

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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Do you have any puppy mills in your area?

-Carson City AC

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I hope you can help..... The Humane Society of the United States has had an ongoing concern over the unhealthy puppies mass-produced by puppy mills and the inhumane standards at these facilities. I'm trying to identify the approximate number of **puppy mills currently operating in Nevada** (and possibly their locations). Since puppy mills are so poorly regulated, it's difficult to identify them and their locations. The Washoe County Department of Animal Control gave me your contact information.

On March 19th, the current language in Senate Bill 133 will be gutted, and Senator Townsend will present an amendment to the committee which will put a cap on the number of breeding dogs allowed at any breeding facility, targeting the large scale puppy mills in the state. That language will be included in this fax.

It would be wonderful if you could email/fax a letter in support of the amendment. However, I realize that the 19th is right around the corner and you may not have time to issue a note/letter. I do hope though, that you will take a moment to let me know if you think you have a puppy mill in your area.

Puppy mill facts: Dogs are not treated like pets, but like a cash crop.....'Breeding stock' receive little or no veterinary care.....They are usually killed after their fertility wanes.....The annual result of all this breeding is 2 to 4 million puppies, many with behavior and/or health problems.....Puppy mills thrive because they prey on unwitting customers smitten by a fancy website.....Behind the friendly façade of a pet shop, website or newspaper ad, there often lies a puppy mill.....USDA regulations are minimal and HSUS investigators found that USDA breeders exhibit a long history of substandard care – yet remained licensed.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is the nation's largest animal protection organization with over 11 million members, and over 73,000 members and constituents in Nevada.

Sincerely,



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Draft NV Puppy Mill Bill

574.400. Floor space of primary enclosure

An operator shall ensure that a primary enclosure in which a dog or cat that is at least 6 months old is kept has a minimum amount of floor space which is calculated by finding the mathematical square of the sum of 6 inches plus the length of the dog or cat measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail, and dividing that amount by 144, to arrive at the minimum amount of square footage required for the floor space.

A primary enclosure in which a dog or cat that is at least 6 months old is kept shall consist of a solid floor, or a slatted floor with gaps of no more than ½ inch between slats, that is not stacked or otherwise placed on top of or below another animal's enclosure.

574.441. Exercise

An operator shall provide, at minimum, one exercise period during each day for a total of not less than one hour for each dog over the age of six months, which shall include removal from the dog's primary enclosure and which shall allow the dog free mobility for the entire exercise period by either leash walking or giving the dog access to a space at least four times the size of the primary enclosure, but shall not include use of a treadmill, jenny mill, slat mill, or similar device, unless prescribed by a doctor of veterinary medicine to address a specific medical condition.

574.442. Veterinary Care

An operator shall provide at minimum, examination at least once yearly, or prior to each attempt at breeding (whichever occurs more frequently) by a licensed veterinarian; prompt treatment of any illness or injury by a licensed veterinarian; and, where needed, humane euthanasia to be performed only by a licensed veterinarian using techniques identified as "Acceptable" by the American Veterinary Medical Association, and in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

574.443. Frequency of Breeding

An operator shall not breed dogs during consecutive heat cycles and shall not breed dogs younger than one year of age.

574.521. Limitation on Number of Breeding Dogs

A dealer or operator of a kennel shall not have custody of more than fifty dogs over the age of six months for the purpose of breeding those animals and selling their offspring as household pets.