

1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, November 10, 2016 has been designated as National
3 Puppy Mill Awareness Day, a day where the National Puppy Mill
4 Project and animal advocates around the country will join
5 together to ban puppy mills and their cruelty to animals; and

6 WHEREAS, According to the Humane Society of the United
7 States, it is estimated that 10,000 puppy mills produce more
8 than 2.4 million puppies a year in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Puppy mills are mass-breeding facilities that
10 churn out puppies in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions
11 without adequate veterinary care, food, water, or
12 socialization; and

13 WHEREAS, The inhumane conditions in puppy mill facilities
14 lead to health and behavioral issues, as well as congenital and
15 hereditary illness and disease; puppy mill puppies often arrive
16 in pet stores and their new homes with various diseases,
17 including giardia, parvovirus kennel cough, heartworm, and
18 distemper; these diseases can lead to excessive veterinary
19 costs both upfront and down the line; and

20 WHEREAS, Enforcement authorities at local, state, and
21 federal levels lack the resources to sufficiently monitor

1 breeding facilities for inhumane treatment, which allow puppy
2 mills to continue to operate with impunity; due to budget
3 constraints, the Illinois Department of Agriculture employs
4 only 7 inspectors who are charged with overseeing more than
5 1,300 dog dealers, kennel operators, and pet shop operators in
6 the State; and

7 WHEREAS, Every year, millions of cats and dogs are
8 euthanized in our nation's animal shelters because there are
9 more pets than there are responsible homes for them; puppy
10 mills contribute to pet overpopulation and cause countless
11 animals lifetimes of suffering; and

12 WHEREAS, Facilities in Illinois have impounded tens of
13 thousands of dogs and cats that are not reclaimed by the owner;
14 these facilities ultimately have to euthanize many thousands of
15 animals; and

16 WHEREAS, Across the country, thousands of independent pet
17 stores and large chains operate profitably with a business
18 model focused on the sale of pet services and supplies and not
19 on the sale of dogs and cats; many of these stores collaborate
20 with local animal shelters and rescue organizations to offer
21 space and support for showcasing adoptable homeless pets on
22 their premises; and

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1 WHEREAS, Illinois residents are encouraged to "adopt and
2 not shop", because adopting homeless dogs from shelters and
3 rescues helps put us closer to our goal of making Illinois a
4 no-kill community and helps put bad breeders out of business;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we designate September
8 18, 2016 as "Puppy Mill Awareness Day" in the State of Illinois
9 in order to raise awareness of puppy mills and their effect on
10 the animals and people of this State.