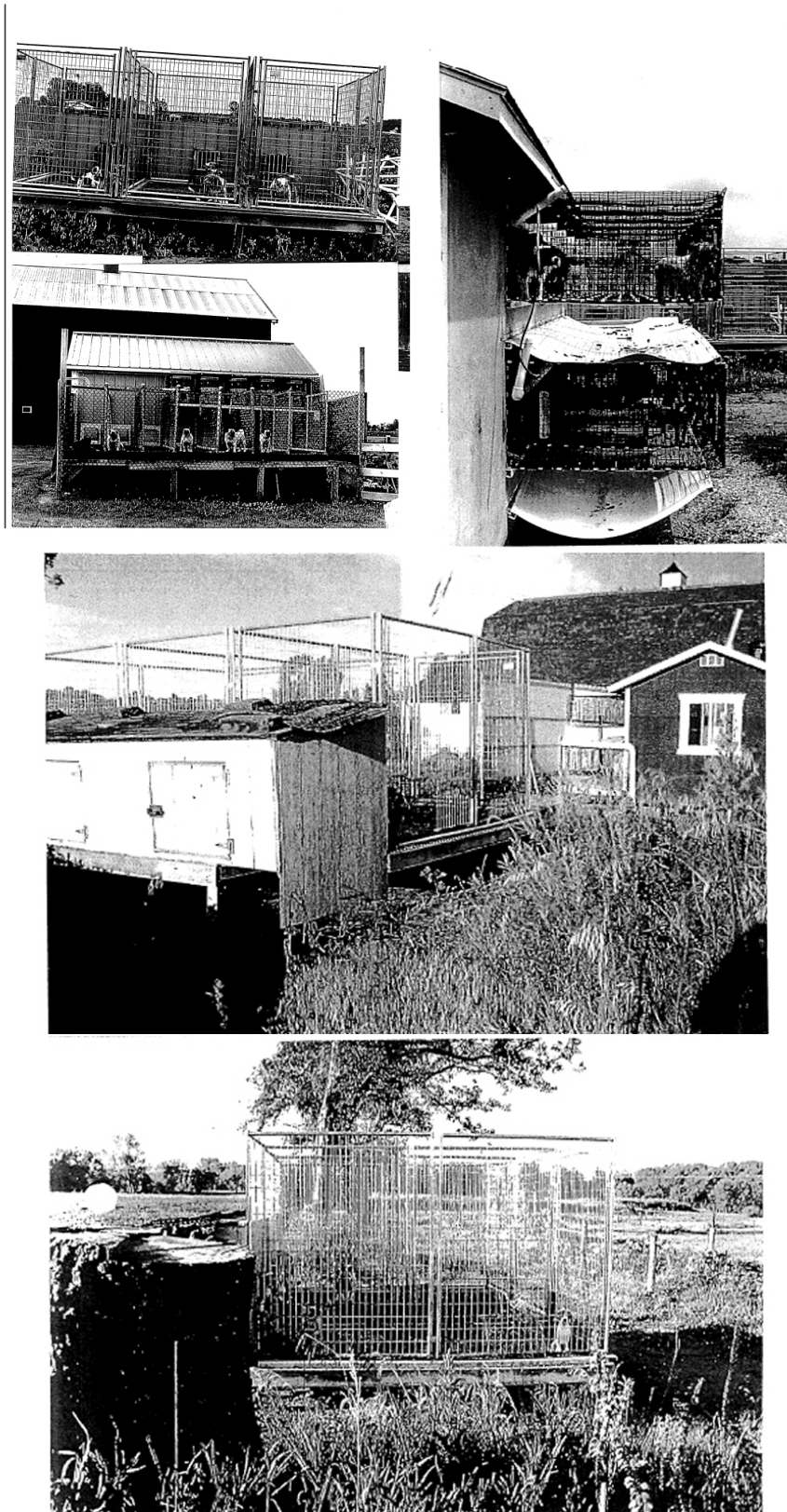


Indiana USDA Licensed Kennels

These photos were taken at Roy Schlabach's (Shipshewana Enterprise/Shipshewana Woodworks) kennel located in Shipshewana Indiana in April 2010.



These photos were taken at Lavern Whetstone' (Outback Enterprises) kennel located in Goshen Indiana in the summer of 2010.



Missouri USDA Licensed Kennel

MAM Kennels of Lamar Missouri which supplied puppies to Petland Novi and Westland Dog Food Co pet stores in 2011.



Petland Investigation: Pet Store Sells Puppy Mill Dogs



Petland Investigation: Pet Store Sells Puppy Mill Dogs



Appendix

Appendix

Pet Stores Surveyed

	Pet Store	Address	City	County
1	The Family Puppy	3341 S. Linden Rd	Flint, Mi	Genesee
2	Barking Babes Pet Boutique	108 South Leroy Street	Fenton, Mi	Genesee
3	The Family Puppy	9950 Village Place	Brighton, Mi	Livingston
4	Pawsitively Spoiled	434 W. Main Street	Brighton, Mi	Livingston
5	The Family Puppy	32457 Gratiot Road	Roseville, Mi	Macomb
6	Shaggy Dog	47567 Van Dyke	Utica, Mi	Macomb
7	Paws-n-Claws Pet Supplies	19100 E. 10 Mile	Eastpointe, Mi	Macomb
8	Pollywood Pets & Acc Inc	237 N. River Rod	Mt. Clemens, Mi	Macomb
9	Greenwood Pets & Plants	13983 E 9 Mile Rd	Warren, Mi	Macomb
10	The Doggie Parlor	20900 Kelly Road	Eastpointe, Mi	Macomb
11	Utica Pet Supply	45460 Van Dyke Road	Utica, MI	Macomb
12	Downtown Hound Pet	150 N Monroe St	Monroe, Mi	Monroe
13	The Family Puppy	44125 W 12 Mile Rd, #121	Novi, MI	Oakland
14	The Family Puppy	528 West 14 Mile Rd	Troy, Mi	Oakland
15	Petland	27200 Novi Road Unit	Novi, MI	Oakland
16	Teacups & Toys A Pet	271 Merrill Street	Birmingham, Mi	Oakland
17	The Pet Place	6734 River Rd,	Marine City, Mi	Saint Clair
18	Pet City Pets	1254 Ecorse	Ypsilanti, Mi	Washtenaw
19	Critter Pet Shop	19309 Ecorse Road	Allen Park, Mi	Wayne
20	Pet City Pets	2000 Eureka Rd	Wyandotte, Mi	Wayne
21	Westland Dog Food	37697 Ford Road	Westland, Mi	Wayne
22	House of Pets	29500 Ford Road	Garden City, Mi	Wayne
23	Pet Station	5317 South Telegraph	Dearborn Heights, Mi	Wayne

Puppy Prices

The number of puppies sold in Michigan and reported to PetShopPuppies.org has declined each year for the past five years. This is consistent with a decline across the U.S. of 43% since 2006.

Year	Average Price - MI
1990	\$405.00
1991	\$349.00
1993	\$500.00
1994	\$399.00
1995	\$0.00
1996	\$490.00
1998	\$694.50
1999	\$820.33
2000	\$500.00
2001	\$784.40
2002	\$814.60
2003	\$776.19
2004	\$793.74
2005	\$1,068.19
2006	\$1,013.66
2007	\$1,213.52
2008	\$931.18
2009	\$787.00
2010	\$773.20



This chart reflect prices collected by Puppy Mill Awareness members during pet store visits.

ID	Pet Store	City	Price	Price Date	Breed	Age
1	The Family Puppy	Flint, Mi	472 - 800	12/26/2010	Maltese-bichon & Teddy	
2	The Family Puppy	Brighton, Mi	900 - 1,800	11/26/2008		
3	The Family Puppy	Roseville, Mi	772	9/9/2011	Shih-tzu	5 months
4	The Family Puppy	Novi, MI	397 - 472	10/24/2011	Mini Schnauzer & Silky Terrier/Chi	5.5 months and 6 months
5	The Family Puppy	Troy, MI	1,172	2/11/2010	Havanese	
6	Pawsitively Spoiled	Brighton, MI	900	9/9/2011	Pom-maltese	
7	Shaggy Dog	Utica, MI	600 - 700	9/9/2011	Shih-maltese	
8	Critter Pet Shop	Allen Park, Mi	600	9/9/2011	Shih-poo	
9	Pet City Pets	Wyandotte, Mi				
10	Pet City Pets	Ypsilanti, MI	600	9/9/2011	Pug	9 weeks
11	Westland Dog Food	Westland	789	4/22/2011	Shih-tzu/Bichon	4 months old
12	House of Pets	Garden City, Mi	500 - 700	8/13/2011		
13	Paws-n-Claws Pet Supplies	Eastpointe, Mi	499	2011		
14	Pollywood Pets & Acc Inc	Mt. Clemens, Mi	500	8/14/2011	Bichon	
15	The Pet Place	Marine City, Mi	600	9/9/2011	Pug	9 weeks old.
16	Barking Babes Pet Boutique	Fenton, Mi	495 - 675	10/10/2011	Maltipoo, Shih-tzus, and Shih-poops	
17	Petland	Novi, MI	1,679	12/24/2010	Affenpinscher	
18	Pet Station	Dearborn Heights,	400	9/9/2011	Bichon/Maltese	
19	Downtown Hound Pet	Monroe, Mi	200	7/29/2011	Sheltie	18 weeks
20	Teacups & Toys A Pet	Birmingham, Mi	2,000	9/9/2011	Toy Poodle	9 weeks
21	Greenwood Pets & Plants	Warren, Mi	1,000	9/9/2011	Yorkie	
22	The Doggie Parlor	Eastpointe, Mi	500	8/1/2011	Yorkie	
23	Bark Avenue	Monroe, Mi	500	5/6/2010	Yorkie	
24	Bark Place Avenue	Rochester, Mi	800 - 1,000	12/1/2010	Maltese-bicon	
25	World Gardenland Sea	Roseville, Mi	700	9/9/2009	Chihuahuas	
26	Utica Pet Supply	Utica, MI	300 - 1,200	10/10/2011		

Michigan stores that import puppies

This chart includes all Michigan pet stores that have imported puppies from out-of-state kennels. The quantities are based on interstate health certificates.

Pet Store Name	City	May 2009 - Aug 2011	
The Family Puppy	Flint, Troy, Novi, Brighton, Roseville	3,139	
Petland (Novi)	Novi	1,777	
Petland (Westland)	Westland	304	Closed
Curious World	Jension	240	
Pet Station	Dearborn Heights	178	
Westland Dog Food Co	Westland	150	
Uptown Pets	Portage	94	Closed
Paws N Claws	Eastpointe	88	Closed
Utica Pet Supply	Utica	80	
VIP Pets	Jenison, Grand Rapids, Holland	43	
House of Pets	Garden City	39	
Ocean Odyssey	Saginaw	17	
Pet City Pets	Ypsilanti, Wyandotte	12	
J&K Puppy Pad	Grand Rapids	11	Closed
Greenwood	Warren	10	
Ann's Pet Shop	Greenville	6	
Critters Pet Store	Allan Park	3	
Seashells	Warren	1	Closing
Unknown		22	
Grand Total		6,214	



Pet Store Laws

Pet Store Prohibited conduct

Source: PET SHOPS, DOG POUNDS, AND ANIMAL SHELTERS Act 287 of 1969

A person who operates a pet shop shall not do any of the following:

- (a) Import or cause to be imported into this state, or offer for sale or resale, a dog or cat less than 8 weeks old.
- (b) Import or cause to be imported into this state, or offer for sale or resale, a dog or cat unless the dog or cat has deciduous (baby) teeth visibly present.
- (c) Sell or offer for sale a dog, unless the dog has been inoculated against distemper, hepatitis, and leptospirosis, para influenza and, if indicated, has been treated for external and internal parasites, not less than 7 days before the dog's entry into this state. The dog shall be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian, including records of the dog's medication and immunization.
- (d) Sell or offer for sale a cat, unless the cat has been inoculated against feline panleukopenia (cat distemper), rinotracheitis and calici viruses and, if indicated, has been treated for external and internal parasites, not less than 7 days prior to the cat's entry into this state. The cat shall be accompanied by a health certificate signed by a veterinarian, including records of the cat's medication and immunization.
- (e) Sell or deliver a dog or cat without providing to the purchaser a health certificate signed by a veterinarian licensed by this state, for the dog or cat. The certificate shall include a health record indicating the date and type of vaccinations which have been given to the dog or cat.

Other Pet Store Regulation Violations

Source: May 16, 2000 Michigan Department of Agriculture's Overview of Regulation 151 and Relative Acts – Rule 22

For the Licensing and Operation of Pet Shops and Animal Shelters in Michigan

- 1) Food must be stored off the floor in a dedicated room? Food must be covered.
- 2) A surfaces on the inside of the building in rooms that house animals
- 3) There must be a heating/or cooling system to keep the temperature comfortable for the animals?
- 4) Ventilation should prevent drafts, odors or moisture, condensation. Humidity should stay between 30% and 70%. The general ventilation guideline for animal rooms is 10-15 fresh air changes per hour.
- 5) There should be ample light so that all areas of the building and animal enclosures can be easily examined is necessary. Any lights in animal areas should have covers, such as protective sleeves for fluorescent bulbs.
- 6) Primary enclosures for animals must be waterproof, structurally sound, and have no protrusions that could injure animals.
- 7) Enclosures must be large enough for the animals to stand up, turn around, lie down, and stretch out comfortably. The general rules are:

- Cats less than or equal to nine pounds (4kg) need at least three square feet of floor space per cat and must be at least 24" in height, floor to ceiling.
 - Cats more than nine pounds (4kg) need at least four square feet of floor space and must be at least 24" in height floor to ceiling.
 - Dogs less than 30 pounds (15kg) need eight square feet of floor space per dog.
 - Dogs 30-65 pounds (15-30kg) need 12 square feet of floor space.
 - Dogs greater than 65 pounds (30+kg) need at a minimum 24 square feet of floor space.
 - Cats need litter. When figuring minimum floor space, the space taken up by the litter box is subtracted from the floor space and enclosure. When there is more than one cat in an enclosure, resting perches are required.
- 8) Cats and dogs need to be fed at least once a day, or as is appropriate for the age of the animal, with adequate amounts of palatable, nutritious food.
- 9) Water needs to be provided at least twice a day for at least an hour each time. All food and water dishes must be kept clean and there should be an area to wash these dishes.