

Chloe's Bill to Regulate Dog Breeders, Pet Stores

Proposal in Illinois calls for limits to number of dogs that breeders can maintain.

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Chloe with owner Roy Austin Legislation named after a young Cocker Spaniel who was rescued from an unlicensed breeding operation in Macon County, Ill., seeks to crack down on irresponsible dog breeders and pet stores in the state.

Chloe's Bill, sponsored by state Rep. John Fritchey (D-Chicago), and state Sen. Dan Kotowski, (D-Mount Prospect), would regulate commercial dog breeders and pet stores by establishing penalties for violations, ranging from fines to animal seizure and license revocation. In addition, the bill would ban breeders from having more than 20 dogs who haven't been spayed or neutered.

Chloe's Bill also would mandate the following: Require licensing for those who have three or more females "for the purpose of the sale of their offspring." Ban those with felony animal cruelty convictions from obtaining a dog-breeding license. Require pet stores and dog breeders to provide potential buyers with a dog's full medical history. Require pet stores and breeders to provide facts about the cost and responsibilities of dog ownership and the benefits of spaying and neutering. Require breeding operations to be regularly sanitized and built to protect dogs from injury and disease, be free of wire flooring, and be well-insulated.

The bill was introduced by both legislators at an event at PAWS Chicago on Jan. 18.