

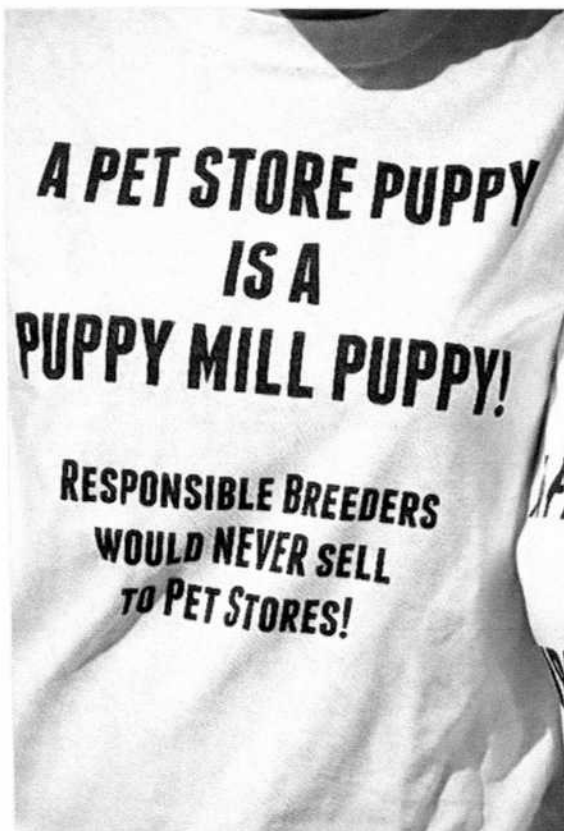
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Animal welfare advocates kicked out of Northbrook Court mall and threatened with arrest

By Chicago Dog Training Examiner, Jennifer Nicole Hack
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The t-shirts worn by 40 animal welfare advocates
The Puppy Mill Project

Animal welfare advocates kicked out of Northbrook Court Mall because of their t-shirts:

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On Saturday, February 20th, a group of about 40 animal welfare advocates decided to halt their puppy store protests, and simply wear t-shirts to express their views while shopping at Northbrook Court Mall. The people wearing t-shirts ranged from local residents and even young children. This mall, which features such upscale stores as Lord & Taylor, Louis Vuitton, and Burberry, also has a tenant with a much seedier reputation-- Pawsh Puppies; a store that sells puppies and accessories. The Puppy Mill Project contends that Pawsh Puppies sells puppies from puppy mills, and their mission is for the pet store to go humane and stop selling animals. They continue to protest this past weekend, standing outside the mall and holding a peaceful demonstration while picketing.

According to the animal welfare advocates who were asked to leave the mall, not all of them were given a choice to remove their shirts and stay. Many were told they would have to leave, be it in handcuffs or in a Northbrook police squad car. According to Mary Schlachter, general manager for Northbrook Court, the individuals wearing their t-shirts were violating the mall's "code of conduct." However, not only were they *not* picketing, *not* handing out fliers, and *not* speaking to anyone-- they were shopping and patronizing many of the stores! According to Cari Meyers, head of The

Puppy Mill Project, many members of the group asked at least eight store managers if they were bothered or offended by their t-shirts, and not one had a problem with them. In fact, several employees and managers expressed their dislike for Pawsh Puppies being in the mall. Nonetheless, anyone wearing a t-shirt was asked to leave. Even after several of them offered to remove their shirts, they were told they still could not stay in the mall. A father with his two children had planned to go to the movie theater and mall security told them they could not, they had to leave the premises. ***This raises the question-- where is the line drawn? The mall may be private property, but does that make it ok to discriminate against patrons based on their t-shirts?*** What if I went there wearing my "Don't Shop, Adopt" shirt, would I be kicked out? What if I wore one of my vegetarian t-shirts, would the steakhouse restaurants in Northbrook Court complain and have me kicked out or arrested? **(note in the photo, the t-shirts do not say the name of any specific business, nor are they offensive in any way) ...DISCUSS in the COMMENTS section**

I encourage a boycott of Northbrook Court Mall based on their discrimination of animal rights advocates and their poor choice to lease space to a business that deals and profits from animal suffering-- I will not shop



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there until puppy stores either go humane, or go away!



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The Puppy Mill Project

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