Factsheet

Petfax Act (H.R. 5715)
H.R. 5715 is led by Reps. Charlie Crist (D-FL) and Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)

What does the Petfax Act do?
The bipartisan PetFax Act would promote honesty and transparency in the sales of dogs and cats. If you purchase a car, you can get the car’s full history from a Carfax report, but when it comes to purchasing a dog or cat, the public is kept in the dark about the animal’s history and where it was bred. The bill addresses several key problems with puppy mills and pet stores:

- It requires that sellers of dogs and cats disclose certain information to a customer about the animals, including information identifying the dealer who bred the animals, the number of dogs bred and sold by that dealer over the past two years, a listing of any violations the dealer has had in the past two years, and health information about the animals, including whether a veterinarian was seen, vaccinations administered, and congenital disease.
- The bill makes it illegal to misrepresent the source of a dog or cat, including misrepresenting whether the animal came from a high-volume breeder.
- It requires that animal welfare inspection records, including breeder inspection reports, are reinstated on the USDA website, as they were prior to being taken down in 2017.
- Similar to the WOOF Act, which has over 200 cosponsors, it prohibits USDA from issuing or renewing a license to a dealer who has had a suspension within the past 10 years. It also prevents a license from being granted to the immediate family member of a dealer who has had their license suspended or revoked, to someone who resides at the same address, or to an entity where the dealer holds an ownership interest.

Puppy Mills are Cruel – It’s No Way to Treat a Dog
Puppy mills are large, commercial dog breeding operations that produce puppies to sell in pet stores and on the internet. Over 100,000 mother dogs suffer in puppy mills where they are bred repeatedly and forced to spend their entire lives in barren cages without ever touching a blade of grass. Horrific, painful injuries are commonplace and frequently go untreated. When the mothers are no longer able to reproduce, they are killed.

Puppy Mills Spread Disease & Consumers are Frequently Deceived
Puppy mills aren’t just cruel – they also pose a public health risk and consumer protection issue. Puppies often become sick due to the poor breeding, unsanitary conditions of mills, and long-distance transport to pet stores where they are sold to unsuspecting customers. Current laws and regulations are so weak, they are survival standards at best.
Families are devastated after their new puppy dies of illness, and in several cases, the sick puppies have passed dangerous diseases onto people, such as campylobacter, a bacterial infection. The CDC undertook a major investigation in 2019 tying campylobacter to puppies sold from pet stores. Pet stores have a track record of deceiving consumers about the source of a puppy - they deny that their puppies come from mills and don’t disclose health problems.

*Over 300 localities across the nation have adopted legislation restricting the sale of puppies in pet stores, and numerous state legislatures are taking up the issue.*