

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,
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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,
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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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