

## Rosenson, Valerie

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**From:** Elizabeth Oreck <elizabetho@bestfriends.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 4:31 PM  
**To:** Board of Representatives  
**Subject:** Support for Ordinance LR30.068 from Best Friends Animal Society  
**Attachments:** Jurisdictions with Retail Pet Sales Bans (By State) Aug 2019.pdf; AKC Breeders Code of Ethics re Pet Stores.pdf; Dr. Frank McMillan Executive Summary PM Studies.pdf; JAVMA Pet Store Puppies Study.pdf; Stamford Pet Sales Ordinance Support Letter Aug 2019.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear President Quinones and members of the Board of Representatives:

On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society and our Stamford members, please find attached a letter in support of the proposed ordinance to restrict the sale of dogs and cats in Stamford pet stores. Also attached are a few resource documents that you may find helpful. Additionally, if you have not seen the [Washington Post article](#) about the challenges facing USDA inspectors of commercial dog breeders that was published last week, I recommend taking a look.

Best Friends is one of the leading animal welfare organizations in the United States. We are committed to fighting the cruelty of pet mills, and we believe that an ordinance to restrict retail pet sales in Stamford will be a positive step to that end.

We have been proud to work with the majority of the [more than 330 communities](#) that have enacted retail pet sales ordinances, as well as the California and Maryland statewide retail pet sales bans, and I hope you will not hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions. We would be honored to help Stamford become the first city in Connecticut to join that list.

Thank you very much for your support of this important proposal.

Respectfully,

**Elizabeth Oreck**

National Manager, Puppy Mill Initiatives

Best Friends Animal Society

(818) 922-2445

[bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org)

[facebook.com/bestfriendsanimalsociety](https://facebook.com/bestfriendsanimalsociety) | [twitter.com/bestfriends](https://twitter.com/bestfriends)



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28 August 2019

Stamford Board of Representatives  
888 Washington Blvd., 4th Floor  
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

**Re: Support for ordinance LR30.068**

Dear President Quinones and members of the Board of Representatives,

On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society and our Stamford members, I would like to thank you for your support of the proposed ordinance (LR30.068) to restrict the retail sale of dogs and cats in Stamford pet stores. We are so pleased that you are poised to join more than 330 municipalities (as well as the entire states of California and Maryland) that have enacted legislation to prohibit pet stores from selling commercially bred pets, and instead allow for the adoption of pets sourced from shelters or rescue groups.

Pet mills, particularly puppy mills, are a serious problem in the U.S. These facilities, which supply nearly 100% of retail pet stores and online retailers, are cruel and inhumane breeding factories in which profit takes priority over the health, comfort and welfare of the animals.

Although the USDA regulates these breeders, the minimum federal standards do not ensure a humane life for dogs. These types of kennels can legally have more than a thousand dogs in one facility, and these dogs are allowed to be confined to very small cages for their entire lives, breeding continuously in order to produce as many puppies as possible for the pet trade. And USDA inspection reports show that many USDA-licensed breeders continue to sell animals to local pet stores even after being cited for serious violations at their facilities. In other words, having a USDA license does **not** ensure responsible breeding.

Further, with the USDA no longer making inspection reports readily available to the public, there is no way for pet stores or consumers to know if the puppies for sale have come from breeding facilities with serious violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Therefore, the idea that pet stores are sourcing from federally regulated breeders doesn't carry much weight. It doesn't protect consumers or animals.

Pet stores rely on high-volume commercial pet mills, and their distributors, to supply their stores because reputable breeders won't sell to pet stores for two simple reasons: it's not financially viable and they don't sell to third parties. And this pledge never to sell a puppy to a pet store can be found in every reputable breeder's code of ethics, including virtually all of the parent breed clubs on the American Kennel Club website.

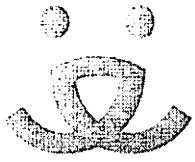
Because the goal is to make a profit, pet mill owners cut all possible corners to keep their overhead low, at the expense of the well-being of their animals. For the unsuspecting consumer, this frequently results in the purchase of a pet facing an array of immediate veterinary problems or harboring genetic diseases that surface down the line. This creates a financial burden on the consumer and results in many of these animals being surrendered to overcrowded, taxpayer-subsidized shelters. Thus, this is not just an animal welfare issue but a consumer protection concern.

Best Friends Animal Society  
5001 Angel Canyon Road  
Kanab, UT 84741  
bestfriends.org

Best Friends Animal Society - Los Angeles  
15021 Brand Blvd.  
Mission Hills, CA 91345  
bestfriends.org/la

Best Friends Animal Society -  
New York City  
contactnyc@bestfriends.org

Best Friends Animal Society - Utah  
2005 South 1100 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84106  
bestfriends.org/utah



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It makes little sense to continue manufacturing dogs and cats while so many are being killed for lack of space. Public education has been effective, but until communities take the initiative to limit the supply of pets being imported from substandard commercial facilities, there can be no hope of preventing these unnecessary deaths.

Also concerning is the fact that Connecticut is one of 17 states to have been hit by an outbreak of a strain of bacteria (*Campylobacter*) that is linked to puppies sold at Petland. *Campylobacter* is resistant to antibiotics and contagious to humans. Stamford residents should not continue to be exposed to this serious public health threat.

Those who benefit most from companion animal sales in pet stores are the retailers themselves. While they may profit from the practice of buying these pets at a low price from commercial brokers and then selling them at a high price (typically without first spaying or neutering them), it is the taxpaying public who pays for animal control to house and kill unwanted animals in the community.

Puppy mill-supplied pet stores can choose to be part of the solution rather than the problem by phasing out the sale of commercially bred pets in favor of other common revenue streams such as pet product sales, grooming and day care, and by offering space for animal rescue organizations to adopt out animals from those stores.

Pet stores that have transitioned from selling milled dogs and cats to offering rescued pets for adoption have found this animal-friendly model to be both viable and embraced by the communities in which the stores are located. Therefore, a restriction on the retail sale of pets would not preclude pet stores from doing business, but would, in fact, alleviate a significant burden on local shelters by increasing pet adoptions. Further, *it would not prevent anyone from purchasing a pet directly from a private breeder.*

Best Friends and our Connecticut members thank you in advance for taking a compassionate, common sense initiative to address the pet mill problem in Stamford and for setting a positive example for the rest of the country to follow. We have been proud to work with the majority of municipalities that have enacted local pet sales laws, as well as the statewide California and Maryland retail pet sales bans, and we would be pleased to help Stamford do the same.

Thank you for your consideration of this important reform.

Respectfully,

**Elizabeth Oreck**  
National Manager, Puppy Mill Initiatives  
Best Friends Animal Society  
[bestfriends.org/pupmills](http://bestfriends.org/pupmills)  
[elizabetho@bestfriends.org](mailto:elizabetho@bestfriends.org)

Best Friends Animal Society  
5001 Angel Canyon Road  
Kanab, UT 84741  
[bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org)

Best Friends Animal Society – Los Angeles  
15221 Brand Blvd.  
Mission Hills, CA 91345  
[bestfriends.org/la](http://bestfriends.org/la)

Best Friends Animal Society – New York City  
New York City  
[contactnyc@bestfriends.org](mailto:contactnyc@bestfriends.org)

Best Friends Animal Society – Utah  
2005 South 1100 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84106  
[bestfriends.org/utah](http://bestfriends.org/utah)



# **Executive Summary: Scientific studies of dogs and puppies from commercial dog-breeding establishments (puppy mills)**

## **BACKGROUND**

Commercial breeding establishments, or puppy mills, are large-scale facilities where dogs are confined in small enclosures for their entire reproductive lives with little to no exercise or positive human contact. The sole purpose of such facilities is to mass-produce puppies to sell them for profit through retail pet stores and via the Internet.

## **SYNOPSIS**

In two large-scale studies of dogs from high-volume commercial breeding establishments (one study focusing on the adult breeding dogs and the other on the puppies sold through pet stores), the evidence showed conclusively that these breeding facilities are highly injurious to both groups of dogs, resulting in severe, extensive and long-term harm to the behavioral and psychological well-being of the dogs.

## **Study 1: The adult breeding dogs**

### **WHAT THE STUDY LOOKED AT**

This study compared a wide array of psychological and behavioral characteristics of 1,169 dogs formerly kept for breeding purposes in commercial breeding establishments with pet dogs owned by members of the general public.

### **RESEARCHERS**

Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, Best Friends Animal Society

Deborah L. Duffy, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

James A. Serpell, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine

### **THE PUBLISHED PAPER**

Mental health of dogs formerly used as 'breeding stock' in commercial breeding establishments. FD McMillan, DL Duffy, JA Serpell. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 2011; 135: 86-94.

### **WHAT THE STUDY FOUND**

- The results showed a broad range of abnormal behavioral and psychological characteristics in the former breeding dogs from large-scale commercial breeding establishments, including significantly elevated levels of fears and phobias; pronounced compulsive and repetitive behaviors, such as spinning in tight circles and pacing; house soiling; and a heightened sensitivity to being touched and picked up.
- The psychological harm demonstrated in these dogs is severe and long-lasting. Much of the harm is irreparable and will remain a continued source of suffering for years after the dogs leave the breeding facility, in some cases for the entire lifetime of the dog.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Current laws at both the national and state levels are not based on current scientific knowledge of animal psychology, quality of life, suffering, and welfare, and are thus inadequate to protect dogs from the psychological harm resulting from living in commercial breeding establishments.
- Legislation to adequately protect the welfare of dogs in confinement needs to be updated to reflect current scientific knowledge.

To obtain a copy of the published study, contact Dr. Frank McMillan ([dr.frank@bestfriends.org](mailto:dr.frank@bestfriends.org)).

## Study 2: The puppies

### WHAT THE STUDY LOOKED AT

This study compared the psychological and behavioral characteristics of 431 adult dogs who were purchased as puppies from pet stores with adult dogs purchased as puppies from small-scale, private breeders.

### RESEARCHERS

Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, Best Friends Animal Society  
James A. Serpell, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine  
Deborah L. Duffy, PhD, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine  
Elmabrok Masaoud, PhD, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island  
Ian Dohoo, DVM, PhD, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

### THE PUBLISHED PAPER

Differences in behavioral characteristics between dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores and those obtained from noncommercial breeders. FD McMillan, JA Serpell, DL Duffy, E Masaoud, IR Dohoo. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 2013; 242: 1359-1363.

### WHAT THE STUDY FOUND

- Dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores received significantly less favorable scores than breeder-obtained dogs on most behavioral variables measured. Compared with dogs obtained as puppies from noncommercial breeders, dogs from pet stores had significantly greater aggression toward human family members, unfamiliar people and other dogs; greater fear of other dogs and typical life events; and greater separation-related problems and house soiling.
- For no behavior evaluated in the study did pet store dogs score more favorably than noncommercial breeder dogs.
- The chances of a dog developing serious behavior problems is much higher for dogs purchased as puppies from pet stores, as compared to dogs obtained from small, noncommercial breeders.

## CONCLUSIONS

- On the basis of these findings, combined with findings from earlier small-scale studies of dogs obtained from pet stores, until the causes of the unfavorable differences detected in this group of dogs can be specifically identified and remedied, the authors of this study withhold any recommendation that puppies be obtained from pet stores.

- Dogs sold by pet stores are misrepresented to consumers as a high-quality product, because the data now shows that consumers are not receiving what they believe they are paying for. The increased risk of behavior problems that pet store customers face as their dog matures includes aggression issues, which pose a significant risk of human injury. Consumer protective legislation is urgently needed in this area.
- Legislation to improve the conditions in the large-scale commercial breeding facilities supplying puppies to pet stores is needed to assure that the puppies are not at any increased risk of maturing into adult dogs with serious behavior problems.

To obtain a copy of the published study, contact Dr. Frank McMillan ([dr.frank@bestfriends.org](mailto:dr.frank@bestfriends.org)).

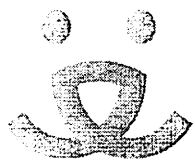
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## **Overall Conclusions**

- Current laws provide inadequate protection against harm to breeding dogs and puppies associated with commercial breeding establishments.
- Consumers purchasing puppies from pet stores are unknowingly assuming a risk of difficult and serious behavior problems in their dogs, including dog behavior that can endanger their own safety.
- If dogs are to be bred to produce puppies for sale, all of the dogs and puppies should be assured a decent quality of life based on the most current scientific research.

## **For More Information**

For more about Best Friends Animal Society, go to [bestfriends.org](http://bestfriends.org). To learn about Best Friends' puppy mill initiatives and what you can do to help, visit [pupmills.bestfriends.org](http://pupmills.bestfriends.org).



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## **Retail Pet Sales Bans Enacted in North America (335)**

(Links to legislation available at [bestfriends.org/puppymills](http://bestfriends.org/puppymills))

(8-29-19)

### **ALABAMA**

**Huntsville, AL** – Enacted December 2018; effective immediately

**Athens, AL** – Enacted January 2019; effective immediately

**Guntersville, AL** – Enacted July 2019; effective immediately

**Anniston, AL** – Enacted Aug 2019; effective immediately

**Albertville, AL** – Enacted August 2019; effective November 2019

### **ARIZONA**

**Phoenix, AZ** – Enacted December 2013; effective January 2014

**Tempe, AZ** – Enacted February 2016; effective May 2016

### **CALIFORNIA**

**South Lake Tahoe, CA** – Enacted April 2009; effective May 2011

**West Hollywood, CA** – Enacted February 2010; effective March 2010

**Hermosa Beach, CA** – Enacted March 2010; effective April 2010

**Turlock, CA** – Enacted May 2010; effective June 2010

**Glendale, CA** – Enacted August 2011; effective August 2012

**Irvine, CA** – Enacted October 2011; effective immediately

**Dana Point, CA** – Enacted February 2012; effective immediately

**Chula Vista, CA** – Enacted March 2012; effective April 2012

**Laguna Beach, CA** – Enacted May 2012; effective immediately

**Aliso Viejo, CA** – Enacted May 2012; effective immediately

**Huntington Beach, CA** – Enacted June 2012; effective June 2014

**Los Angeles, CA** – Enacted October 2012; effective June 2013

**Burbank, CA** – Enacted February 2013; effective August 2013

**Rancho Mirage, CA** – Enacted February 2013; effective March 2013



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**San Diego, CA** – Enacted July 2013; effective September 2013

**Ventura County, CA** – Enacted December 2013; effective December 2014

**Chino Hills, CA** – Enacted October 2014; effective November 2014

**Oceanside, CA** – Enacted January 2015; effective September 2015

**Long Beach, CA** – Enacted March 2015; effective October 2015

**Garden Grove, CA** – Enacted March 2015; effective March 2016

**Encinitas, CA** – Enacted July 2015; effective immediately

**Beverly Hills, CA** – Enacted August 2015; effective September 2015

**Vista, CA** – Enacted September 2015; effective October 2015

**Palm Springs, CA** – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

**San Marcos, CA** – Enacted January 2016; effective February 2016

**Cathedral City, CA** – Enacted January 2016; effective February 2016

**Truckee, CA** – Enacted February 2016; effective immediately

**Indio, CA** – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately

**La Quinta, CA** – Enacted April 2016; effective May 2016

**Carlsbad, CA** – Enacted May 2016; effective June 2016

**Colton, CA** – Enacted June 2016; effective July 2016

**Solana Beach, CA** – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately

**San Francisco, CA** – Enacted February 2017; effective March 2017

**Sacramento, CA** – Enacted May 2017; effective immediately

**South Pasadena, CA** – Enacted June 2017; effective July 2017

**Del Mar, CA** – Enacted August 2017; effective September 2017

**The State of California (Assembly Bill 485)** – Enacted October 2017; effective January 2019

## **COLORADO**

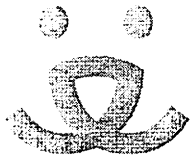
**Fountain, CO** – Enacted May 2011; effective May 2011

## **FLORIDA**

**Flagler Beach, FL** – Enacted June 2009; effective immediately

**Lake Worth, FL** – Enacted February 2011; effective February 2011





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**Coral Gables, FL** (applies to dogs only)

**Opa-Locka, FL** (applies to dogs only)

**North Bay Village, FL** (applies to dogs only)

**Hallandale Beach, FL** – Enacted April 2012; effective immediately

**Margate, FL** – Enacted October 2013; effective immediately

**Pinecrest, FL** – Enacted October 2013; effective immediately

**Palmetto Bay, FL** – Enacted December 2013; effective immediately

**Coconut Creek, FL** – Enacted January 2014; effective immediately

**Wellington, FL** – Enacted January 2014; effective immediately

**Surfside, FL** – Enacted February 2014; effective immediately

**Aventura, FL** – Enacted March 2014; effective immediately

**Wilton Manors, FL** – Enacted March 2014; effective immediately

**Greenacres, FL** – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

**North Lauderdale, FL** – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

**Bay Harbor Islands, FL** – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

**Pompano Beach, FL** – Enacted May 2104; effective immediately

**North Miami Beach, FL** – Enacted May 2014; effective immediately

**Miami Beach, FL** – Enacted May 2014; effective January 2015

**Bal Harbour Village, FL** – Enacted May 2014; effective immediately

**Sunny Isles Beach, FL** – Enacted May 2014; effective immediately

**Dania Beach, FL** – Enacted June 2014; effective immediately

**Palm Beach Gardens, FL** – Enacted July 2014; effective immediately

**Juno Beach, FL** – Enacted July 2014; effective immediately

**Cutler Bay, FL** – Enacted August 2014; effective immediately

**North Palm Beach, FL** – Enacted August 2014; effective immediately

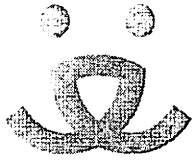
**Hypoluxo, FL** – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

**Jupiter, FL** – Enacted October 2014; effective immediately

**Homestead, FL** – Enacted October 2014; effective immediately

**Tamarac, FL** – Enacted December 2014; effective immediately

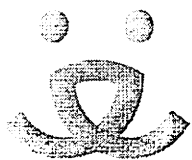
**Palm Beach, FL** – Enacted January 2015; effective immediately



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**North Miami, FL** – Enacted April 2015; effective immediately  
**Lauderhill, FL** – Enacted April 2015; effective immediately  
**Fernandina Beach, FL** – Enacted July 2015; effective immediately  
**Jacksonville Beach, FL** – Enacted August 2015; effective immediately  
**Deerfield Beach, FL** – Enacted November 2015; effective May 2016  
**West Melbourne, FL** – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately  
**Casselberry, FL** – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately  
**Neptune Beach, FL** – Enacted January 2016; effective February 2016  
**Sarasota County, FL** – Enacted January 2016; effective January 2017  
**South Miami, FL** – Enacted January 2016; effective immediately  
**Delray Beach, FL** – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately  
**Hollywood, FL** – Enacted June 2016; effective December 2016  
**St. Petersburg, FL** – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately  
**Key West, FL** – Enacted August 2016; effective immediately  
**Miramar, FL** – Enacted August 2016; effective immediately  
**Palm Beach County, FL** – Enacted September 2016; effective November 2016  
**Safety Harbor, FL** – Enacted November 2016; effective immediately  
**Holmes Beach, FL** – Enacted February 2017; effective immediately  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL** – Enacted June 2017; effective immediately  
**DeSoto County, FL** – Enacted July 2017; effective immediately  
**Oakland Park, FL** – Enacted December 2017; effective immediately  
**Seminole County, FL (unincorporated areas)** – Enacted February 2018; effective immediately  
**Atlantic Beach, FL** – Enacted March 2018; effective immediately  
**Lake County, FL** – Enacted May 2018; effective immediately  
**Sanford, FL** – Enacted July 2018; effective immediately  
**Dunedin, FL** – Enacted July 2018; effective immediately  
**Royal Palm Beach, FL** – Enacted July 2018; effective immediately  
**Mount Dora, FL** – Enacted January 2019; effective immediately  
**Indian Harbor Beach, FL** – Enacted January 2019; effective immediately  
**Marion County, FL** – Enacted May 2019; effective November 2019



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**Indian River County, FL** – Enacted June 2019; effective immediately

**Cape Coral, FL** – Enacted August 2019; effective September 2020

### **GEORGIA**

**Canton, GA** – Enacted March 2017; effective immediately

**Holly Springs, GA** – Enacted May 2017; effective immediately

**Waleska, GA** – Enacted May 2017; effective immediately

**Woodstock, GA** – Enacted June 2017; effective immediately

**Senoia, GA** – Enacted November 2017; effective immediately

**Sandy Springs, GA** – Enacted November 2017; effective February 2018

**Ball Ground, GA** -- Enacted January 2018; effective immediately

**Centerville, GA** – Enacted January 2018; effective immediately

**Atlanta, GA** – Enacted November, 2018; effective immediately

**Cherokee County, GA** – Enacted August 2019; effective immediately

### **ILLINOIS**

**Waukegan, IL** – Enacted June 2012; effective immediately

**Chicago, IL** – Enacted March 2014; effective March 2015

**Cook County, IL** – Enacted April 2014; effective October 2014

**Warrenville, IL** – Enacted February 2016; effective immediately

**Crest Hill, IL** – Enacted October 2017; effective January 2018

**Kankakee County, IL** – Enacted May 2018; effective immediately

**Vernon Hills, IL** – Enacted February 2019; effective immediately

**Downers Grove, IL** – Enacted March 2019; effective October 2019

**West Chicago, IL** – Enacted March 2019; effective immediately

**Buffalo Grove, IL** – Enacted June 2019; effective immediately

**Lisle, IL** – Enacted July 2019; effective immediately

### **INDIANA**

**St. Joseph County, IN** (unincorporated areas) – Enacted May 2017; effective immediately



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### **IOWA**

**Fraser, Iowa** – Enacted October 2017; effective immediately

**Boone, IA** – Enacted May 2018; effective immediately

### **MAINE**

**Portland, ME** – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately

**Bar Harbor, ME** – Enacted December 2017; effective January 2018

### **MARYLAND**

**Montgomery County, MD** – Enacted March 2015; effective June 2015

**The State of Maryland (House Bill 1662)** – Enacted April 2018; effective January 2020

### **MASSACHUSETTS**

**Boston, MA** – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

**Stoneham, MA** – Enacted May 2017; effective immediately

**Cambridge, MA** – Enacted August 2017; effective November 2017

### **MICHIGAN**

**Eastpointe, MI** – Enacted September 2015; effective January 2016

**Memphis, MI** – Enacted September 2015; effective immediately

**New Baltimore, MD** – Enacted November 2015; effective November 2016

**Fraser, MI** – Enacted December 2015; effective immediately

**Royal Oak, MI** – Enacted June 2019; effective July 2019

### **MINNESOTA**

**Roseville, MN** – Enacted March 2017; effective September 2017

**Eden Prairie, MN** – Enacted May 2018; effective immediately

**St. Paul, MN** – Enacted December 2018; effective January 2019



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### **NEVADA**

**Mesquite, NV** – Enacted May 2016; effective June 2016

**North Las Vegas, NV** – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately

### **NEW JERSEY**

**Point Pleasant, NJ** – Enacted May 2012; effective immediately

**Brick, NJ** – Enacted July 2012; effective immediately

**Manasquan, NJ** – Enacted September 2012; effective immediately

**Point Pleasant Beach, NJ** – Enacted October 2012; effective immediately

**Hoboken, NJ** – Enacted May 2013; effective immediately

**Oceanport, NJ** – Enacted August 2013; effective immediately

**North Brunswick, NJ** – Enacted October 2013; effective November 2013

**Randolph, NJ** – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

**Camden County, NJ** – Enacted September 2015; effective immediately

**Voorhees, NJ** – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

**Brooklawn, NJ** – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

**Audubon, NJ** – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

**Waterford, NJ** – Enacted October 2015; effective January 2016

**Cherry Hill, NJ** – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately

**Merchantville, NJ** – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately

**Runnemede, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

**Somerdale, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

**Laurel Springs, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

**Oaklyn, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective immediately

**Westville, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

**Haddon Heights, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

**Gloucester Township, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective January 2016

**Glassboro, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

**Magnolia, NJ** – Enacted December 2015; effective March 2016

**Bellmawr, NJ** – Enacted January 2016; effective immediately



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**Berlin Township, NJ** – Enacted February 2016; effective May 2016  
**Clementon, NJ** – Enacted March 2016; effective June 2016  
**Pine Hill, NJ** – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately  
**Haddon Township, NJ** – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately  
**Winslow, NJ** – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately  
**Jackson, NJ** – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately  
**Collingswood, NJ** – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
**Audubon Park, NJ** – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
**Mount Ephraim, NJ** – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
**Barrington, NJ** – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
**Berlin Borough, NJ** – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately  
**East Brunswick, NJ** – Enacted April 2016; effective May 2016  
**Gloucester City, NJ** – Enacted April 2006; effective July 2016  
**Chesilhurst, NJ** – Enacted May 2016; effective August 2016  
**Greenwich, NJ** – Enacted May 2016; effective June 2016  
**Pennsauken, NJ** – Enacted May 2016; effective immediately  
**Beverly, NJ** – Enacted May 2016; effective immediately  
**Clayton, NJ** – Enacted May 2016; effective August 2016  
**Mantua, NJ** – Enacted May 2016; effective immediately  
**Washington (Gloucester County), NJ** – Enacted June 2016; effective July 2016  
**Gibbsboro, NJ** – Enacted June 2016; effective September 2016  
**Little Ferry, NJ** – Enacted June 2016; effective September 2016  
**Wyckoff, NJ** – Enacted June 2016; effective immediately  
**Lindenwold, NJ** – Enacted June 2016; effective immediately  
**Hackensack, NJ** – Enacted June 2016; effective September 2016  
**Bordentown, NJ** – Enacted June 2016; effective immediately  
**Hi-Nella, NJ** – Enacted June 2016; effective September 2016  
**Mount Holly, NJ** – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
**Pitman, NJ** – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
**Camden City, NJ** – Enacted July 2016; effective August 2016



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**Maywood, NJ** – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately  
**East Rutherford, NJ** – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
**Glen Rock, NJ** – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
**Woodlynne, NJ** – Enacted July 2016; effective October 2016  
**Woodcliff Lake, NJ** – Enacted August 2016; effective immediately  
**Saddle Brook, NJ** – Enacted August 2016; effective November 2016  
**Washington (Burlington County), NJ** – Enacted August 2017; effective immediately  
**Upper Saddle River, NJ** – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately  
**Eatontown, NJ** – Enacted September 2016; effective December 2016  
**Swedesboro, NJ** – Enacted September 2016; effective December 2016  
**Ridgefield, NJ** – Enacted September 2016; effective December 2016  
**Fanwood, NJ** – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately  
**Fairview, NJ** – Enacted September 2016; effective December 2016  
**Wallington, NJ** – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately  
**New Milford, NJ** – Enacted September 2016; effective immediately  
**Hamilton, NJ (Mercer County)** – Enacted September 2016; effective October 2016  
**Ridgewood, NJ** – Enacted October 2016; effective November 2016  
**Edgewater, NJ** – Enacted October 2016; effective January 2016  
**Woodbury Heights, NJ** – Enacted October 2016; effective immediately  
**Marlboro, NJ** – Enacted October 2016; effective January 2017  
**Fair Lawn, NJ** – Enacted October 2016; effective immediately  
**Ocean, NJ** – Enacted October 2016; effective November 2016  
**North Arlington, NJ** – Enacted November 2016; effective immediately  
**Watchung, NJ** – Enacted November 2016; effective immediately  
**Frenchtown, NJ** – Enacted December 2016; effective March 2017  
**Palisades Park, NJ** – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately  
**Union Beach, NJ** – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately  
**Cliffside Park, NJ** – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately  
**Bradley Beach, NJ** – Enacted January 2017; effective immediately  
**Stratford, NJ** -- Enacted February 2017; effective May 2017



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**Burlington, NJ** – Enacted February 2017; effective March 2017  
**Haddonfield, NJ** – Enacted February 2017; effective May 2017  
**Bound Brook, NJ** – Enacted February 2017; effective immediately  
**Livingston, NJ** – Enacted March 2017; effective June 2017  
**Franklin, NJ (Somerset County)** – Enacted March 2017; effective June 2017  
**Secaucus, NJ** – Enacted March 2017; effective immediately  
**Manalapan, NJ** – Enacted April 2017; effective immediately  
**Scotch Plains, NJ** – Enacted April 2017; effective immediately  
**Lodi, NJ** – Enacted April 2017; effective April 2017  
**East Newark, NJ** – Enacted April 2017; effective July 2017  
**Roselle Park, NJ** – Enacted May 2017; effective immediately  
**Harrison (Gloucester County), NJ** – Enacted May 2017; effective immediately  
**Brielle, NJ** – Enacted May 2017; effective immediately  
**Caldwell, NJ** – Enacted June 2017; effective immediately  
**Matawan, NJ** – Enacted June 2017; effective immediately  
**Maple Shade, NJ** – Enacted June 2017; effective immediately  
**North Plainfield, NJ** – Enacted June 2017; effective July 2017  
**Asbury Park, NJ** – Enacted June 2017; effective July 2017  
**Leonia, NJ** – Enacted July 2017; effective immediately  
**Hopewell Borough, NJ** – Enacted August 2017; effective immediately  
**Springfield, NJ** – Enacted September 2017; effective December 2017  
**Cranford, NJ** – Enacted October 2017; effective immediately  
**Nutley, NJ** – Enacted October 2017; effective January 2018  
**Moorestown, NJ** – Enacted October 2017; effective November 2017  
**Rahway, NJ** – Enacted November 2017; effective immediately  
**Lawrence, NJ** – Enacted February 2018; effective March 2018  
**Holmdel, NJ** – Enacted February 2018; effective May 2018  
**Barneget, NJ** – Enacted March 2018; effective immediately  
**Westfield, NJ** – Enacted April 2018; effective immediately





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**Garwood, NJ** – Enacted June 2018; effective September 2018

**Linden, NJ** – Enacted June 2018; effective immediately

**Palmyra, NJ** – Enacted June 2018; effective immediately

**Teaneck, NJ** – Enacted September 2018; effective December 2018

**South Orange, NJ** – Enacted November 2018; effective immediately

**Wall, NJ** – Enacted December 2018; effective immediately

**Medford Lakes, NJ** – Enacted February 2019; effective immediately

**Carteret, NJ** – Enacted March 2019; effective June 2019

**Tinton Falls, NJ** – Enacted March 2019; effective immediately

**Madison, NJ** – Enacted May 2019; effective immediately

### **NEW MEXICO**

**Albuquerque, NM** – Enacted June 2006; effective August 2007

**Bernalillo County, NM** – Enacted February 2013; effective August 2013

**Rio Rancho, NM** – Enacted April 2017; effective November 2017

### **NEW YORK**

**Mamaroneck Village, NY** – Enacted February 2016; effective immediately

**Mount Pleasant, NY** – Enacted March 2016; effective immediately

**Yorktown, NY** – Enacted July 2016; effective immediately

**Rye Brook, NY** – Enacted August 2016; effective immediately

**Port Chester, NY** – Enacted October 2016; effective immediately

**New Rochelle, NY** – Enacted September 2017; effective immediately

### **OHIO**

**Toledo, OH** – Enacted December 2013; effective January 2014

**Grove City, OH** – Enacted March 2016; effective January 2017

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

**Pittsburgh, PA** – Enacted December 2015; effective June 2016



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**Philadelphia, PA** – Enacted April 2016; effective July 2016

**Wilkesburg, PA** – Enacted October 2017; effective immediately

**Sharpsburg, PA** – Enacted April 2018; effective immediately

**Bellevue, PA** – Enacted May 2019; effective immediately

### **RHODE ISLAND**

**East Providence, RI** – Enacted June 2014; effective immediately

**Warwick, RI** – Enacted July 2017; effective August 2017

**West Warwick, RI** – Enacted February 2018; effective March 2018

**Providence, RI** – Enacted July 2018; effective immediately

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

**North Myrtle Beach, SC** – Enacted August 2019; effective immediately

### **TENNESSEE**

**Nashville and Davidson County, TN** – Enacted May 2018; effective August 2018

**Franklin, TN** – Enacted December 2018; effective March 2019

### **TEXAS**

**El Paso, TX** – Enacted October 2010; effective January 2011

**Austin, TX** – Enacted December 2010; effective December 2010

### **UTAH**

**Salt Lake County, UT** – Enacted October 2015; effective immediately

**Millcreek, UT** – Enacted December 2016; effective immediately

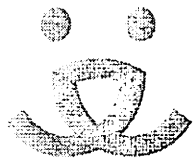
**Emigration Canyon, UT** – Enacted January 2017; effective immediately

**Copperton, UT** – Enacted January 2017; effective immediately

**Kearns, UT** – Enacted January 2017; effective immediately

**Magna, UT** – Enacted January 2017; effective immediately

**White City, UT** – Enacted January 2017; effective immediately



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**Midvale, UT** – Enacted July 2018; effective immediately

**Murray City, UT** – Enacted August 2018; effective immediately

**Salt Lake City, UT** – Enacted November 2018; effective February 2019

### **WASHINGTON**

**Bainbridge Island, WA** – Enacted June 2017; effective July 2017

**Bremerton, WA** – Enacted September 2017; effective immediately

**Poulsbo, WA** – Enacted January 2018; effective immediately

**Gig Harbor, WA** – Enacted May 2019; effective June 2019

**Kitsap County, WA** – Enacted July 2019; effective immediately

### **WYOMING**

**Rock Springs, WY** – Enacted April 2018; effective immediately

### **CANADA**

**Richmond, British Columbia** – Enacted November 2010; effective April 2011

**Toronto, Ontario** – Enacted September 2011; effective September 2012

**Rosemont-La Petite-Patrie, Quebec** – Enacted December 2011; effective immediately

**Mississauga, Ontario** – Enacted July 2012; effective January 2013

**New Westminster, British Columbia** – Enacted November 2012; effective immediately

**Kingston, Ontario** – Enacted August 2013; effective November 2013

**Vaughan, Ontario** – Enacted April 2014; effective immediately

**Hudson, Quebec** – Enacted September 2014; effective immediately

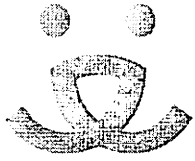
**Waterloo, Ontario** – Enacted September 2014; effective January 2015

**Mount Royal, Quebec** – Enacted May 2015; effective immediately

**Oakville, Ontario** – Enacted November 2015; effective immediately

**Beaconsfield, Quebec** – Enacted December 2015; effective immediately

**Ottawa, Ontario** – Enacted April 2016; effective immediately



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**Cambridge, Ontario** – Enacted October 2016; effective immediately

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**Vancouver, British Columbia** – Enacted December 2017; effective immediately

**Surrey, British Columbia** – Enacted March 2018; effective June 2018

**Burnaby, British Columbia** – Enacted June 2018; effective immediately

**Montréal, Quebec** – Enacted August 2018; effective July 2019

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Salt Lake City, UT 84106  
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# Differences in behavioral characteristics between dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores and those obtained from noncommercial breeders

Franklin D. McMillan, DVM, DACVIM; James A. Serpell, PhD;  
Deborah L. Duffy, PhD; Elmabrok Masaoud, PhD; Ian R. Dohoo, DVM, PhD

**Objective**—To compare the owner-reported prevalence of behavioral characteristics in dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores with that of dogs obtained as puppies from noncommercial breeders.

**Design**—Cross-sectional study.

**Animals**—Dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores ( $n = 413$ ) and breeder-obtained dogs (5,657).

**Procedures**—Behavioral evaluations were obtained from a large convenience sample of current dog owners with the online version of the Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire, which uses ordinal scales to rate either the intensity or frequency of the dogs' behavior. Hierarchic linear and logistic regression models were used to analyze the effects of source of acquisition on behavioral outcomes when various confounding and intervening variables were controlled for.

**Results**—Pet store-derived dogs received significantly less favorable scores than did breeder-obtained dogs on 12 of 14 of the behavioral variables measured; pet store dogs did not score more favorably than breeder dogs in any behavioral category. Compared with dogs obtained as puppies from noncommercial breeders, dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores had significantly greater aggression toward human family members, unfamiliar people, and other dogs; greater fear of other dogs and nonsocial stimuli; and greater separation-related problems and house soiling.

**Conclusions and Clinical Relevance**—Obtaining dogs from pet stores versus noncommercial breeders represented a significant risk factor for the development of a wide range of undesirable behavioral characteristics. Until the causes of the unfavorable differences detected in this group of dogs can be specifically identified and remedied, the authors cannot recommend that puppies be obtained from pet stores. (*J Am Vet Med Assoc* 2013;242:1359–1363)

It has long been an article of faith among veterinarians and canine professionals that dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores have a higher prevalence of health and behavioral problems.<sup>1</sup> However, there has been a dearth of empirical studies to support this notion. In a retrospective survey of the owners of 737 adult dogs, Jagoe<sup>2</sup> found that dogs obtained from pet shops had a significantly higher prevalence of owner-directed (dominance-type) aggression and social fears (fear of strangers, children, and unfamiliar dogs) than did dogs from 5 other sources: breeders, animal shelters, friends or relatives, found or rescued off the streets, and home bred (ie, bred and reared in the current owner's home).<sup>2</sup> However, the sample size of pet store dogs in that study<sup>2</sup> was small ( $n = 20$ ).

Bennett and Rohlf<sup>3</sup> investigated the frequency of potential problematic behavior patterns as reported

## ABBREVIATIONS

C-BARQ	Canine Behavioral Assessment and Research Questionnaire
CBE	Commercial breeding establishment
NCB	Noncommercial breeder

by owners in a convenience sample of 413 companion dogs, of which 47 were obtained from pet stores. Results indicated that dogs purchased from pet shops or shelters were considered by their owners to be more unfriendly or aggressive than were dogs purchased from breeders and significantly more nervous than dogs bred by the present owner. However, by using broadly defined behavioral subscales rather than discrete behaviors, the researchers were not able to ascertain whether pet shop dogs had specific problematic behaviors more frequently than did dogs from other sources.

Mugford<sup>4</sup> reported analyzing a sample of 1,864 dogs with various behavioral problems and determined that "only 10% of purebred dogs obtained directly from breeders presented separation-related problems, whereas 55% of purebred dogs originating from so-called 'puppy farms' or 'puppy mills' present such problems." Sample sizes and the way in which it was determined

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Supported by a grant from the Animal Welfare Trust.  
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that the dogs came from puppy farms or puppy mills were not reported.

Some inconsistent findings have also been reported. Pierantoni et al<sup>5</sup> compared owner-reported behaviors between 70 adult dogs separated from their litters at 30 to 40 days of age and 70 adult dogs separated from their litters at 2 months of age. Their analysis included the source of the dog classified into 3 categories: breeder, pet shop, or friend or relative. The researchers found no significant association between the source of the dog and the behavioral categories examined. In a study of the efficacy of a dog-appeasing pheromone in reducing stress associated with social isolation in puppies recently acquired from pet stores, Gaultier et al<sup>6</sup> noted that their data did not seem to support the hypothesis that puppies from pet stores constitute a special, at-risk population for the development of behavioral problems. The researchers reported that the puppies in that study<sup>6</sup> ( $n = 66$ ) did not appear to disturb their owners any more than those in a previous study by Taylor and Mills<sup>7</sup> involving puppies acquired from local pedigree dog breeders. However, the breeders in the latter study<sup>7</sup> included a semicommercial breeder and at least 1 puppy mill.<sup>b</sup>

Most puppies sold by pet stores in the United States are purchased from brokers, who may themselves be breeders but overwhelmingly acquire their puppies from high-volume breeding facilities, or CBEs, located throughout the United States.<sup>8</sup> Conditions in the CBEs, which supply tens of thousands of puppies to retail pet stores each year, vary widely. Conditions in CBEs range from modern, clean, and well-kept to squalid, noxious, and gravely detrimental to animal health and welfare.<sup>9-11</sup>

The purpose of the study reported here was to evaluate the hypothesis that dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores would be reported to have an increased prevalence of behavioral problems, compared with dogs obtained as puppies from NCBs.

## Materials and Methods

**Data collection**—Behavioral evaluations of the dogs were obtained by use of the online version of the C-BARQ, a standardized survey instrument with established reliability and validity characteristics.<sup>12</sup> The C-BARQ is designed to provide quantitative assessments of a wide array of behavioral characteristics of dogs and has been widely used as a research tool for comparing behavior in different dog populations.<sup>13-15</sup> The questionnaire consists of 100 items that ask respondents to indicate on a series of 5-point ordinal rating scales their dogs' typical responses to a variety of everyday situations during the recent past. The scales rate either the intensity (aggression, fear, and excitability subscales) or frequency (all remaining subscales and miscellaneous items) of the behaviors, with a score of 0 indicating the absence of the behavior and a score of 4 indicating the most intense or frequent form of the behavior. The C-BARQ currently comprises 14 behavioral factors or subscales and a further 22 miscellaneous stand-alone items. Higher scores are generally less favorable for all items and subscales, with the exception of trainability, for which higher scores are more desirable. Owners were also asked to indicate

the dog's current age at the time the survey was completed, whether there were other dogs living in the same household, and whether the dog was used for specific working or recreational roles, including breeding or showing, field trials or hunting, other sports (eg, agility, racing, or sledding), and working roles (eg, search and rescue, service, or sheep herding). To obtain information on the source from which the dog was acquired, owners were also asked to respond to the question, "where did you acquire this dog?" Possible responses included the following: bred him/her myself; from a breeder; from a shelter or rescue group; from a neighbor, friend, or relative; bought from a pet store; adopted as a stray; and other. Consistent with the 2 previous studies<sup>3,a</sup> that offered pet-owning participants the choice of breeder as the source of the dog, the question in the C-BARQ regarding the source of the dog does not define the term breeder.

**Sample**—The online C-BARQ was advertised originally via an article in the newsmagazine of the Veterinary Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and by notices sent to Philadelphia-area veterinary clinics and the top 20 US breed clubs, as determined on the basis of American Kennel Club registrations. Availability of the survey then spread via word of mouth. No geographic limitations were applied, and participation included residents of the United States as well as other countries. A subset of these data consisting entirely of pet dogs whose owners reported obtaining them either from breeders ( $n = 5,657$ ) or pet stores (413) was used for analysis. Breeder-obtained dogs were selected as the comparison group for the following reasons: age at the time of acquisition would most closely match pet store-obtained dogs; for the most part, breeder-obtained dogs are purebred as are those from pet stores; and the life history of the dog prior to purchase in breeder-obtained puppies is relatively standardized, thereby reducing the amount of environmental variability among the dogs of this group. These assumptions apply to the United States and may have less validity in other countries.

**Statistical analysis**—Two-level hierarchic linear or logistic regression models were used to analyze the data on behavioral measures.<sup>16</sup> The outcome variables (attachment and attention seeking, chasing, trainability, excitability, and energy) in the hierarchic linear model were treated as normally distributed continuous variables. All other behavioral variables were dichotomized (eg, 0 or > 0) because they were typically highly skewed and it was impossible to identify a suitable transformation method to normalize their distribution. These were analyzed with 2-level mixed logistic models. Both types of model aimed to assess the relationship between source of acquisition (eg, pet store vs breeder) and behavior while controlling for various confounding variables (other dogs in household, working or recreational roles, sex, and body weight) or intervening variables (neutered vs sexually intact and age at the time of evaluation). All possible 2-way interactions between source of acquisition and confounding and intervening variables were explored and accounted for in the modeling process. Nonsignificant confounding and intervening variables and interaction effects were removed from the

model. Breed was also included in both models as a random effect to account for clustering of dogs at the breed level. Linear and logistic models were fit via restricted and full maximum likelihood estimation procedures. The analysis was performed with statistical software<sup>17</sup> by use of subject-specific models.<sup>c,d</sup> For all comparisons, a value of  $P < 0.05$  was considered significant.

## Results

According to the results of the multiple regression analyses, dogs acquired from pet stores differed significantly from those acquired from breeders on 12 of 14 of the C-BARQ behavioral subscales. In no category did pet store dogs have a more desirable score than breeder dogs (Tables 1 and 2). The strongest effects were observed in relation to aggressive behavior. For example, sexually intact pet store dogs were 3 times as likely to have owner-directed aggression as were sexually intact dogs acquired from breeders, and pet store dogs were nearly twice as likely to have aggression toward unfamiliar dogs (dog-directed aggression). Pet store dogs were also 30% to 60% more likely to have stranger-directed aggression, aggression to other household dogs, fear of dogs

and nonsocial stimuli, separation-related problems, and touch sensitivity. In addition, they were somewhat more excitable, energetic, and attention seeking and generally less trainable, although this was only true for dogs that did not participate in working or recreational activities. The only C-BARQ subscales that were not significantly different between pet store and breeder-derived dogs were chasing and stranger-directed fear. In addition, pet store-obtained dogs had a range of miscellaneous behavioral problems at significantly higher frequencies than did those acquired from breeders (eg, escaping from the home, sexual mounting of people and objects, and most forms of house-soiling).

## Discussion

Results of this study supported the view that dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores are more likely to develop behavioral problems as adults, compared with dogs obtained from NCBs. The retrospective nature of the data used in this analysis did not permit determinations of causality. However, there are several potential explanations for the differences between pet store and NCB dogs.

Table 1—Results of linear regression models comparing behavioral variables in dogs obtained from pet stores versus dogs obtained from NCBs.

Variable	Other variables controlled	Predictor	Effect	95% CI	P value
Excitability	1,2,3,4,6	PS	0.204	0.12 to 0.29	< 0.001
Energy	1,2,3,4,6	PS	0.109	0.004 to 0.21	0.043
Chasing		PS	0.002	-0.13 to 0.10	0.769
Attachment and attention seeking	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	0.204	0.12 to 0.29	< 0.001
Trainability	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS—Not working dog	-0.195	-0.26 to -0.13	< 0.001
		PS—Working dog	0.098	-0.07 to 0.27	0.262

PS = Acquired from pet store.  
Other variables controlled were as follows: 1 = other dogs, 2 = dogs with working or recreational roles, 3 = sex, 4 = weight, 5 = neutered, 6 = age at time of evaluation (nonsignificant intervening variables [those variables that intervene the relationship between variable and predictor] were removed from the analyses).

Table 2—Results of logistic regression models comparing behavioral variables in dogs obtained from pet stores versus dogs obtained from NCBs.

Variable	Other variables controlled	Predictor	OR	95% CI	P value
Separation-related behavior	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	1.58	1.19–2.11	0.002
Owner-directed aggression	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS—Not neutered	3.13	1.87–5.23	< 0.001
		PS—Neutered	1.54	1.16–2.06	0.003
Stranger-directed aggression	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	1.59	1.18–2.16	0.003
Nonsocial fear	1,2,3,4,5	PS	1.44	1.01–2.07	0.047
Dog rivalry	1,2,3,4,6	PS	1.35	1.05–1.74	0.021
Dog-directed fear	1,2,3,4,5	PS	1.33	1.03–1.71	0.030
Dog-directed aggression	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	1.96	1.44–2.67	< 0.001
Touch sensitivity	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	1.58	1.18–2.11	0.002
Escapes from home or yard	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	4.14	1.75–9.83	0.001
Rolls in odorous material		PS	0.86	0.67–1.09	0.214
Coprophagia			1.08	0.86–1.36	0.502
Chews objects			1.07	0.84–1.36	0.590
Mounts objects or people	1,2,3,4,5		1.39	1.1–1.75	0.006
Urines against objects or furnishings	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	1.77	1.32–2.39	< 0.001
Submissive urination	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	1.53	1.13–2.07	0.007
Urines when left alone	1,2,3,4,5,6	PS	1.96	1.52–2.52	< 0.001
Defecates when left alone	1,2,3,4,5	PS	1.68	1.31–2.16	< 0.001

See Table 1 for key.



The formative stages of the puppy's life in the CBE are periods where stress may exert an impact on brain development. Although no studies on sources of stress in CBEs or their potential effects on the well-being of the dogs have been published, sources of stress have been investigated in dogs living in confinement in kennels,<sup>18–21</sup> animal shelters,<sup>22,23</sup> and laboratories.<sup>24,25</sup> Similar stressors have been documented in the CBE environment,<sup>10</sup> and it is therefore reasonable to suggest that the effects applied also to the dogs in the present study, despite some differences in background, housing, and husbandry. Specific factors that have been determined to be associated with stress in dogs living in confined environments include spatial restriction,<sup>18,19,23</sup> extreme temperatures,<sup>9,26</sup> aversive interactions with kennel staff,<sup>26,27</sup> lack of perceived control or the capacity to avoid or regulate exposure to aversive stimuli,<sup>20–23</sup> and limited access to positive human and conspecific social interactions.<sup>18,24,25</sup> A recent study<sup>11</sup> on the mental health of dogs formerly used as breeding stock in CBEs found severe and long-lasting adverse effects in dogs living in this type of environment, offering evidence of the magnitude of stressors in CBEs.

The stressors in the CBE environment may have acted at 2 stages of the developing puppies' lives: the prenatal period and the first 8 weeks after birth. A large body of research in humans and other animals has convincingly determined that prenatal stress (ie, stress experienced by a pregnant female) causes alterations to the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis of the developing fetus that may manifest later in life as an impaired ability to cope with stress,<sup>22</sup> abnormal social behavior,<sup>28,29</sup> and increased emotionality and fear-related behavior.<sup>30</sup> All of these outcomes are consistent with the differences detected in pet store- versus NCB-obtained dogs (ie, increased aggression, fear of dogs and nonsocial stimuli, and excitability). Substantial evidence in humans and other animals indicates that stressful experiences in early life may have extensive and enduring effects with strong correlations to later development of behavioral abnormalities and psychopathologic abnormalities.<sup>31–35</sup> In dogs, Fox and Stelzner<sup>36</sup> detected a short period at approximately 8 weeks of age when puppies are hypersensitive to distressing psychological or physical stimuli and during which a single unpleasant experience could result in long-term aversive or abnormal effects. Transport-related stress was suggested by both Mugford<sup>4</sup> and Gaultier et al<sup>6</sup> to be a potentially critical factor in the early lives of puppies from CBEs as they are shipped to pet stores throughout North America. Mugford,<sup>4</sup> Serpell and Jagoe,<sup>2</sup> and Bennett and Rohlf<sup>3</sup> have each suggested that a reason for pet store and CBE puppies to have a high prevalence of behavioral problems later in life is inadequate early socialization. In addition, genetic influences may play a role in the differences between pet store and NCB dogs, because a genetic basis for behavioral traits in dogs is consistent with findings observed in dogs of the present study, including fear, aggression, emotional reactivity, and non-specific alterations in temperament and personality.<sup>27,37,38</sup>

The reported differences in the 2 groups of dogs in the present study could be attributable to a number of owner-related factors. It is possible that people who buy puppies from pet shops may use different degrees or methods of training than people who buy puppies

from an NCB. The importance of training in the development of problem behaviors was recently elucidated in the study<sup>3</sup> of the relationship of potentially problematic behaviors with other variables. The researchers found that for the 5 behavioral subscales, the strongest predictor for scoring undesirably in 3 of the 5 subscales was the level of training the dog received. The present study did not attempt to collect demographic or background information on the dog owners; therefore, the degree to which such factors may have contributed to the findings could not be assessed. An additional owner-related consideration is that it is possible that people who buy puppies from pet stores simply report potentially problematic behaviors more readily than do others, irrespective of the dog's actual behavior.

The data support the notion that dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores have substantial adverse behavioral differences, compared with dogs obtained from NCBs. Taken individually, however, the specific factors that differ between the 2 groups are not readily attributable to a single definitive explanation. For example, stranger-directed aggression may be attributable to inadequate socialization, maltreatment by humans, genetic factors, and prenatal stress. Taken collectively, no single explanatory factor appears capable of accounting for the differences between the 2 groups. For example, although inadequate socialization may explain increased aggression, the most prominent emotional consequence of insufficient socialization is fear,<sup>27,39</sup> and whereas aggression toward humans (owners and unfamiliar people) was increased, fear toward humans was not.

There were a number of limitations to the present study. The sample of dog owners was self-selected and therefore a potential source of bias. The question in the C-BARQ regarding the source of the dogs did not define breeder, leaving the participants to define the term for themselves. Accordingly, a breeder source could have indicated either type of NCB (hobby breeder or backyard breeder), and the level and type of care differ between the 2 types. These differences are presumably minor in comparison to the differences between NCBs and CBEs. It is also conceivable that the source of some dogs specified by the owner as breeder was a CBE; however, it is reasonable to conclude that there would be no overlap between breeder and pet store categories (ie, no owner with a dog coming from a pet store would select breeder as a source, and no owner with a dog coming from a breeder would select pet store as a source).

Results of the present study indicated that compared with dogs obtained as puppies from NCBs, dogs obtained as puppies from pet stores had significantly greater aggression toward human family members, unfamiliar people, and other dogs; fear of other dogs and nonsocial stimuli; separation-related problems; and urination and defecation problems in the home. On almost all behavioral variables measured, pet store dogs received less favorable scores than breeder-obtained dogs. The diversity of behavioral differences between pet store-obtained and breeder-obtained dogs suggests a multifactorial cause and, accordingly, a multifactorial approach to correction; however, the data did not permit determination of the specific contributory factors and the degree of influence they exerted. In addition,



because we did not compare the 2 groups of dogs in this study with other sources of dogs, the results should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any particular source of dogs. On the basis of these findings combined with earlier findings regarding pet store–obtained dogs, until the causes of the unfavorable differences detected in this group of dogs can be specifically identified and remedied, we cannot recommend that puppies be obtained from pet stores.

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Best  
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## AKC Breeder Code of Ethics re: Pet Store Puppies

If one visits the website of the American Kennel Club (AKC), one of the oldest and most respected breed club registries in the world, one can access the Breeder Code of Ethics on any of the websites listed in their national parent club directory for AKC-recognized breeds.\* One of the most common provisos is that ***breeders must agree never to sell their puppies to pet stores.***

Below are several examples.

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### **Airedale Terrier Club of America (airedale.org)**

Code of Ethics: *In sale/placement transactions, we endeavor to refuse to sell an Airedale Terrier of any age to pet dealers, catalog houses, or any other commercial sources of distribution.*

### **Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc. (alaskanmalamute.org)**

Code of Ethics: *No member shall knowingly be involved in the sale/placement of puppies/dogs through retail or wholesale outlets, mail order businesses, dog dealers/agents/brokers, or act as a finder for such operations.*

### **American Bloodhound Club (bloodhounds.org)**

Code of Ethics: *As a member of the American Bloodhound Club: I agree not to engage in the practice of providing any Bloodhound to any individual, commercial wholesaler, or retailer for the purpose of resale.*

### **American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc. (ackcsc.org)**

General Code of Conduct: *I will not: 1. Knowingly falsify a pedigree, health screening or breeding information. 2. Sell Cavaliers to pet shops, brokers or third party dealers. 3. Supply or sell Cavaliers for auctions, raffles, flea markets or any other such enterprise. 4. Knowingly sell to unethical breeders, or sell to persons whose intention is resale. 5. Purchase any Cavalier or any litter for resale either to an individual or a commercial establishment.*

### **American Fox Terrier Club (aftc.org)**

Code of Ethics: *Under no condition shall dogs be sold to pet dealers or any other source of commercial distribution.*

**American Whippet Club, Inc.**

**(americanwhippetclub.net)**

*Code of Ethics: No member of this club shall engage in the wholesaling of litters of Whippet puppies, or the sale of breeding stock or individuals to pet shops or other commercial sources of distribution.*

**Basset Hound Club of America**

**(basset-bhca.com)**

*Breeder Code of Ethical Conduct: No member of this club shall engage in the wholesaling of litters or the selling of breeding stock to commercial sales operations.*

**American Maltese Association, Inc.**

**(americanmaltese.org)**

*Member Code of Ethics: I will not knowingly deal with dog wholesalers, commercial retailers, brokers or unethical dog breeders, nor supply dogs for raffles, "give away" prizes or other such projects.*

**American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.**

**(amsc.us)**

*Code of Ethics: The breeder will not sell or dispose of any dog through pet shops, wholesalers, commercial dealers or paid agents.*

**American Pomeranian Club, Inc.**

**(americanpomeranianclub.org)**

*Code of Ethics: I will not sell my puppies to pet shops or commercial pet mill establishments, nor will I donate puppies for raffles or auctions.*

**American Spaniel Club, Inc.**

**(asc-cockerspaniel.org)**

*Code of Ethics: Breeders shall refrain from selling puppies to pet shops either outright or on consignment; refrain from supplying puppies for auctions, raffles, or other such enterprises; refrain from selling to persons whose intention to resell is known or suspected; refrain from breeding litters primarily for the pet market.*

**Australian Cattle Dog Club of America**

**(acdca.org)**

*Breeder Code of Ethics: As an ACDCA Code of Ethics Breeder, I agree that no puppies will be knowingly sold to franchised commercial facilities, puppy brokers, puppy mills or agents thereof.*

**Boston Terrier Club of America, Inc.**

**(bostonterrierclubofamerica.org)**

*Code of Ethics: I will sell no Boston Terrier to a commercial facility, puppy broker, pet shop, puppy mill or their agent.*

**Bulldog Club of America**

**(bulldogclubofamerica.org)**

*Breeder's Code of Ethics: Responsible breeders refuse to sell or recommend breeders who do not conform to the ideals and obligations expressed in this Code and shall not engage in wholesaling litters or in individual sales or consignments of pups or adults to pet shops, dealers, catalog houses or other commercial establishments, nor shall they be donated or given as prizes in contests, raffles, or fund-raising events, no matter how charitable.*

**Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.**  
**(chihuahuclubofamerica.com)**

Code of Ethics: *I pledge to be responsible for all Chihuahuas that I have produced for their entire life-time by never buying, selling or trading my/our Chihuahuas to research laboratories, pet stores, or to auctions nor placing them in rescue groups.*

**Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.**  
**(cspca.com)**

Breeders Code of Conduct: *I agree to never sell or give any puppy or dog to pet stores either on consignment or outright.*

**Collie Club of America, Inc.**  
**(collieclubofamerica.org)**

Code of Ethics: *No member shall knowingly sell or place, trade or give any Collie of any age to pet dealers, catalog houses, or other commercial sources; nor shall Collies be given as prizes, auctioned, or exploited to the detriment of the breed.*

**Dachshund Club of America, Inc.**  
**(dachshund-dca.org)**

Code of Ethics: *To never supply a Dachshund to pet shops, commercial brokers or dealers, raffles or similar projects.*

**Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.**  
**(thedca.org)**

Ethical Guidelines: *I hereby pledge to ensure that puppies and adults produced by my brood bitch or stud dog are never knowingly sold or consigned to pet stores, wholesalers, or commercial dealers.*

**French Bull Dog Club of America**  
**(frenchbulldogclub.org)**

Code of Ethics and Sportsmanship: *As a member of the French Bull Dog Club of America, I will not sell a French Bulldog to any commercial facility, puppy brokers, pet shop, puppy mill or agent thereof.*

**German Shepherd Dog Club of America**  
**(gsdca.org)**

Club Code of Conduct: *No GSD will be sold to wholesalers or retail stores for the purpose of resale.*

Breeders Code: *I hereby pledge to refuse to sell or recommend breeders who do not conform to the ideals and obligations expressed in this Code and refuse all sales to dog wholesalers and retailers.*

**Golden Retriever Club of America**  
**(grca.org)**

Responsibilities as a Breeder: *Members should not sell dogs at auction, or to brokers or commercial dealers.*

**Greyhound Club of America**  
**(greyhoundclubofamericainc.org)**

Ethical Standards: *Breeders shall not knowingly sell or consign puppies or adult dogs to pet stores, puppy brokers or other commercial dealers.*

**Havanese Club of America**  
**(havanese.org)**

Code of Ethics: *No Havanese will be sold to pet dealers, pet stores, pet wholesalers, or pet brokers either singly or in litter lots.*

**Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.**  
**(minpin.org)**

*Code of Ethics: No Miniature Pinscher shall be sold to commercial facilities; research laboratories; pet shops; brokers who purchase litter lots or individuals for re-sale to pet shops or other commercial facilities, puppy mills or their agents.*

**Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.**  
**(ncanewfs.org)**

*Ethics Guide: Responsibilities of Members: To refuse to sell Newfoundland dogs to any pet shop, or any wholesale dealer in dogs, or knowingly to sell or aid or abet the sale of any Newfoundland to a person or agent who will sell the animal through a pet shop.*

**Old English Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.**  
**(oldenglishsheepdogclubofamerica.org)**

*Code of Ethics: Puppies may not be sold from any temporary marketplace or transient headquarters, no litters purchased or taken on consignment for resale, nor dogs wholesaled to pet shops, auctions, dealers, contest sponsors, raffles, etc.*

**Papillon Club of America, Inc.**  
**(papillonclub.org)**

*Code of Ethics: No member of the Papillon Club of America will sell at wholesale or to retail outlets, brokers, pet shops, mail order houses, or businesses of similar commercial enterprise, or donate a dog to be offered as a prize.*

**Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.**  
**(pwdca.org)**

*Section 1 All PWDCA Members shall: Not sell, place or consign any Portuguese Water Dog to a commercial facility, business or agent thereof.*

**Pug Dog Club of America, Inc.**  
**(pugs.org)**

*Code of Ethics: No member shall EVER sell or donate dogs for auctions or raffles, or to pet shops, catalog houses, brokers or for resale purposes.*

**Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States**  
**(rrcus.org)**

*Code of Ethics: Members will not knowingly furnish puppies or adult dogs for wholesale, pet shops, puppy brokers, commercial facilities, guard dog businesses or agents thereof, or dispose of them as "Give away" prizes or auction items; neither will they sell puppies to nor breed to dogs owned by those whom they have reason to believe may do so.*

**Samoyed Club of America, Inc.**  
**(samoyedclubofamerica.org)**

*Code of Ethics: The SCA member does not sell, consign, or transfer puppies, or adults to pet shops, wholesale dealers, contest sponsors, or anyone who is known to degrade the Samoyed breed or purebred dogs, or to individuals contemplating breeding and/or sale to the aforementioned.*

**Scottish Terrier Club of America**  
**(stca.biz)**

*Code of Ethics: Not knowingly sell a Scottish Terrier of any age to a pet shop, catalog house, laboratory or any wholesale dealer in dogs (a dealer being a person who regularly buys dogs for sale at profit), or to any person who sells to any of the above.*

**Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.**  
**(shca.org)**

Code of Ethics: *I pledge that I will refuse to deal with dog wholesalers or to sell puppies or dogs to pet shops, and I will include in all stud contracts an agreement to be signed by the owner of the bitch that no puppies resulting from the mating will be wholesaled or sold to pet shops.*

**Skye Terrier Club of America**  
**(clubs.akc.org/skye)**

Code of Ethics: *To refrain from knowingly selling, trading, or giving Skye Terriers or providing stud service to a commercial breeder, pet shop, research laboratory or any person known to be unethical in his/her dealings in purebred dogs.*

**Spinone Club of America**  
**(spinoneclubofamerica.com)**

Code of Conduct: *Members will not sell, transfer or consign a dog to pet shops, unethical breeders, or other commercial ventures including lotteries, raffles or auctions.*

**Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America**  
**(sbtca.com)**

Code of Ethics: *Litters shall not be sold to a person en-bloc, to commercial sources, or for purposes of resale.*

**St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.**  
**(saintbernardclub.org)**

Guidelines and Statement of Policy: *No member shall buy or sell St. Bernards through commercial pet outlets, nor buy or sell in litter lots, nor sell to persons whose activities tend to degrade the Breed.*

**Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.**  
**(ttca-online.org)**

Guidelines for Responsible Breeders: *A responsible breeder does not sell or consign Tibetan Terriers to pet shops or other commercial dealers, nor does he breed his animals to their animals.*

**Weimaraner Club of America**  
**(weimaranerclubofamerica.org)**

Code of Ethics: *The owner/breeder shall not breed, sell or consign puppies or adults to pet shops or other commercial dealers.*