

Animalvictory.org



Sign a Petition. Save an Animal.

October 7, 2019

Dear Board of County Commissioners,

We are Janelle Babington and Penny Eims, animal welfare petitioners from AnimalVictory.org. On October 2, 2019 we launched a petition asking people to join us in asking Collier County to deny the request by Petland to open its store in the county to sell dogs and cats. In just six days we received 2905 signatures, with comments against Petland opening this store, which we are presenting to you now. (See attached).

America's largest chain of puppy-selling pet stores, Petland Inc., is also the nation's largest retail supporter of puppy mills. There were more than 200 Petland stores worldwide in 2008 with about 140 in the U.S. Collectively, these stores sell tens of thousands of puppies each year. [After the Humane Society of the United States began investigations of Petland in 2008](#), the number of Petland stores in the country has dropped sharply, from 140 U.S. stores in 2008, to only about 80 today.

We are vehemently opposed to Petland opening a store in Naples, Florida or anywhere for that matter as we believe Petland franchised stores source their animals from puppy mills and breeders who are focused on profits over health. It is common knowledge that the majority of puppy mill operators subject their breeding animals to a life of isolation, neglect and misery.

[One of the most common sales pitches made by staff at Petland stores visited by The HSUS](#) is that they use "USDA licensed" breeders. However, HSUS investigators reviewed USDA and state inspection reports for more than 100 of Petland's breeders, and found that more than 60 percent of the reports listed serious violations of basic animal care regulations. It is clear that Petland is not reviewing these publicly-available records to ensure that their breeders employ "the highest standards of pet care." Documented USDA violations at some of Petland's breeders and suppliers included: dirty, broken down enclosures; inadequate shelter from the cold, dogs kept in too-small cages, and inadequate veterinary care. Some of the breeders were found with sick or dead dogs left in their cages.

It is our hope that you, as leaders of your county, will realize that the opening of a Petland store in your area would be a slap in the face to animal lovers who are not only concerned about where (and how) puppies are bred, but about the staggering number of homeless pets (at shelters and with rescue groups) who need homes. Cities, and in some cases entire states, across the nation are moving to ban the retail sale of cats and dogs. This is the current trend and we are hopeful that Collier County will follow suit and vote to keep commercially bred pet sales out of the area.

We realize you are busy as leaders dedicated to the work of the County and hope voting against Petland Opening becomes a top priority.

We appreciate your time and will continue to garner signatures opposing the vote as we look forward to a favorable outcome tomorrow.

Very Truly,

Janelle Babington and Penny Eims

<http://www.animalvictory.org/>

UNITED STATES HUMANE SOCIETY PETLAND INVESTIGATION REPORT DECEMBER 2018

It's been 10 years since the [Humane Society of the United States first investigated Petland](#), the largest puppy-selling pet store chain in the country. [At the time](#), we linked Petland to mass production puppy mills, sparking nationwide demonstrations.

A dead puppy in the freezer. Puppies with hacking coughs and runny noses. Sick puppies confined to isolation. Overcrowded cages. These are just a few of the [shocking details our undercover investigators found](#) at two different Petland, Inc. pet stores last fall. <https://blog.humanesociety.org/2018/12/hsus-undercover-investigation-exposes-petlands-treatment-of-sick-puppies.html>

Lawsuit says Novi Petland sells unhealthy puppies MARCH 2018

Detroit lawsuit Sarnia and her attorney are joined with a dozen other Petland customers who are suing the retailer, alleging the dogs they purchased came from what they believe are puppy mills and not reputable breeders. The group claims their dogs had parvo, lymphoma, mange and more. <https://www.clickondetroit.com/news/lawsuit-says-novi-petland-sells-unhealthy-puppies>

American Legal Defense Fund September 2019

The lawsuit alleges that Petland charges premium prices for puppies and kittens the chain “certifies” to be healthy — as claimed by Petland’s veterinarians — when in fact Petland knows full well it is selling animals prone to illnesses and other defects, due to their sourcing from puppy and kitten mills.

