

- **What is a puppy mill vs. a breeder?**
  - Many businesses that sell or adopt out dogs must be licensed or registered under the Federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
  - Different types of licenses are required depending on the type of activity involving dogs.
  - “A Class A licensee is a breeder whose business consists of dogs and other regulated animals bred and raised on his or her premises in a closed or stable colony.” (USDA Fact Sheet)
  - “A Class B licensee is a dealer or broker whose business includes the purchase and/or resale of any dog or other regulated animal.”
  - There are certain exemptions for licensure, including, but not limited to, if a breeder maintains four or fewer “breeding females” on the premises, or if a breeder always sells pets to new owners in face-to-face transactions.
  - There are also regulations under the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) under the Pet Animal Care Facilities Act (PACFA). These regulations specify many details of different types of animal care facilities, including retail establishments. More information can be found in the link below.
- **Does Pet City get their animals from a puppy mill?**
  - Staff have visited Pet City and have spoken to the owner about the sources of their animals. They have said that they have trusted veterinarians visit their breeders and they only source from trusted, licensed breeders. Staff have not independently verified this information.
  - Pet City appears to meet the requirements to be licensed under PACFA.
- **What are the rules and laws that retail pet stores need to follow?**
  - The rules under PACFA relate specifically to operations within the state of Colorado. Federal regulations generally do not seem to include retail establishments and instead focus more specifically on regulation of breeding facilities.
- **How many other cities in Colorado passed a similar ordinance?**
  - Fourteen (14) municipalities in Colorado have enacted puppy mill ordinances. Most have only banned the sale of dogs and cats from pet stores; however, a couple municipalities have banned all dog and cat sales generally.
  - Most other Colorado municipalities with puppy mill ordinances do have specific definitions for breeders to distinguish them from puppy mills.
- **Did those cities have to shut down any stores? If so, how many?**
  - Of the 14 municipalities that have passed puppy mill ordinances in Colorado, only the City of Fountain had an existing pet store that actively sold dogs and cats at the time its ordinance was passed. The City ultimately decided to create an exception for its one existing pet store to continue selling dogs and cats so long as it complies with USDA licensing requirements.

Sources: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_welfare/downloads/breeders/dogs/TechNote-QA-Dog-Activities-Requiring-a-USDA-License-or-Registration\\_11-29-2018.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/breeders/dogs/TechNote-QA-Dog-Activities-Requiring-a-USDA-License-or-Registration_11-29-2018.pdf)

PACFA Rules 2023:

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/Upload/NoticeOfRulemaking/ProposedRuleAttach2023-00036.pdf>