



RESOLUTION # 48.3/24

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 3-17

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 28
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 1
Vote Req: -
Other Action: -
1 Vacant Dist

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 6
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 1/1

RE: SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR STATEWIDE EFFORTS FOR ENHANCED REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT PROHIBITING PUPPY MILLS

WHEREAS, the existence of puppy mills, that is breeding environments in which puppies are bred primarily in pursuit of profit and are cared for only minimally, is unconscionable for reasons including, but not limited to, the way animals are treated and the significant consumer risks related to unhealthy animals; and,

WHEREAS, the federal Animal Welfare Act, which governs the humane treatment of animals bred for purposes of sale, is administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, has been highly ineffective in stopping puppy mills due to limited authority and lax enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, 2009 Wisconsin Act 90, which took effect on June 1, 2011, and is administered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and which was intended to protect dogs and the people who buy or adopt them, also suffers from limited scope and insufficient enforcement; and,

WHEREAS, consistent, uniform, statewide application of enhanced animal welfare statutes and significantly increased enforcement of such statutes is essential to effectively address the multitude of negative impacts from puppy mills, the multiple sources of breeders who mistreat animals, and the multiple ways in which bad breeders mistreat animals, which includes, but is not limited to, over-breeding; inbreeding; minimal veterinary care; lack of socialization, exercise, and enrichment; lack of adequate food, water, and shelter; and lack of sanitation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors hereby encourages the State of Wisconsin to enhance its animal welfare laws related to the regulation of dog breeders, sellers, and facility operators; to significantly increase its enforcement efforts and resources to stop puppy mills in the State of Wisconsin and to stop the inflow of puppies into Wisconsin from puppy mills outside of Wisconsin; and to create a consistent, uniform, statewide approach for curtailing puppy mills, protecting consumers, and preventing animal abuse and mistreatment related to puppy mills.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Clerk is directed to distribute a copy of this resolution to each state legislator representing La Crosse County and to the Wisconsin Counties Association for consideration in their legislative platform.

FISCAL NOTE: No direct fiscal impact to La Crosse County at this time. Any future changes to state statutes could impact permitting processes in the Zoning Department

Date: 3/12/24
Christina J. Isola
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 3-12-24
Jeff Buckner
RECORDING CLERK

Reviewed Only Recommended Not Recommended
Co. Admin. JK _____
Fin. Director JK _____
Corp. Counsel JK _____
Board Chair _____

Requested By: Gary Padesky & Peg Isola
Date Requested: February 27, 2024
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 21 Day of March, 2024

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 21st day of March 2024.

Ginny Dankmeyer
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk