



SPCA of Brevard Adoption Center



October 6 at 3:38 PM · 🌐

The SPCA of Brevard has learned of a new partnership between another animal welfare organization in this state with two commercial breeding companies, also known as puppy mills. Based on the organization's own post and in interviews they participated in, the shelter will now accept retired breeding stock and unwanted puppies from the out-of-state commercial facilities and "adopt" them out to the public.

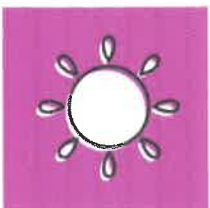
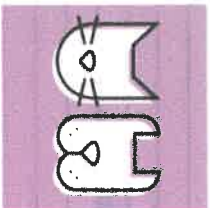
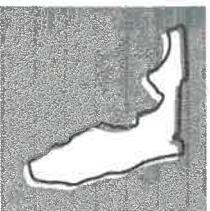
This type of arrangement is the antithesis of what animal rescuing and sheltering is about. Specifically, when Florida is one of the top five states in the country and that organization is in the top shelters in our state that euthanizes dogs.

Commercial breeding of companion animals is absolutely unethical and when organizations that are supposed to protect and be the voices for the most vulnerable animals in our community form partnerships that bring even more risk to those animals, it is our duty to firmly denounce the practice.

All animals' lives are important, but it is imperative that organizations save the lives of animals in their own shelters before creating relationships with companies whose sole purpose is to make money off the animals they bring into this world.



LEADERSHIP STATEMENT



FLORIDA LEADERS in LIFESAVING

Unite. Inspire. Engage.



JACKSONVILLE
HUMANE SOCIETY

Generosity breeds joy.

Florida Leaders in Lifesaving

October 9 at 3:31 PM · 🌐

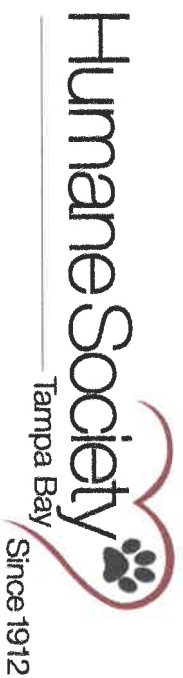
...

Florida Leaders in Lifesaving is a member organization that unites our state's animal welfare organizations behind one common goal – saving the lives of animals in Florida's shelters.

Florida is currently ranked among the top five worst states for lifesaving in the nation.

Our steering committee was recently made aware of a pilot program that partners two commercial breeding organizations, one being a local puppy retailer and the other a national puppy broker, with a member of Florida Leaders in Lifesaving. More information is available here: <https://buff.ly/3r1aJpG>

We are unequivocal in our stance that any organization that claims to be focused on lifesaving, and fundraises on the same belief, should not be partnering with any commercial breeding operation – especially not when shelter pets are still losing their lives in the very same community and many other agencies across the state are struggling. **See less**



October 26, 2023

Re: The Humane Society of Tampa Bay opposes the SPCA Tampa Bay's decision to work with puppy stores, puppy mills, and brokers

Dear Board of County Commissioners:

Please accept this letter as my, Sherry Silk's, CEO of the Humane Society of Tampa Bay and President of the Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations (FAAWO), official statement regarding the SPCA Tampa Bay's decision to work with puppy stores, puppy mills, and brokers.

To partner with Pinnacle Pet and Sunshine Puppies is to position oneself against everything that animal welfare has and continues to fight for. Puppy mills, brokers, and stores do not put the well-being of the animals first. It is a money-making venture on the backs of animals. The Humane Society of Tampa Bay regrets the decision that the SPCA Tampa Bay has made to undo and discredit the work that they have done for the community's animals in need in past years.

We encourage all residents to adopt from an animal shelter or rescue group. If a resident desires a specific breed that is not in their local shelter, we implore them to do research and find a local, humane, and responsible breeder who treats the parents and puppies like their own pets. Puppy mills and pet stores do not do this. The dogs in their care are seen as a source of income only.

Shelters and rescues across Florida are facing the constant crisis of being overcrowded and underfunded. We urge the County Commissioners to consider closing all puppy stores in the county. That will eliminate puppy mills puppies being transported to our state. Hillsborough County did this, and we hope Pinellas County will do the same.

Sincerely,
Sherry Silk
CEO, Humane Society of Tampa Bay
President, Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations (FAAWO)

Menu

Tampa Bay Times



OPINION | Guest Column

Dara Eckart

At Friends of Strays, we're shocked by what SPCA Tampa Bay just did | Column

We urge the SPCA Tampa Bay leadership to reconsider and refocus on the pets and people who need their services most.



Ryder, Minnie and James are three Friends of Strays dogs available for adoption at the no-kill animal shelter today. (Courtesy Friends of Strays) [Provided]

Published Oct. 19

Menu

Tampa Bay Times



OPINION

Julie Castle

SPCA Tampa Bay's cruel diversion | Column

It's time to hold SPCA Tampa Bay's CEO and board accountable for perpetuating the killing of animals in Pinellas County, writes guest columnist Julie Castle.



An organization founded to prevent the cruelty of animals is instead perpetuating cruelty to enhance itself financially. [LUIS SANTANA | Times (2016)]

Published Oct. 21

The SPCA Tampa Bay, a well-funded organization that still only managed to save 54.3% of the dogs in their care in 2022, has turned their back on Pinellas County and has doubled down on failing to hold itself accountable for killing dogs. Despite being a private nonprofit and in control of the pets that come in and leave alive, SPCA Tampa Bay killed 862 dogs in their care last year.

X



[Home](#)

[About](#)

[Membership](#)

[Legislation](#)

[Disaster
Response](#)

[Trans](#)

October 11, 2023 – After the recent announcement of a partnership between one Florida animal shelter and the commercial dog breeding industry, a statewide animal welfare association, The Florida Association of Animal Welfare Organizations (FAAWO), representing more than 100 animal rescue and sheltering organization members, today announce their united, unequivocal opposition to the selling of dogs and cats in retail stores.

FAAWO cautions Florida residents and animal shelters to avoid inadvertently supporting the cruelty and suffering caused by puppy mills. On behalf of our member agencies, shelters, and rescue groups across the state, we ask the Florida legislature to shut down the puppy-mill-to-pet-store pipeline into Florida by banning the retail sale of dogs in stores.



- [Home](#)
- [About](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Disaster Response](#)
- [Trans](#)

and economic issues, contributing to an increase in homeless animals needing shelter services, while serious staffing and veterinary workforce shortages continue to impact our operations,” said Sherry Silk, President of FAAWO. “Especially given the ongoing animal sheltering and veterinary workforce shortage, it is unconscionable to import puppies from Midwestern commercial breeding operations into our state for sale in stores or to divert vital shelter resources to aid the puppy mill industry.”

“Selling puppies in retail stores creates a demand that can only be filled by inhumane puppy mills since responsible breeders do not sell their puppies to brokers or stores for resale. We encourage families who wish to bring a new pet home to first visit animal shelters or breed rescue groups that are not affiliated with puppy mills, and we ask our state elected officials to shut down the puppy mill pipeline into Florida during the 2024 Legislative session.”

More than 80 local governments in Florida have passed ordinances aimed at ending the retail sale of dogs and cats. In response, the puppy mill industry has pushed Florida state legislation to reverse these local laws and to stop local

[Home](#)[About](#)[Membership](#)[Legislation](#)[Disaster
Response](#)[Trans](#)

preemption bills have been defeated, but it is time for the Florida legislature to pass proactive legislation that once and for all shuts down the puppy mill pipeline into Florida by prohibiting the retail sale of dogs in Florida stores.

Our association encourages Florida families planning to bring a new pet into their home to visit their local animal shelter or contact a rescue group. For families seeking specific dog breeds, breed-specific rescue groups have many dogs in their programs looking for homes. If adoption is not an option, ensure that you only purchase a dog or cat from a responsible breeder who provides high-quality care, including veterinary care and socialization, and allows you to meet the parents and see the premises where the puppies were bred and raised.

Florida Association of Animal Welfare

Organizations (FAAWO) is an organization of non-profit animal shelters and dedicated advocates working together to positively impact animal welfare throughout the state of Florida. Our aim is to improve the lives of animals and support Florida shelters through legislation, disaster response, and animal transport. FAAWO membership comprises non-profit



The Humane Society of the United States - Florida

October 10 at 9:46 AM · 🌐

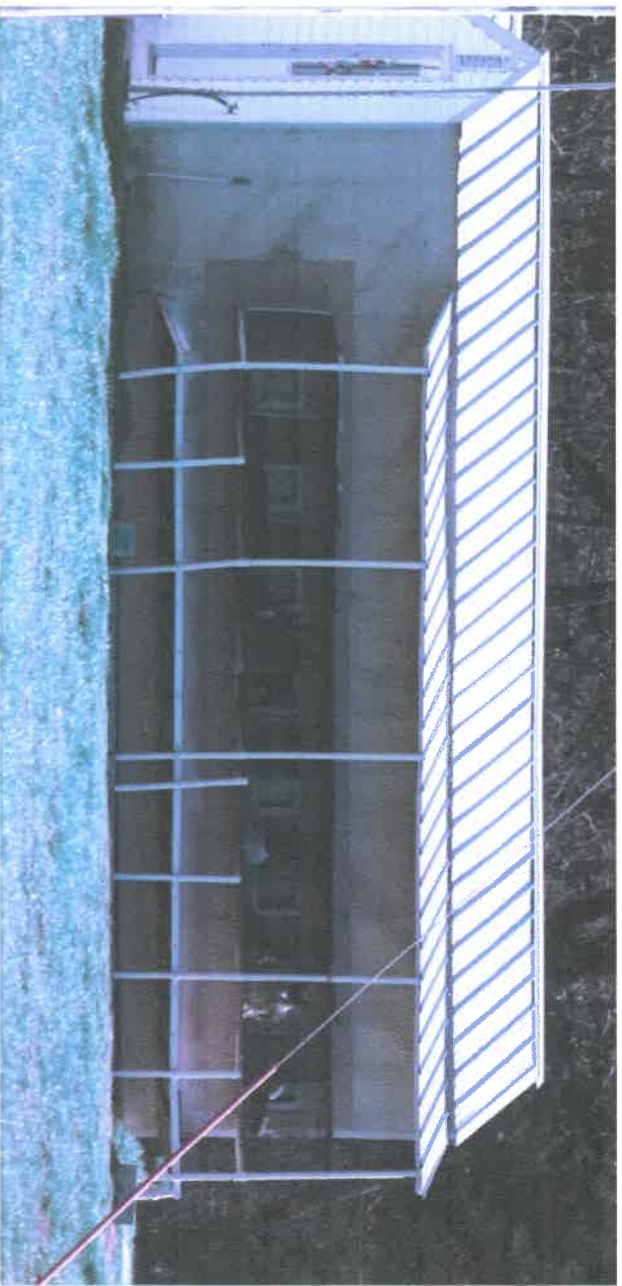


The Humane Society of the United States works tirelessly to combat puppy mills and outlaw the sale of puppies in pet stores. As such, we are joining animal advocates and the animal sheltering & rescue community in Florida opposing the "pilot program" announced by the SPCA Tampa Bay that promotes Pinnacle Pet (a massive puppy mill broker) and Sunshine Puppies (a puppy mill retail outlet). We are saddened a shelter would choose to place itself within the puppy mill to pet store pipeline by vouching for the health of pet store puppies and arguing, despite strong evidence to the contrary, that this broker and pet store work with responsible breeders.

Especially at a time when Florida's sheltering professionals and volunteers are working heroically, often with less than a full staff, around the clock to find adoptive homes and fosters for the unusually high number of homeless dogs in FL shelters on any given day. With the overpopulation crisis and so many wonderful dogs for adoption throughout our state, it's no surprise the animal protection community and dog loving Floridians are furious.

We urge SPCA Tampa Bay to swiftly put an end to this troubled program and encourage Floridians to join our fight to stop the sale of puppies in all Florida pet stores. Stop Puppy Mills

Photo of a Pinnacle Pet breeder



You and 54 others

46 comments 87 shares

Like

Comment

Share

Most relevant

Frightening Tricks from the Puppy Mill Industry

October 19, 2023



Leaves are falling, there's a chill in the air, and scary movies are playing on TV. It's spooky season... but trouble lurks year-round for dogs in commercial breeding facilities. These facilities masquerade as something they're not, deceiving well-intentioned families who just wanted to bring home a furry little friend. Be sure you don't fall for these frightening puppy mill tricks:

Lie: Puppies at commercial breeding facilities are bred with love and care.

Commercial breeding facilities, known also as [puppy mills \(/barred-from-love/puppy-mills-101\)](#), pump out puppies like factories pump out product —using the breeding dogs over and over again even when they're sick. These animals are not provided with adequate veterinary care, food or water. The dogs are typically piled together in cramped cages all day every

day. The dogs receive none of the love that people should provide for companion animals.

Puppy mills prioritize [profit \(/barred-from-love/puppy-mills-101/more-puppies-more-profits\)](#) over the well-being of the animals, and often the animals end up with contagious illnesses or hereditary diseases due to lack of care from the facilities.

Lie: Pet store puppies don't come from puppy mills.

Pet stores will often claim they never sell dogs from puppy mills. The shadowy mask of puppy mills is that they often [sell to brokers, who buy puppies in bulk and transport them across the country \(/barred-from-love/puppy-mills-101/puppy-pipeline\)](#). Brokers, in turn, sell the puppies to pet stores. This means pet stores rarely have any oversight or interaction with the commercial breeders, and the store can't really guarantee that their puppies came from a responsible breeder or that the puppies are healthy. Consumers then buy the adorable puppy from the pet store, having no idea that their dog might come from a puppy mill.

Lie: If a breeding facility is licensed, it's not a puppy mill.

Dog breeders who breed puppies to be sold as pets must be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) if they have more than four breeding females and sell puppies wholesale, or sight unseen, to pet stores, brokers and/or online. But being "USDA-licensed" isn't something to brag about, and it definitely doesn't mean that the facility isn't a puppy mill. The USDA is responsible for oversight of licensed commercial breeding facilities, [but it is well-documented that the agency fails to enforce the law and allows violations to go unpunished \(/news/puppy-mill-horror-8-shocking-times-usda-failed-dogs\)](#). Hundreds of thousands of dogs suffer in USDA-licensed commercial breeding facilities every year. In fact, the [Department of Justice recently had to step in again \(/news/it-happened-again-doj-forced-take-action-against-another-commercial-breeder\)](#) after the USDA refused to take action against a commercial breeding facility that continued to amass horrific violations of animal abuse.

You can avoid these frightening puppy mill tricks and help end the nightmare for dogs in commercial breeding facilities!

Don't buy a puppy from a pet store. Pet store puppies come from commercial breeding facilities. [If you are ready to add a dog to your family, consider adopting from your local shelter or rescue organization. \(/barred-from-love/how-avoid-cruelty/we-love-shelters-rescues\)](#) You will be saving a life and freeing up space in the shelter for another animal in need.

If you buy a puppy, make sure to do your research to ensure that you're not supporting a puppy mill. One good tip is to always meet the mom of the puppy you're interested in, and to meet her at the breeder's facility, so that you can ensure the puppy is coming from a safe place and that the breeder treats the dogs well. [Check out our handy infographic for more tips on avoiding puppy mill cruelty. \(/sites/default/files/barred-from-love-flow-chart_080118.png\)](#)

Will you help us fight for better protections for dogs? [Use our simple online form to urge your member of Congress to sign Goldie's Act.](#)

https://secure.aspc.org/action/usa-goldies-act?ms=wb_blo_frightening-tricks-from-usa-goldies-act-20231019&initialms=wb_blo_frightening-tricks-from-usa-goldies-act-20231019) Goldie's Act would require the federal government to protect animals in licensed commercial breeding facilities

The dressed-up puppy in the pet store may look adorable, but the place where it came from is far from that. Don't let puppy mills trick you this holiday season.

