

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Rally Against Puppy Mills**

Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at The Shanty (401 E 9th Street)



Tucson, Ariz--- **It is estimated that 10,000 puppy mills produce more than 2,400,000 puppies a year in the United States and that most pet store puppies come from puppy mills.**

Imagine a warehouse. Inside this warehouse, row after row and shelf after shelf of inventory is stuffed into cramped metal cages. The "inventory" in each box is half a dozen or more puppies - frequently hungry, sickly, and covered in the feces of the "inventory" shelved above and below them. That is the life of a puppy born in a puppy mill. The suffering is not so temporary for the "lifers." The breeding stock animals are imprisoned in overcrowded, filthy cages and repetitively bred – even inbred – until they simply no longer can, often without ever leaving their cages. Minimal vet care, poor-quality food, and small living quarters are hallmarks of the substandard conditions in which countless mothers give birth to hundreds of thousands of puppies yearly. These are the puppy mill puppies. These are the puppies sold in many pet stores in Tucson.

Animals raised in puppy mills are held in neglectful, inhumane, and unsanitary conditions without proper food, water, shelter or veterinary care. And once an animal in a puppy mill is no longer considered profitable, it is euthanized.

**“On Tuesday I’ll be bringing a proposed Ordinance to the Mayor and Council that would restrict the retail sale of dogs and cats to only those that come from shelters**

or rescue agencies. This is not 'anti-business' — Phoenix, San Diego, Austin, and El Paso have all enacted similar or even stricter ordinances, and they all rank highly as business friendly cities. What it does is cause pet stores to be a part of the solution to overcrowded shelters and the euthanization of thousands of dogs and cats every year, which costs City taxpayers millions of dollars. By requiring these stores to embrace a different business model, they will stop subsidizing the Puppy Mill industry by allowing pet stores to 'source' their products from brokers who treat their animals like commodities to be bought and sold, regardless of the conditions under which they're raised." *Councilman Steve Kozachik February 27, 2014*

“We pay dearly for failing to curb the sale of puppy mill animals. This ordinance is going to save the lives of dogs and spare pet owners the heartache and cost of bringing a sick animal into their home. Also, by eliminating the sale of puppy mill dogs/cats, we will stop the inevitable use of resources that happens when we do close a puppy mill,” *says Kozachik.*

**There is a simple way to discourage the operation of Puppy Mills: stop selling their animals. What the Ordinance does is simply ethical.**

Learn more... <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVyFSTYY7zg>

## **RALLY TO STOP PUPPY MILLS**

Please join Councilman Kozachik, his staff and other supporters on **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30 pm at The Shanty on 4th Avenue and 9th Street** for an 'adoption rally.' In a show of support for the proposed Ordinance, the Humane Society will be bringing down several of their adoptable pets. Come on by and join in support of the Ordinance.

“You might go home with a new family member and will have saved a life in the process.”

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