

# **Dog Birth Certificate**

The dog birth certificate legislation will enforce every dog's PIN, license and microchip number with a state agency for the safety of the pet and owner.

Tag Words: Puppy, Dog Birth Certificate, Puppy Mills

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## **Summary**

The dog birth certificate legislation would alleviate the trouble that owners have to go through when buying a new pet. The pet's father and mother would be registered with the state so that any previously identified genetic or hereditary diseases would be available to the new owners. The dog's PIN number that would be identified on the birth certificate would also be the license number of the dog and the microchip number if the owner chooses to use this technology. This legislation would hopefully allow owner's to have a thorough understanding of their new pet's background as well as a registration of their animal's ownership and proof of the sale of their pet.

## **Video Link**

Dog Birth Certificate: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MKmvpIGp-k>

## **The Issue: Dog Birth Certificates**

### Puppy Mill Background Information

Puppy mills are large breeding facilities that care more about making money than the actual welfare of the dog. Female dogs are bred constantly with little to no break between litters, and once they can no longer breed, they are usually killed. The puppies that are born are kept in either confined, dirty spaces inside in order to maximize space, or kept outside where they are exposed to all different weather conditions. Puppies are usually housed in wire cages in order to be able to go to the bathroom where they live. This allows the workers of the facility to not have to walk the dogs or take them outside. The wire cages also bury into the dog's feet creating sores and open cuts on the bottoms of the pads. In addition to being crammed in their cages all day, the puppies are not socialized with humans and do not receive toys, treats, or grooming. [www.ASPCA.org](http://www.ASPCA.org) (1).

The main purpose is to breed as many dogs as possible in order to make as much money as possible. Majorities of puppy mills do not pay for their dogs to be properly cared for and vaccinated. In addition, if a dog does become sick, it is very rare that puppy mill owners call a vet to take care of the puppy. This does not benefit the breeder because it is money out of his or her pocket. In addition to not taking care of the puppies, significant amounts of puppies in mills are also diagnosed with some type of skin condition like mange or mites. Breeders do not take care of these issues and expect them to resolve on their own. Not only are the living conditions that the dogs are kept in unsanitary, but also the health conditions that the dogs are born with are not taken care of. In order to maximize the number of puppies being born, the owner of the puppy mill will not care if one of the female dogs being bred has a congenital or hereditary illness. The female dogs will continually be bred even if sick puppies are being born. In order to sell these puppies though, their records are falsified so the puppies will be bought and still make money for the puppy mill. [www.ASPCA.org](http://www.ASPCA.org) (1).

### Correlation with Undiagnosed Genetic/Hereditary Disorders

Puppies that are bought from puppy mills run the risk of having a genetic disease. Owners of mills are not in it for the health of the puppy, but rather the cost of the puppy. A genetic disease is inherited through the offspring's parents. Some diseases include hip dysplasia, epilepsy, heart disease, kidney disease, eye problems, and more (ASPCA.org). These diseases are discovered right away or later on when the puppy has already been with his or her owner for a while. Purchasing a puppy with a disorder can cause many hardships on the owner because taking care of a puppy in itself is already a big responsibility.

Mati Hanish is an example of someone who purchased his or her puppy from a puppy mill farm. This owner bought a female Maltese, London that she immediately fell in love with. However, London came from an older farmhouse and Mati was denied from seeing London's parents and the breeding operations. Mati still went through with taking London home and that was when all of the problems arose. Once London was brought home, she began to get sick and was taken to the veterinarian; this caused Mati to rack up vet bills. London was diagnosed with a disease that did not allow her lungs to fully develop. This disease caused London to pass away at one year old after she developed pneumonia.

[www.ASPCA.org](http://www.ASPCA.org) (1).

When animals have certain disorders they are not able to receive a rabies vaccine, so a veterinarian will have to write a special letter to the town excusing the animal from a rabies vaccine. Additionally, if there is a heart disease in the dog then they have to go to a specialist, which can be extremely costly for the pet owner.

### Present Microchip Information

*Are there different registries?*

Yes, and that, too, used to be problematic. Different chip companies maintained separate databases. Now, some chip companies will register pets with any brand of chip. Also, the American Microchip Advisory Council is working to develop a network of the registry databases to streamline the return of pets to their families.

*Where can I get my pet microchipped?*

Many veterinarians and some animal shelters implant microchips for a small fee. This is done with a large-bore needle and doesn't require anesthesia. **However—and this is very important—just getting a microchip isn't enough—you also need to register your pet with the microchip company.**

**How do I register my pet?** Complete the paperwork that comes with the chip and send it to the registry, or do it online if that option is available. Some companies charge a one-time registration fee while others charge an annual fee. You'll also receive a tag for your pet's collar with the chip number and registry phone number.

<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/tips/microchips.html> (2).

Dogs and puppies cost about \$100 from a shelter. This includes the initial vaccinations, a microchip including national registration, spaying and neutering costs, a 7-day exchange and a free veterinary medical examination at a participating veterinary office. This fee does not include the dog-licensing fee.

### Present Dog Enforcement Laws in Pennsylvania

- All dogs three months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are issued by the County Treasurer.
- All dogs must be under control and must not be allowed to run at large. Dogs are personal property, and owners are responsible for damages caused by their dog.
- It is illegal to mistreat or abuse any animal. Violations should be reported to a local humane organization or the police.
- It is illegal to abandon or attempt to abandon any dog.
- No dog under eight weeks of age may be sold, traded, bartered or transferred.
- You may not place any poison or harmful substance in any place where dogs may easily eat it, whether it is your own property or elsewhere.
- You must have a current kennel license if you operate a facility that keeps, harbors, boards, shelters, sells, gives away or transfers a total of 26 or more dogs in any one calendar year.
- Owners of dogs 3 months of age or older are required to have a current rabies vaccination. It is illegal to interfere with an officer or employee of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture engaged in enforcement of dog laws.

[http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_2\\_24476\\_10297\\_0\\_43/http;/10.41.0.36/AgWebsite/ProgramDetail.aspx?name=PA-Dog-Licensing-&navid=12&parentnavid=0&palid=100&\(3\)](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_24476_10297_0_43/http;/10.41.0.36/AgWebsite/ProgramDetail.aspx?name=PA-Dog-Licensing-&navid=12&parentnavid=0&palid=100&(3)).

Each County and Region has its own dog enforcement agent.

a. The Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

*Bureau is charged with the following responsibilities:*

- Enforcing licensing and control of dogs
  - Enforcing kennel licensing and inspections
  - Investigating dog bites
  - Seizing and detaining any dog seen running at large
  - Reimbursing individuals for dog-caused damage to livestock, poultry and domestic game birds
  - Establishing and enforcing the quarantine of dogs in certain areas when required
  - Funding counties and humane organizations to establish dog control facilities
  - Providing educational services concerning dog ownership in Pennsylvania
- Enforcing the Pennsylvania Rabies Law

[http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_2\\_24476\\_10297\\_0\\_43/http;/10.41.0.36/AgWebsite/ProgramDetail.aspx?name=PA-Dog-Licensing-&navid=12&parentnavid=0&palid=100&\(3\)](http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_2_24476_10297_0_43/http;/10.41.0.36/AgWebsite/ProgramDetail.aspx?name=PA-Dog-Licensing-&navid=12&parentnavid=0&palid=100&(3))

b. Pennsylvania Pet Sales

This Pennsylvania statute comprises the state's Dog Purchaser Protection law. The law mandates disclosure of a dog's health history by a seller (defined as pet shop operator or other individual who sells dogs to the public and who owns or operates a kennel or pet shop licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of Agriculture). If, within ten days after the date of purchase, a dog purchased from a seller is determined, through physical examination, diagnostic tests or necropsy by a veterinarian, to be clinically ill or dies from any contagious or infectious illness or any parasitic illness which renders it unfit for purchase or results in its death, the purchaser may exercise one of the described statutory elections.

201-9.3. Dog purchaser protection

(a)(1) A seller shall provide a purchaser of a dog with a health record for a dog at the time of sale. In addition, the seller shall provide to the purchaser a health certificate issued by a veterinarian within twenty-one days prior to the date of sale for the dog or a guarantee of good health issued and signed by the seller. The health record supplied by the seller shall set forth the following:

- (i) The dog's breed. If the breed is unknown or mixed, the health record shall so indicate. If the dog is advertised or represented as registrable, the name and address of the pedigree registry organization where the dam and sire are registered shall be indicated.
- (ii) The dog's date of birth. If the dog is not advertised as or sold as purebred, registered or registrable, the date of birth may be approximated if not known by the seller.
- (iii) The dog's sex.

- (iv) The dog's color and markings.
  - (v) A list of all vaccinations, if known, administered to the dog, the date and type of vaccinations and the name of the person who administered them, if known, up to the date of sale; a record of any known disease, illness or condition with which the dog is or has been afflicted at the time of the sale; and a record of any veterinary treatment or medication received by the dog while in possession of the seller to treat any disease, illness or condition.
  - (vi) The date, dosage and type of any parasitical medicine, if known, that was administered to the dog.
  - (vii) The name, address and signature of the seller, along with a statement affirming all of the information provided in this subsection is true to the best of the seller's knowledge and belief.
- (2)(i) A health certificate issued by a veterinarian shall certify the dog sold by the seller to be apparently free of any contagious or infectious illness and apparently free from any defect which is congenital or hereditary and diagnosable with reasonable accuracy and does not appear to be clinically ill from parasitic infestation at the time of the physical examination. The health certificate shall include the name, address and signature of the veterinarian and the date the dog was examined.
- (ii) A guarantee of good health issued by the seller, and dated and signed by the seller and the purchaser on the date of the sale, warranting that the dog being sold is apparently free of and does not exhibit any signs of any contagious or infectious disease, is apparently free from and does not exhibit any signs of any defect which is congenital or hereditary; and does not exhibit any signs of being clinically ill or exhibit any signs of a parasitic infestation on the date of the sale.

The guarantee of good health shall clearly state in bold type:

**THIS GUARANTEE DOES NOT WARRANT THAT THIS DOG HAS BEEN EXAMINED BY A VETERINARIAN. THE PURCHASER IS ENCOURAGED TO HAVE THIS DOG EXAMINED BY A VETERINARIAN AS SOON AFTER PURCHASE AS IS FEASIBLE.**

[http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stuspa73ps201\\_9\\_3.htm](http://www.animallaw.info/statutes/stuspa73ps201_9_3.htm) (4).

### International Regulations

#### *a. United Kingdom Animal Laws*

The [Pet Animals Act 1951](#) establishes a regulatory regime for “pet shops” under which local authorities (district and borough councils) are responsible for inspecting and licensing premises. The Act does not restrict the definition of “pet shop” to establishments visited by potential customers as the ordinary meaning of “pet shop” would suggest. Section 7(1) of the Act defines “pet shop” to include:

- (i) any premises from which a business of selling animals as pets is carried on, and
- (ii) any premises in which animals are kept with a view to their being sold in the course of such a business.

This definition is broad enough to cover premises that merely hold animals that are in the pet supply chain.

The kinds of pet animals covered by the Act include “any description of vertebrate”. It therefore applies to a broad range of animals, including all mammals, birds, fish and reptiles. The word “pet” is not defined, but, in the case of cats and dogs, the Act relates to those sold or kept “wholly or mainly for domestic purposes”. Animals sold or kept “for ornamental purposes” are also included.

When deciding whether to grant a license, local authorities must consider a number of issues

such as:

- a) the needs of the animals, such as suitable accommodation and food and water,
- b) the welfare of the animals, including that they are not sold when they are too young,
- c) the precautions that need to be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, and
- d) fire procedures.

The local authority is to specify conditions in the licenses that they grant to secure those objectives. Keeping a pet shop without a license and failing to comply with a license condition are criminal offenses.

The Act bans the selling of animals in public places and from market stalls. A subject of dispute between certain local authorities and animal welfare campaigners has been whether one-day exotic animal fairs are prohibited. These are events, typically held at leisure centers and racecourses, at which a number of breeders and dealers have stalls from which they sell animals. The Act also bans the selling of pets to persons under twelve years of age.

<http://www.animallaw.info/nonus/articles/qvukuklrps.htm> (5).

#### *b. Britain Animal Laws*

The Animal Welfare Act replaced this and has made some important updates, for example in relation to cruelty and fighting offences. Most significantly for the first time it has introduced legislation for pet owners – giving them a legal duty of care to meet the five welfare needs of their pets. The law also applies to those who are responsible for animals, such as those that breed animals or keep working animals.

The five welfare needs means pet owners are now legally obliged to care for their pet properly - which most owners already do - by providing these five basic needs:

1. Somewhere suitable to live
2. A proper diet, including fresh water
3. The ability to express normal behavior
4. For any need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals
5. Protection from, and treatment of, illness and injury.

<http://www.rspca.org.uk/in-action/changingthelaw/whatwechanged/animalwelfareact> (6).

#### *c. Australia Animal Laws*

The objects of this Regulation are to repeal and remake, with minor changes of substance, the provisions of various regulations in force under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*. The new Regulation:

(a) identifies the following businesses as animal trades for the purposes of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* (clause 5):

pet shops

animal boarding, breeding and transport establishments

pet grooming establishments

security dog establishments

riding centres and boarding stables

(b) prescribes Codes of Practice relevant to the conduct of such businesses (clause 6),

(c) creates offences relevant to the conduct of such businesses (clause 7),

(d) contains other formal provisions (clauses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8).

This Regulation is made under the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979* , including section 35 (the general regulation making power) and section 4. This Regulation is made in connection with the staged repeal of subordinate legislation under the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1989* .

#### Offences in relation to the conduct of animal trades

(1) The proprietor of an animal trade, and each person concerned in the management of an animal trade, must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the requirements of this clause:

- (a) in relation to the conduct of the trade generally, and
  - (b) in relation to the care and treatment of animals used or kept in connection with the conduct of the trade,
- are observed by all persons employed in the trade.

(2) The requirements of this clause in relation to the conduct of an animal trade generally are as follows:

- (a) the premises in which animals are kept must be maintained in a clean and hygienic condition,
- (b) each person who has duties in relation to the care or treatment of animals must be appropriately supervised in the conduct of his or her duties,
- (c) appropriate records must be kept to ensure that the care and treatment of animals can be properly monitored,
- (d) without limiting the requirements of the foregoing paragraphs, the provisions of each Code of Practice that is relevant to that trade must be complied with.

(3) The requirements of this clause in relation to the care and treatment of animals used or kept in connection with the conduct of an animal trade are as follows:

- (a) each animal is to be provided with accommodation and equipment that is suited to the physical and behavioural requirements of the animal,
- (b) each animal is to be protected from extreme climatic and environmental conditions and from interference by people,
- (c) each animal is to be provided with sufficient space within which to rest, stand, stretch, swim, fly or otherwise move about,
- (d) each animal is to be provided with a sufficient quantity of appropriate food and water to maintain good health,
- (e) each animal must be protected from exposure to disease, distress and injury and, in the event that the animal becomes diseased, distressed or injured, must be promptly provided with appropriate treatment,
- (f) each animal must be periodically inspected to ensure that it is receiving appropriate food and water and is free from disease, distress and injury,
- (g) without limiting the requirements of the foregoing paragraphs, the provisions of each Code of Practice that is relevant to the care and treatment of animals kept or used in that trade must be complied with.

(4) A person does not commit an offence in respect of any failure to comply with the requirements of this clause if the failure occurs despite the person having done all that he or she could reasonably be expected to have done to comply with those requirements.

<http://www.animallaw.info/nonus/administrative/adaupoctaatraderg1996.htm>(7)

#### New Legislation for Pet Identification

After 4 months, a pet can receive a microchip.

<http://www.cap4pets.org/pet-care/microchips> (8).

In order to successfully keep track of all pet identification numbers, a nationwide database needs to be put into effect so all dogs can be properly registered. The actual record of birth is then stored with a state agency. There will be different agencies, one for each state, that will keep the dog birth certificates on file. That agency will issue certified copies of the dog birth certificate upon request which can be used to apply for the pet microchip. A pet microchip database will be able to identify all pets registered, as well as link to the pet's birth certificate. The dog's microchip will auto-link to the birth certificate, which will include the state that the pet is registered under. This way if a pet goes missing and the microchip is scanned, then that pet's state agency can be contacted.

There should also be a contract of sale provided by the breeder/seller with any information regarding reimbursements, refunds, etc. All registered breeders must follow the proper protocol for registering each puppy that he or she sells. Not only will breeders be responsible for making sure that the pet birth certificate is registered with the state, but buyers should also beware of where they are purchasing their pet from. If a breeder is not supplying the buyer with any information on the dog then caution should be taken. The monitoring of breeders needs to also be carefully watched so there are no "under ground" breeders who are not registering their puppies.

The breeder will have paid for and submitted the dog's birth certificate for registration to the local authorities. When the puppy is 8- 10 weeks old they also need to see a vet and receive a health certificate. If the pet is in good health, vaccination can also be started for the pet. There will only be one registration for the life of the animal that identifies the pet identification number, which is also the license number.

Every dog or animal kept at a kennel or licensed facility also needs to have a birth record or license, which must be produced at time of sale. In order to keep a dog at a boarding or kennel facility, the pet's birth certificate must be brought to the facility to be kept on record. These facilities will not accept dogs that do not have their birth certificate with identification and registration number.

*a. Criteria for Birth Certificate*

Dog Pin Number (Microchip Number and License Number):

Dog Name:

Date of Birth:

Dog Sex:

Dog Breed:

Genetic Disorders Associated with the Breed:

Dog Color:

Mother Pin Number:

Breed:

Disorders in Background or Found:

Color:

Father Pin Number:

Breed:

Disorders in Background or Found:

Color:

Breeders Name:

Address:

New Owners Name:

Address:

*b. Pet PIN/License/Microchip ID*

Breeders are required to keep record of each dog and submit an application to receive a birth certificate for each puppy that is born in the facility. The state will then issue a birth certificate with all requirements that will have a specific identification number for the puppy. The number will be on the birth certificate, and also identified as the puppy's PIN number, license number, and microchip number. This way only one number will be required for the pet. This identification number will be similar to a social security number for humans. If a pet were to go missing, then a microchip would successfully identify the pet and owner because there will be one database that has all dogs with their one PIN number. This database will be available for shelters to access so they can identify lost dogs.

*c. Enforcement*

In order to make sure that breeders and owners follow these rules, the owner needs to submit this paperwork to the township when submitting licensing and rabies. This will ensure proper identification and allow for an easier process. Owners only need to submit the birth certificate/ license form the first time, and then the rabies each year. Dogs need to be vaccinated for rabies and then submitted to the township each year so that the township knows owners are taking appropriate care of their pets.

Each year the owner needs to submit a fee that the township deems necessary to own a dog. If the owner does not meet these requirements then there will be a fine of \$100 and the owner will need to have their dog properly licensed and certified. If the owner still does not pay the fine, then they will have a larger fine based on the townships rules. Further violation of the township rules will be in the hands of that township. The owner will have to abide by the rules of his or her township or face the consequences.

This process will enforce owners to purchase dogs from a well respected breeding facility. Owners will need to have their dogs properly registered and licensed with the state and township. The only way owners can make sure their dog is properly licensed is to purchase a puppy from a place that follows these regulations. Owners need to be responsible as well when purchasing a pet, this way puppy mills can be a thing of the past.

## **The Service Project**

### *Pet Birth Certificate Bill* To Enforce Pet Identification in a National Registrar

Whereas, mass breeding of animals is not regulated or documented

Whereas, hereditary and genetic diseases are not tracked nor documented

Whereas, registering every pet birth will allow for more diseases and disorder to be diagnosed and treated

Whereas, the pet birth certificate will document both of the pets' parents' disease or ailments and document the health status of that pet

Whereas, the pet breeder will bring the pet to a veterinarian at the age of 8 weeks and if safe, place a microchip in the pet

Whereas, the certificate will also list the pet identification number, license number, and microchip number which is nationally acknowledged

Whereas, the pet breeder will submit the pets' identification and health certificate to the appropriate authorities

Whereas, one registrar of pet identification numbers and corresponding microchip numbers will allow for all pets' simple identification

Whereas, pet registration in the town of the owner will also be enforced

Whereas, enforcing pet birth certificate legislation will allow for the safety of all pets and the security of the owners

*Enacted,*

Section 1. The pet breeder will be responsible for recording both of the parents' health background on to offspring's birth certificate, as well as bringing the pet for a veterinarian visit at the age of eight week and also placing a microchip in the pet if it is safe at that time.

Section 2. The health certificate and pet's parent's background information will be submitted to the appropriate authorities for verification and production of the new offspring's official birth certificate

Section 3. Upon sale of the pet, the official birth certificate and contract of sale will be provided to the new owners.

Section 4. The new owners are then responsible for registering the pet in their town of residency as well.

Section 5. Enforcement will be the responsibility of the USDA, as this will be an addition to the Animal Welfare Act.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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Companion Animals

An ongoing issue in the United States is the breeding of dogs in puppy mills. The dog birth certificate legislation would alleviate the trouble that owners have to go through when buying a new pet. The pet's father and mother would be registered with the state so that any previously identified genetic or hereditary diseases would be available to the new owners. Owners of mills are not in it for the health of the puppy, but rather the cost of the puppy. A genetic disease is inherited through the offspring's parents. Some diseases include hip dysplasia, epilepsy, heart disease, kidney disease, eye problems, and more (ASPCA.org). These diseases are discovered right away, or later on when the puppy has already been with his or her owner for awhile. Purchasing a puppy with a disorder can cause a lot of hardships on the owner because taking care of a puppy in itself is already a big responsibility.

The actual record of the birth would be stored with a state agency when the pet breeder submits the pet's information in order to receive a registered birth certificate with the pet identification number and corresponding microchip number and license number. When the puppy is old enough, a vet visit is required by contract before selling the puppy to a new owner. This would expose any genetic diseases or new illnesses in the puppy, which would be recorded on the birth certificate. A contract of sale is also necessary, in addition to the registered birth certificate, at the time of purchase.

The Legislation would allow the American Microchip Advisory Council to develop a single network of identification numbers in order for everyone to register their pet and microchip

in one database. This network will allow for sales of puppies to be monitored and controlled, causing puppy mills to be a thing of the past. Not only will all breeders be required to meet these standards, but it will also help owners if he or she loses a pet. This sole database will be available to shelters everywhere in order to return lost dogs to their owner.

This legislation will provide owner's with a thorough understanding of their new pet's background, as well as a registration of their animal's ownership and proof of the sale of their pet.

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## **Editorials**

South Brunswick Post Editorial

### **A Step Forward in Shutting Down Puppy Mills By Danielle Hudak**

One of the most devastating problems with breeding dogs is puppy mills. Puppy mills are large breeding facilities that care more about making money than the welfare of the animal. Owners of puppy mills are driven by money and try to make as much money as possible by spending as little as possible. The females who are bred are kept in wire cages their whole lives with no break between litters. A female dog will be used to breed her whole life and once she can no longer produce litters, she will be euthanized or sold for cheap. However, at that point the female has not been socialized with humans or used to living in a house. A lot of mills will keep the dogs outside in all weather conditions with little to no shelter. The mills that keep the puppies inside are kept in cages that consist of chicken wire with no flat bottom.

These cages are usually stacked up on top of each other so feces and urine falls down onto the puppies below them. In addition, the chicken wire cuts into the paws of these dogs, causing permanent damage. In order to optimize space, owners keep these cages stacked on each other and do not bother to clean them. These unsanitary conditions cause a lot of diseases and health conditions with the puppies. A majority of these puppies will have some form of mange (a skin disease), be infected with parasites, or have another type of illness. Because owners of these puppy mills do not want to spend money, they will not take care of the sick dogs. Not only do the dogs kept in these mills develop illnesses, they are also born with them. The money driven mind set allows the dogs to inbreed and reproduce even if a dog has a genetic/ hereditary disorder.

The puppies that come from these mills are sold through online websites, newspaper ads, and pet stores. A lot of pet stores sell puppy mill dogs and will lie to buyers in order to sell their "merchandise." The dogs are just looked at as dollar signs and even if a dog has a disorder that the breeder knows about, they will still sell the puppy anyways. This later becomes the burden of the owner because they are the ones stuck paying off all the vet bills. Even though the Puppy Lemon Law protects buyers against sick puppies, it does not protect buyers for life. If a genetic disease is diagnosed six months after the purchase, then it is solely the buyer's responsibility. Taking care of a puppy in itself is already a significant responsibility, and adding a ton of vet bills adds to the stress.

A resolution to this horrific situation is a bill to eradicate the issues of puppy mills. The Pet Birth Certificate Bill will set new requirements for breeders and owners when purchasing a puppy. Breeders will be required to provide the buyer with a birth certificate of his or her dog. This birth certificate will contain information about the puppy, as well as the mother and father. Any genetic or hereditary diseases will be placed on this certificate. Also, the breeder will be responsible for registering the puppy with the state in order to receive a birth certificate. This certificate will contain the puppy's identification number and corresponding microchip and licensing number. Before the puppy is sold, the breeder will be responsible to take the puppy to a veterinarian to be checked out for any diseases, as well as receiving a microchip as long as the

puppy is healthy.

The identification, microchip and licensing number will all be the same. This will allow for a fast and simple process to register dogs. In order to give dogs one identification number, there will need to be one microchip company that will control the distribution of these numbers. This database will allow for an easy identification of a dog if he or she were to be lost. It would be available to all shelters so they would be able to look up a dog's information. The Pet Birth Certificate Bill will allow for dog breeding to be controlled and monitored. Buyers will know what to look for when purchasing a puppy and if the puppy does not come with a proper birth certificate and contract of sales then the buyer should look elsewhere. This process will make puppy mills shut down because they will not want to have to do all this work to sell a puppy. The bill will hopefully make puppy mills a thing of the past and encourage safe and healthy breeding of dogs nationwide.

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### Daily Targum Editorial

Today, when a potential new dog owner visits a pet shop or a pet farm, there is not way of knowing the health or the background of the puppy you hope to adopt. However, there should be a way to trace the background of your pet, as well as know the health background of the animal. Dog birth certificate legislation would alleviate the trouble that owners have to go through when buying a new pet. The pet's father and mother would be registered with the state so that any previously identified genetic or hereditary diseases would be available to the new owners. If there is a disease that has already been discovered than the new owner can consider this before adopting the puppy. Hip dysplasia, epilepsy, heart disease and kidney disease are among some of the genetic disorders that many animals can inherit. Purchasing a puppy with a disorder can cause many hardships on the owner because taking care of a puppy in itself is already a big responsibility.

The actual record of the birth would be stored with a state agency when the pet breeder submits the pet's information in order to receive a registered birth certificate with the pet identification number and corresponding microchip number and license number. When the puppy is old enough, a vet visit is required by contract before selling the puppy to a new owner. This would expose any genetic diseases or new illnesses in the puppy, which would be recorded on the birth certificate. A contract of sale is also necessary, in addition to the registered birth certificate, at the time of purchase. The Legislation would allow the American Microchip Advisory Council to develop a single network of in order for everyone to register his or her pet and microchip in one database.

This legislation would hopefully allow owner's to have a thorough understanding of their new pet's background as well as a registration of their animal's ownership and proof of the sale of their pet.

Submitted by: Kayla Hanke