

Puppy Mills: Facts and Figures

January 2026

10,000	Estimated number of puppy mills in the U.S. (both licensed and unlicensed) ¹
500,000	Estimated number of dogs kept for breeding in puppy mills (both licensed and unlicensed)
1,912	Number of USDA Class A and B licensed facilities that breed dogs for the pet trade
108,966	Estimated number of dogs kept solely for breeding purposes in USDA licensed facilities
70,828	Estimated number of female dogs kept for breeding at USDA licensed facilities
9.4	Estimated number of puppies per breeding female per year
665,781	Estimated number of puppies produced by USDA licensed facilities each year
1,997,342	Estimated number of puppies sold annually who originated from puppy mills – USDA licensed and non-USDA licensed (not all breeders require a USDA license) ² .
25%	Estimated percentage of dogs in animal shelters who are purebred
1.5 million	Estimated number of dogs and cats euthanized by shelters every year in the U.S.
\$500,000	Estimated cost of a puppy mill bust involving 250 animals.

¹ Not all puppy mills are required to be USDA licensed; in fact, the majority of puppy mills are not USDA licensed.

² We estimate that for every 1 USDA licensed facility, there are 2 unlicensed facilities.



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