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

Moved/Sponsored by: Executive Committee

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Walworth County Clerk is directed to distribute a
copy of this resolution to each state legislator representing Walworth County and to the
Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration in their legislative platform.
County Board Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Action Required: Majority Vote ______ 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:

Michael P. Cotter               Date
Corporation Counsel

Jessica Conley               Date
Finance Director

Mark W. Luberda               Date
County Administrator

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.
I. **Title:** Supporting the Need for Statewide Efforts for Enhanced Regulation and Enforcement Prohibiting Puppy Mills

II. **Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** The purpose of this resolution is to support the need for statewide efforts for enhanced regulation and enforcement prohibiting puppy mills. The Executive Committee and County Zoning Agency, both considered if local legislation would be the best approach. Ultimately, the Executive Committee recommends encouraging a uniform, state wide solution. This resolution addresses that goal.

III. **Budget and Fiscal Impact:** Passage of this resolution will not have any fiscal impact on the County budget.

IV. **Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**

   Committee: Executive Committee  
   Meeting Date: February 14, 2022  
   Vote: 5 – 0  
   County Board Meeting Date: March 8, 2022

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.

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Michael P. Cotter  
Corporation Counsel  
Date

Jessica Conley  
Finance Director  
Date

Mark W. Luberda  
County Administrator  
Date