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Missouri Breeder Attempts to Block Chicago Anti-Puppy Mill Ordinance

Over 60 municipalities now have a ban on selling dogs and cats at pet stores. This is in response to the fact that most pet stores acquire their dogs from puppy mills. Montgomery County, MD (suburb of Washington, DC) has just become the latest to do so and has joined such large cities as Los Angeles, San Diego, Miami Beach, Phoenix and Albuquerque.

Chicago has also recently banned the sale of dogs in pet stores; however, a lawsuit has been filed challenging Chicago's new law. Two Chicago pet stores along with a Missouri dog breeder have filed the federal complaint. The pet industry is no doubt concerned that the ban will quickly spread to the entire Chicago area including Cook County and could be a precedent for other large cities in the country to follow suit. Fortunately, Chicago city officials, including Mayor Rahm Emanuel, have vowed to fight the federal lawsuit.

Interestingly, the Missouri dog breeder that filed the lawsuit to overturn Chicago's pet store ordinance, only confirms the public fears about the treatment of dogs housed in commercial dog breeding facilities. According to the breeder's most recent USDA inspection report last Winter, a federal inspector noted that **dogs housed outside in a pole barn at this facility had little to no bedding despite the fact that the temperature range for the previous four days was as low as 1-degree.** These types of deplorable living conditions are the exact reason why we need an ordinance prohibiting the sale of dogs in pet stores. Hopefully, as the markets for puppy mill dogs dry up, so will the puppy mills that produce such puppies.

