

PUPPY MILLS | FEBRUARY 6, 2012

# Confrontation mars peaceful protest outside Chicago pet store



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<http://www.examiner.com/pets-in-chicago/dogs-puppy-mills-photo>

Pets sold in pet stores are offspring of dogs living in puppy mills.

Credits: The Puppy Mill Project

As local animal welfare advocates continue to protest the sale of companion animals in pet stores, some local merchants are turning up the heat on protesters. For the second consecutive weekend, local animal welfare supporters holding peaceful protests outside of pet stores were accosted and threatened by store owners or people connected to the stores.

The last weekend in January Jonathan Berning got into a confrontation with members of the **Companion Animal Protection Society** (<http://www.caps-web.org/>) (CAPS) outside of the Orland Park Happiness is Pets location. Berning's father Ron owns the Chicago-area stores. Saturday, it was volunteers from **The Puppy Mill Project** (<http://www.thepupppymillproject.org/>) who were staging a peaceful protest outside Collar and Leash at 1435 North Wells in Chicago.

"Several of our members were physically pushed by the man that owns this store and were verbally threatened as well," says a spokesperson of The Puppy Mill Project. "We have protested at this store before and the owner has tried to push us into some sort of confrontation. At this protest, he went even further. He shoved people and threatened them by saying – 'you know what a drive by is?' He ended up accosting a protester and spitting on her as she was leaving."

Only four protesters were present at the Collar and Leash incident. The Chicago Police were called and a police report was filed. The Puppy Mill Project has been protesting outside



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various pet stores in the city in an effort to educate the public that pets sold in pet stores come from puppy mills. The West Suburban Chapter of The Puppy Mill Project held a silent protest Sunday afternoon outside the Naperville location of Happiness is Pets (HIP) with no incidents to report.

HIP has been in the news lately for selling dogs that were sick with distemper. The Humane Society of the United States has confirmed six cases of distemper. Another six puppies were reportedly euthanized by at a local vet when it was discovered by store owners that they had distemper. A vet tech from that practice has gone on record with the HSUS to back up that claim.

Along with protesting outside pet stores, The Puppy Mill Project has **successfully** (<http://www.examiner.com/pets-in-chicago/move-to-stop-selling-puppies-is-great-for-business-at-dog-patch-pet-and-feed>) been working with pet storeowners to go humane – to stop selling dogs and cats and move to offering rescue animals for adoption.

*Do you volunteer or work for a shelter or rescue that has programs you'd like to promote? Do you work in a pet-related business that has an interesting story to tell? If so, contact me at [kathypetexam@gmail.com](mailto:kathypetexam@gmail.com) (<mailto:kathypetexam@gmail.com>). Enjoy this article? Receive email alerts when new articles become available. Just click on the subscribe button above. You may also follow me on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/#%21/KathyMordini) (<https://twitter.com/#%21/KathyMordini>), [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Raining-Cats-Dogs/252266268128374) (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Raining-Cats-Dogs/252266268128374>) or read my [blog](http://rainingcatanddogs.wordpress.com/) (<http://rainingcatanddogs.wordpress.com/>).*