

**Resolution No. 102 – 03/22**  
**Supporting the Need for Statewide Efforts for Enhanced Regulation and Enforcement  
Prohibiting Puppy Mills**

1 Moved/Sponsored by: Executive Committee

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3 **WHEREAS**, the existence of puppy mills, breeding environments in which puppies are bred  
4 primarily in pursuit of profit and are cared for only minimally, is unconscionable for reasons  
5 including, but not limited to, the way animals are treated and the significant consumer risks  
6 related to unhealthy animals; and,

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8 **WHEREAS**, the federal Animal Welfare Act, which governs the humane treatment of animals  
9 bred for purposes of sale, is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and  
10 Plant Health Inspection Service, has been highly ineffective in stopping puppy mills due to  
11 limited authority and lax enforcement; and,

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, 2009 Wisconsin Act 90, which took effect on June 1, 2011, and is administered by  
14 the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and which  
15 was intended to protect dogs and the people who buy or adopt them, also suffers from limited  
16 scope and insufficient enforcement; and,

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18 **WHEREAS**, the lack of oversight and enforcement at the federal and state levels has resulted in  
19 a rise in advocacy for local ordinances banning pet shops from sourcing puppies from anywhere  
20 besides a rescue organization, which ordinances are too narrow in scope and too limited in  
21 geographical application to ever dramatically reduce the mistreatment of puppies and dogs  
22 involved in the wholesale and retail trade industry; and,


23  
24 **WHEREAS**, consistent, uniform, statewide application of enhanced animal welfare statutes and  
25 significantly increased enforcement of such statutes is essential to effectively address the  
26 multitude of negative impacts from puppy mills, the multiple sources of breeders who mistreat  
27 animals, and the multiple ways in which bad breeders mistreat animals, which includes, but is  
28 not limited to, over-breeding; inbreeding; minimal veterinary care; lack of socialization, exercise,  
29 and enrichment; lack of adequate food, water, and shelter; and lack of sanitation.

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31 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
32 hereby encourages the State of Wisconsin to enhance its animal welfare laws related to the  
33 regulation of dog breeders, sellers, and facility operators; to significantly increase its  
34 enforcement efforts and resources to stop puppy mills in the State of Wisconsin and to stop the  
35 inflow of puppies into Wisconsin from puppy mills outside of Wisconsin; and to create a  
36 consistent, uniform, statewide approach for curtailing puppy mills, protecting consumers, and  
37 preventing animal abuse and mistreatment related to puppy mills.

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39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Walworth County Clerk is directed to distribute a  
40 copy of this resolution to each state legislator representing Walworth County and to the  
41 Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration in their legislative platform.

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Nancy Russell  
County Board Chair

  
Kimberly S. Bushey  
County Clerk

County Board Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Action Required: Majority Vote  X  Two-thirds Vote \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.  
 Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

<p>DocuSigned by:            _____  <small>93C00B20C71P44D...</small>          Michael P. Cotter          Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>2/23/2022          _____          Date</p>	<p>DocuSigned by:            _____  <small>DFDAE5F74B054C2...</small>          Jessica Conley          Finance Director</p>	<p>2/23/2022          _____          Date</p>
<p>DocuSigned by:            _____  <small>0D5679593E4C4C3...</small>          Mark W. Lubarda          County Administrator</p>	<p>2/25/2022          _____          Date</p>		

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

Resolution Ordinance was:  
 ed: Roll Call/U.C. Voice  
 ed/Referred/Laid Over  
 Yes: Noes: Absent:  
 Date March 8, 2022



