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Northbrook pet store defends reputation against protesters

Comments

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By TODD SHIELDS tshields@pioneerlocal.com

"We love our animals and care for them very well, too. We would never do business with puppy mills," said Alex Gershbeyn, store manager of Pawsh Puppies in Northbrook Court mall.

Gershbeyn was responding to a Saturday protest outside the store organized by members of Puppy Mill Project in Chicago. About 50 people protested Pawsh Puppies for allegedly buying animals from careless breeders.

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Appi Preusen (left) of Wilmette (walking her two dogs, Molly and Mabel) joins the Puppy Mill Project protest of the opening of a pet store, Pawsh Puppies at Northbrook Court Saturday. (Joel Lerner/Staff Photographer)

Formed this year, claimed that some Midwestern dog breeders raise dogs in cages solely for breeding and killing them when they no longer can produce pups. Janie Jenkins of Wilmette said a key indication that some pet stores buy from puppy mills was they did not provide breed information to customers.

"Buyers are not allowed to see the paperwork on the puppies; i.e., address of breeders, and (U.S. Department of Agriculture registration numbers) before (customers) shell out \$1,500 for the puppy," Jenkins stated in an e-mail. "If they did have it, they could do a check on the breeder before purchasing. Some breeder farms treat their dogs like livestock, said Jenkins.

In response, Gershbeyn said Pawsh Puppies, which specializes in selling toy and teacup dog breeds, extensively researches all their breeders and provides customers with registration papers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, health certificates from veterinarians and breeder contact information before purchases.



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