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Store supplied by puppy mills defaults on rent, closes

Posted by Tails Magazine on Jul 1, 2010

Pawsh Puppies, 2120 N. Halsted St., which recently changed its name to Planet Pooch Boutique, closed down last week after receiving an eviction notice for not paying rent. The store's debt currently totals \$44,000.

Much of that debt may be due to protesters who have marched outside the store since last October. The protesters hoped to dissuade potential customers from purchasing the store's puppies, which allegedly come from puppy mills.

Cari Meyers, founder and president of The Puppy Mill Project, was one of those protesters. "These are puppies shipped from cruel, inhumane conditions in a truck from a mill, to a broker, to a store," Meyers says. "Some die on the way, some arrive sick, and all are taken away from their mothers way to early."

Puppies taken from the mills typically weigh only 1 1/2 to 2 lbs when they are separated from their mothers. Often, these animals are abused, haven't seen a veterinarian, and never leave their cages or experience human contact.

Even though Meyers views the Chicago store closure as a success, the Planet Pooch Boutique has set its sights beyond the city. The company has stores in Northbrook, Schaumburg, and Orland Park, and is trying to open one in Glenview.

Recently, Meyers and her fellow protesters attended the Glenview Village Hall to vote against the manager of Planet Pooch Boutique, preventing him from bringing his pet store to the city of Glenview.

According to Meyers, the residents of Glenview and rescue groups said they would boycott the business. The Planning Commission voted not to allow the store to open.

The Puppy Mill Project brings awareness to consumers to make sure they know the connection between pet stores, newspaper ads, and Internet sites that demonstrate consumer fraud, which allows the company to lie about where the puppies came from.

"Our motto is 'Learn the Truth.' This is what we want to teach consumers and their children as well," Meyers says. "That's where it all starts."

To get involved contact info@ThePuppyMillProject.org. --Nicole Soszynski

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