

Problems with cage stacking

One of the most troubling conditions seen at puppy mills is overcrowding, which can lead to sanitation problems, stress and disease. Puppy mills commonly use stacked cages to house more animals than a given space should reasonably hold.



The specific problems with cage stacking include:

- Stacked cages—especially those with wire or slatted flooring—allow urine, feces, wastewater and other filth from higher cages to rain down on the dogs in lower cages.
- Stacked cages encourage overcrowding. The Humane Society of the United States has been involved in numerous puppy mills where the ammonia levels inside buildings with stacked cages were so high that rescue workers had to wear gas masks.
- Cages are often stacked so high or so low that caretakers or inspectors can't easily see the dogs to check their well-being.
- Stacking makes it more difficult for adequate lighting and air flow to reach all parts of the enclosures; in some cases, dogs in stacked cages have been found living in almost total darkness and neglect.
- Adequate cleaning of stacked cages is difficult and often hinders proper care.
- Removing dogs and puppies from the highest or lower tiers for maintenance or cleaning can be difficult and often leads to unsafe conditions or injury to the dogs.

Find out more information, visit [humanesociety.org/pupymills](https://www.humanesociety.org/pupymills).

