

Examiner.com

Move to stop selling puppies good for business at Dog Patch Pet and Feed

By Kathy Mordini, Chicago Pets Examiner

What happens when pet stores stop selling puppies? For an answer to that question, you need to look no further than [Dog Patch Pet and Feed](#). Today (Tuesday), Dog Patch, Naperville's oldest pet store, sold its last puppy and now focuses on adopting pets saved from death row.

"I sleep better and know that we are doing the right thing. This has been a wonderful experience thus far," says Gordon. "It's been great here with lots of new customers in the store. We've been very fortunate. Working with Brandy Gergesz has been great and our regular customers have been overwhelmingly supportive. We've sent rescue dogs home from Sugar Grove to Chicago. Our Facebook likes went from 220 to over 1175. Someone in the UK wrote an article about us. It's been remarkable."

When storeowner Gordon announced in November that he'd be rescuing instead of selling dogs, he'd hoped that it would be a good business move. With the [Puppy Mill Project](#) staging protests in his community, it was time to reconsider options and a new partnership was born. Cari Meyers from the Puppy Mill Project introduced him to Gergesz who founded [Annie's Little Angels Small Breed Rescue](#) and the rest is history.

"After meeting Greg and the staff at Dog Patch, I knew we were on to something huge," says Gergesz. "I didn't realize just how quickly things would go and how many lives we would save in such a short time. I am overwhelmed by the amount of support we have gotten. Since Thanksgiving, we've rescued 50 dogs for Dog Patch."

The section of Dog Patch's website that used to focus on puppies up for sale now highlights the dogs and cats now saved from death row and available for [adoption](#). Now, with the help of Gergesz, Gordon is rescuing from CACC and other open admission shelters. The partnership that originally focused on saving dogs from death row has also been good news for felines needing homes – Annie's Little Angels is now rescuing cats and kittens from death row in Chicago.

"One of our volunteers and close friend, Emily Serno, is a huge cat lover and joined me on a recent trip down to CACC," says Gergesz. "When she saw how many cats were there in need of homes with so few getting out, she asked if we could help them. Not having much experience with cats myself, she offered to head up our cat section, so began Emily's Kitty Korner our cat division."

Gergesz has also partnered with another pet store – [Go Dog Go](#) – in Oswego. That store fosters kitties for the organization while they are waiting for their forever home. In December, her organization was one of the top rescues saving animals at CACC. However, saving from CACC

also comes with a price, often animals are very sick and rescues don't know until they take them in their care.

"Last week was a stressful week, one of the cats we rescued – Hurley – was very sick and died," says Gergesz. "Several other dogs and cats also had some major medical issues so we've been working to raise funds to pay for their treatment as we nurse them back to health. A [Chipin](#) has been set up to help defray the costs."

In the meantime, she continues her trips into Chicago to pull more animals off death row as Gordon prepares more space at his store for new arrivals. Learn more about Dog Patch online or follow them on [Facebook](#). Learn about Annie's Little Angel's [online](#) or follow them on [Facebook](#).

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. 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](#), [Facebook](#) or read my [blog](#).

Pets | January 31, 2012



Kathy Mordini

Chicago Pets Examiner