



5001 Angel Canyon Road • Kanab, Utah 84741-5000 • (435) 644-2001 • www.bestfriends.org

What can one person do to help stop puppy mills?

Step 1

Get involved: Join the community www.network.bestfriends.org/truth. Check back frequently for breaking news, ways to get involved, and to meet others in the Best Friends Coalition of Animal Lovers Against Puppy Mills. Every news article in the community includes a “What you can do” or “How you can help” component.

Step 2

Strength in Numbers: Ask 3 friends to join the community www.network.bestfriends.org/truth

Step 3

Know the laws: Commercial dog breeders who sell wholesale (usually direct to pet stores) must be licensed and inspected by the USDA. Commercial breeders who sell direct to the public (via the Internet and classified ads) do not need to be licensed or inspected unless their state, county or city requires it.

Additionally, many states have “Lemon Laws” for the sale of pets; they aim to protect consumers from purchasing sick animals.

For a comprehensive list of your state’s dog laws, including breeder license and lemon law information, go to Michigan State University’s [Animal Legal & Historical Center website](#).

Step 4

Speak up to authorities: Talk to people who can create stronger laws against bad pet breeding practices, or who can enforce existing laws, including:

- 1) Law enforcement
- 2) Humane Society
- 3) Health Department
- 4) State and federal Department of Agriculture
- 5) Your legislators (local and national)

Follow this link to look up your state and federal legislators:

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/dbq/officials/?lvl=L>. Ask what is being done about unscrupulous breeders in your state.

Step 5

Speak up to the public: Write letters to the editor about puppy mills, breeders who keep their animals in unacceptable conditions. Note how many ads for dogs, puppies, kittens and other animals there are in the paper's classified section, while shelters overflow with unwanted pets. The Doris Day Animal League has a good guide for what to write and how to submit letters here: <http://www.ddal.org/pupmills/action/>

Step 6

Decrease demand for puppies: Tell friends and family to adopt! Every pet adopted is a life saved; don't encourage breeders to mass-produce puppies by buying them in pet stores or online. Instead, search for all kinds of pets including puppies, kittens and purebred animals at:

- www.1-800-save-a-pet.com
- www.pets911.com
- www.petfinder.com

One can also find a dog by contacting a local breed rescue organization by searching www.google.com. Enter a city or state, the breed you are looking for, and the word "rescue."

Step 7

Get involved with others in your community: Many areas have groups dedicated to stopping puppy mills in their state. Much work is being done in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Ohio, Nebraska, Colorado, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, as well as Canada, to name only a few. News articles on www.network.bestfriends.org/truth contain links and contact information to groups working in the particular state in which the story originated.

Step 8

Don't give up: Individuals and organizations have been fighting against puppy mills and bad pet breeders for decades. Things won't change overnight, but each little change makes a big difference. Even just educating one person about puppy mills, encouraging them to adopt rather than buy pets, is a great accomplishment. Remember that large-scale pet breeding facilities, even ones with hundreds or thousands of pets, are not illegal.

www.network.bestfriends.org/truth

A Coalition of Kindness to Animals Caught in the Pet Trade