

The Case For Prohibiting the Sale of Puppies, Kittens and Bunnies Bred in Mills From Denver Pet Stores

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Office of Councilmember Chris Hinds

Why do we need to ban them:

The Problem With Mill Bred Puppies, Kittens & Rabbits

- Breeding methods are inherently cruel.
- Inbreeding frequently results in costly future medical expenses.
- Pet stores may use predatory lending schemes to finance animals.
- Public health issues - zoonotic diseases (from animals to humans).



Why do we need to ban them:

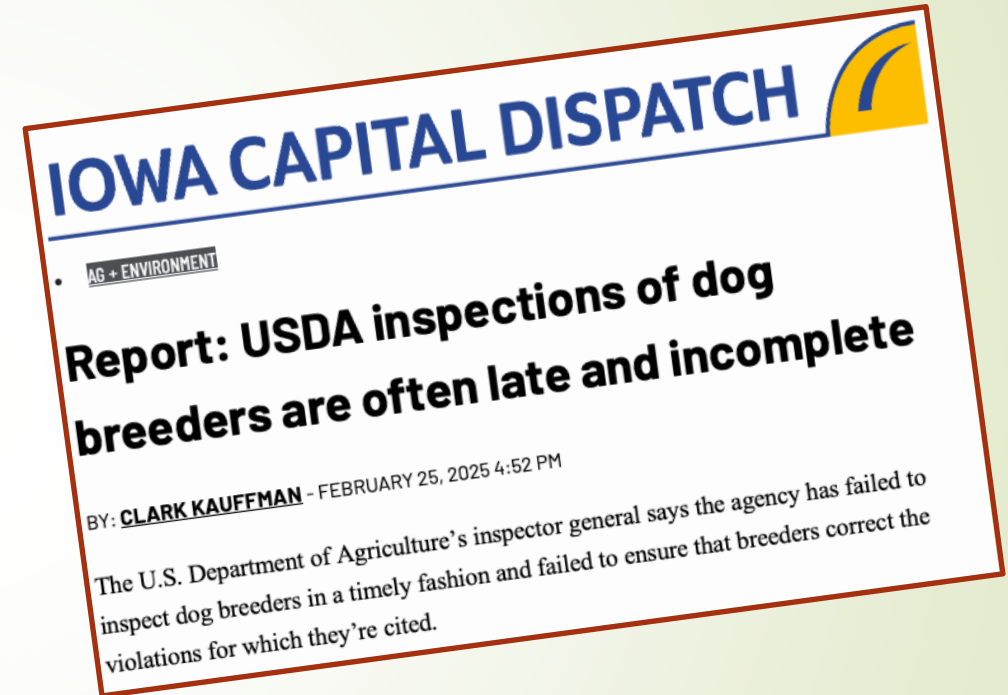
Health & Financial Concerns

- In-breeding of animals often results in health and genetic problems that may not be apparent for months or even years after the animal is brought home.
- These problems can cost owners hundreds or even thousands of dollars.
- When owners cannot afford medical care and otherwise “curable” animal may be euthanized, or the animal may be surrendered to a shelter, thus creating an extra burden on shelter resources.

Why does Denver need to step in:

Pet Stores Say They Source Only From USDA Licensed Facilities, but...

- 45% of the USDA licensed dog dealers during 2024 never had a USDA compliance inspection.
- One out of every five USDA inspections uncovered failures, often with no corrective action taken.
- 30% of violations are for veterinary issues: sick, injured, or even dead animals having never been seen by a veterinarian or given medical care.



Why does Denver need to step in:

It's happening in Colorado

“We saw several dogs with missing limbs, or parts of limbs, likely due to the mat strangling and cutting off circulation and then limbs falling off.”

COLORADO (KDVR) — They're calling it one of the worst cases they have ever seen: A Colorado puppy mill rescue group recently pulled 165 schnauzers from a property in southwest Colorado.

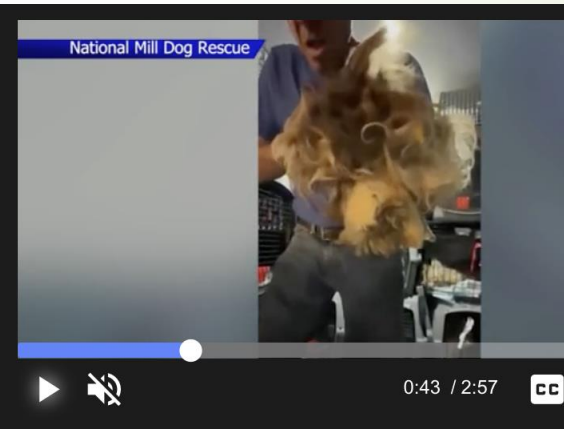
LOCAL NEWS

Colorado group rescues more than 150 dogs from alleged puppy mill

by: [Greg Nieto](#)

Posted: Jul 22, 2025 / 10:16 PM MDT

Updated: Jul 23, 2025 / 05:17 AM MDT



Why does Denver need to step in:

We need to make sure it doesn't happen here

Denver could be an attractive market, after all Denver placed second in a new study of dog friendly cities.

Petland has already registered the domain [Petlandcolorado.com](https://petlandcolorado.com)

Denver places second in new study of dog friendly U.S. cities

by: [Abraham Jewett](#)

Posted: May 13, 2025 / 12:58 PM MDT

Updated: May 13, 2025 / 04:50 PM MDT

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DENVER ([KDVR](#)) — A dog-walking study released in May ranked Denver as the second most dog friendly city in the U.S.

The study, conducted by footwear brand Kuru, said Denver earned its high ranking thanks to 96% of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park, 65% of Denverites owning a dog and the city having a "strong safety score."

What can we do: Proactive Measures

- ✓ There are currently no pet stores in the City and County of Denver selling puppies and kittens. None of the Denver pet stores checked sell rabbits.
- ✓ Passing an ordinance would not result in lost revenues or jobs, but it would prevent the possibility of a puppy, kitten or bunny mill from marketing in Denver
- ✓ But Petland (who registered a domain in CO), is the type of store that could be affected by this ordinance.

What can we do: Proactive Measures

Prohibitions Increase as More States and Cities Learn About the Problems these Pet Stores Create.

Eight states* and 500 cities and townships nationwide, including 24 in Colorado, have banned the sale of mill bred dogs and cats in pet stores.

*CA, MD, ME, WA, IL, NY, OR, VT

What can we do: Proactive Measures – Other Colorado Cities are on it!

Ordinances Passed* in 24 Colorado Cities and Townships

- (2025) Windsor, Ridgway, Greeley, Telluride
- (2024) Commerce City, Fort Collins, Littleton, Bayfield
- (2023) Johnstown, Aurora, Englewood, Mancos
- (2021) Minturn, Superior, Vail
- (2020) Silverthorne, Alma, Fairplay
- (2019) Eagle, Dillon, Frisco, Breckenridge, Berthoud
- (2011) Fountain

What this ordinance will not do:

- Will not prohibit or impact responsible, local breeders who only sell directly to the public so they can screen potential buyers.
- Will not prevent pet stores from having “adoption” events in coordination with local shelters or rescues.
- Will not close the Denver market to the majority of pet stores that focus on pet products and services—a \$152 billion dollar industry.”



Thank you for your time!

Any questions?