



**2 MILLION
PUPPIES
FROM PUPPY
MILLS ARE
SOLD IN THE
U.S., MANY IN
PET STORES¹**

**10,000
PUPPY MILLS
ARE
ESTIMATED
TO BE ACTIVE
IN THE U.S.¹**

FRIDAY FACTS FROM BARRIO DOGS

▶ PUPPY MILLS & BACKYARD BREEDERS

A PUPPY MILL is a high-volume, low quality unlicensed dog breeding facility that produces puppies for sale. The mother dogs live in cramped cages and for the most part, the needs of both the mothers and puppies are neglected. When the parent dogs can no longer breed, they are often abandoned or killed. After they are purchased, the puppies may suffer from a variety of health issues resulting from the conditions at the puppy mill.

A BACKYARD BREEDER is an amateur dog breeder who typically breeds and maintains dogs in substandard conditions. They breed on a small scale, usually at home with their own pets. Their goal is to sell the puppies to make money. Backyard breeders sell online, at flea markets, in roadside sales or from their home.

Depending on the size of their operation, puppy mills and backyard breeders are regulated by both the state of Texas and the city of Houston.(2)(3) Unfortunately, many of the worst breeders ignore these regulations and little is done to enforce them.

If you are planning to buy a dog, educate yourself first. Don't support the inhumane breeding and selling of dogs by buying one from a puppy mill or backyard breeder. Adopt a pet from a local shelter or from a rescue group and please help us spread the word: ADOPT, DON'T SHOP!

(1) www.humanesociety.org/all-our-fights/stopping-puppy-mills
(2) Texas Occupations Code. Title 4. Professions Related to Animals, Chapter 802, Dog or Cat Breeders
(3) Houston Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Sec.6-111, Commercial Breeder Permit Required

Photo from Houston Chronicle, 3/22/2019
<https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/fortbend/news/article/76-dogs-puppies-stacked-in-cages-rescued-from-13708632.php>



To learn more, go to www.humanesociety.org/all-our-fights/stopping-puppy-mills