

PuppySpot[®]

Standards for Breeder Selection and Performance

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About PuppySpot

More than just a service, PuppySpot is a community of dog lovers whose mission is to make lives better by responsibly placing healthy puppies into happy, caring homes. The PuppySpot brand, with puppies at the center, is rooted in the belief that dogs should be celebrated and that owners deserve to experience trust, confidence and transparency when searching for their new companions. Because we respect dogs as much as we celebrate them, PuppySpot strives to continually improve our standards to ensure that animal welfare is always at the center of our system. We are committed to providing thoughtful consideration to the wellbeing and ethical treatment of the dogs at all times and at all stages of our process. We use a personalized approach that caters to the needs of the families and individuals in search of a new furry friend as well as the concerns of the responsible breeders who are looking for their puppies' forever homes. PuppySpot makes fetching your new best friend a simple and enjoyable experience.

PuppySpot is proud of our fully screened and vetted network of responsible breeders. Each breeder within the PuppySpot community is held to the highest standards, with the health, welfare and safety for all dogs (not just the puppies) as top priorities. Utilizing a comprehensive, proprietary screening process that is continually updated, ensuring that both our two- and four-legged friends receive a premium experience that is seamless and quality-driven. Following the initial screening process, PuppySpot continues to monitor our breeders through re-screenings, our field visits and ongoing puppy health tracking. If a breeder cannot retire a breeding dog as a household pet, we encourage breeders to rehome retired breeding dogs in to new, loving homes.

PuppySpot also screens our customers to ensure every puppy goes to a happy, healthy home that is the best fit for the puppy and the individual/family. To guide customers to the perfect companion, we discuss the customers' lifestyles, their previous experience with dogs, their home environments, any allergies and other relevant information. From our first contact when we establish a customer's intentions for fetching their new best friend to our follow-ups in which we welcome the customer to our dog-loving community, PuppySpot is with the family each step of the way.

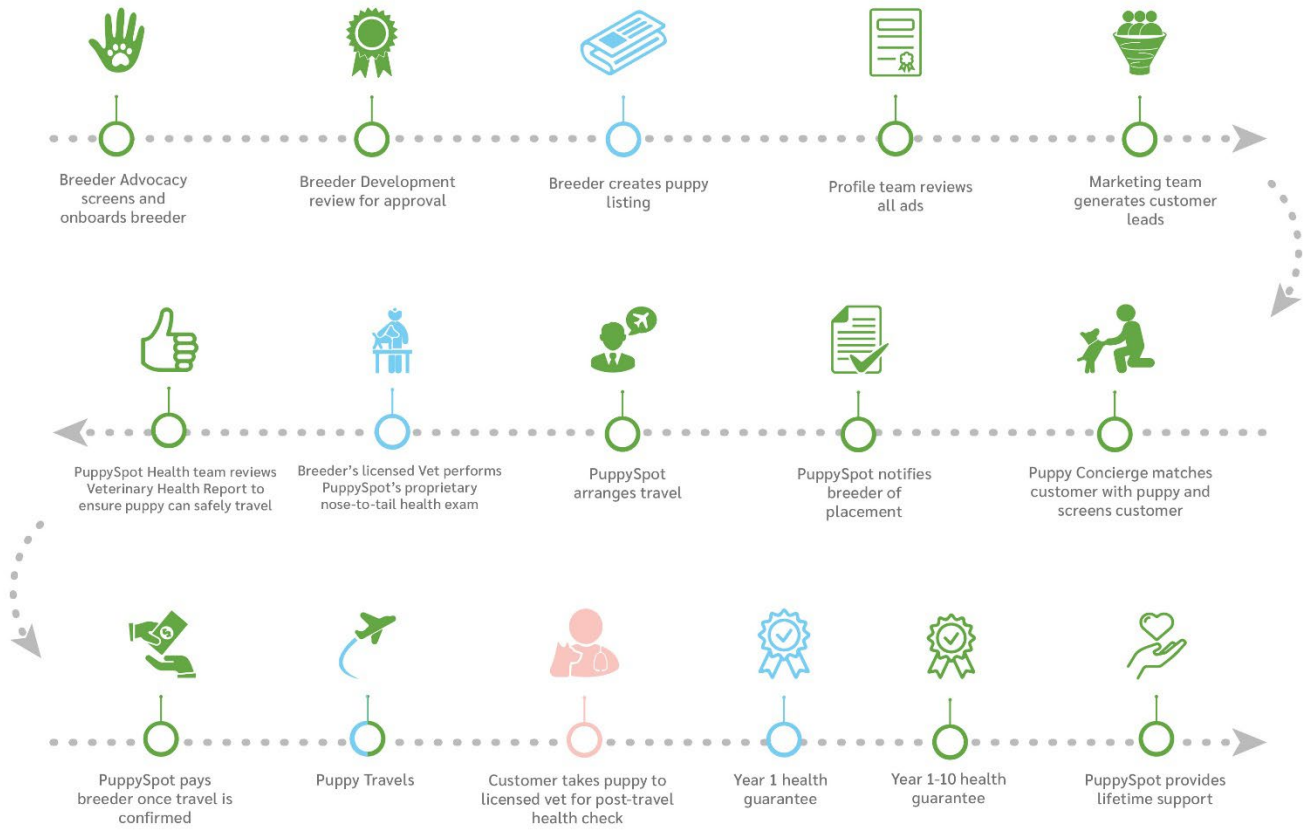
About our Standards for Breeder Selection & Performance

- *PuppySpot values the relationship we have with the breeders in our network.*
- *This relationship is built on a shared passion and deep respect for all of the dogs in our care.*
- *PuppySpot recognizes that the breeders in our network are among the best in the industry and that they comply with all federal, state and local regulations that apply.*
- *We have developed these standards, not to impose a new burden on you, our colleagues, but to facilitate your understanding of the regulatory standards that exist and to ensure that we may all be confident in our approach to animal health and welfare.*
- *These standards are informed by current science, legal requirements, and best practices; hence they will evolve over time. The PuppySpot Science Advisory Board shall review these standards at least annually. PuppySpot welcomes your comments.*
- *PuppySpot has no tolerance for any animal cruelty. It is essential that we all achieve zero incidence of violations that affect animal health and welfare and that all areas of concern be corrected as expeditiously as possible.*
- *Please review these standards and let us know if you need assistance in achieving them.*



Process

Legend	
●	PuppySpot Responsibility
●	Breeder Responsibility
●	Customer Responsibility



Our Puppy Health and Welfare Guarantee

We are more than just a service, and our relationship with our customers goes well beyond the day their puppies come home. We are puppy lovers ourselves and would prefer that no puppy ever has any issues. But a puppy's health and welfare is dependent on a number of factors that are not always within our control. While we cannot guarantee that a puppy will *never* have a health problem, we can guarantee we will do our best to ensure each and every puppy is healthy and well socialized when the puppy arrives at his or her new home.

It all starts with choosing our breeders. We carefully screen our breeders and only work with those who meet our industry-leading standards. Once a breeder has been accepted into our community, we continue to ensure that the breeder is raising healthy and well-cared for puppies by requiring comprehensive health and welfare evaluations performed by an attending veterinarian for every puppy the breeder places through PuppySpot. Each breeder is also required to keep his or her puppies up to date on all vaccinations and de-wormings and every puppy must pass a thorough health check before being allowed to travel. Finally, as an additional check and to activate a puppy's Health Commitment, we require our customers to take their new puppies to licensed veterinarians within two business days of receiving their puppies, so we can be sure that all of our puppies are happy and healthy from the moment they arrive at their new homes.



Our *No Puppy Mill Promise* Through Our Responsible Breeder Guarantee

At PuppySpot, we are a community of dog lovers, committed to respecting the human-animal bond and to connecting responsible breeders of all sizes with caring individuals and families. We hold ourselves and our clients to the highest standards and aim to improve the life of each puppy, dog breeder and owner who joins our family. PuppySpot has a zero-tolerance policy for puppy mills—or for any substandard breeders or substandard breeding practices of any kind. While you may not know the source of your puppy from a rescue, shelter or pet store, you will always know where your PuppySpot puppy was born and raised. PuppySpot puppies are raised with love, respect and a high level of attention and personal care.



While there is no federal definition of a “puppy mill”, advocacy organizations, including the ASPCA define puppy mills as large-scale commercial dog breeding facilities where profit is given priority over the well-being of the dogs. These groups also frequently describe puppy mills as those operations that house dogs in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions without adequate veterinary care, food, water or socialization.

We reviewed the various definitions and, based on more than a decade of experience of ensuring puppy and breeding dog welfare, we synthesized the “Puppy Mill” definition as follows:

“A Puppy Mill is a substandard source for puppies that places profit above the welfare of its animals. A Puppy Mill is not only inhumane and cruel, but also typically operates in violation of the law or government regulations.”

In order to achieve our “No Puppy Mill Promise,” we, at PuppySpot, have developed standards for breeder selection and performance that ensure we work with responsible breeders. We are confident our standards meet or exceed all applicable federal, state and local standards for screening, daily care, breeding, housing, sanitation, veterinary care, human interaction, exercise, socialization and transportation. We continually review and update these standards to ensure that our breeders and customers can be confident in the care provided to all the dogs. In 2017, PuppySpot formed an independent Scientific Advisory Board of veterinarians, former USDA regulators, scientists and ethicists to review the standards, advise us and update them on an ongoing basis. Compliance with our guidelines ensures that animal health and welfare are always the priority. Our guidelines apply to all breeders in our network regardless of their regulatory status.

I. Breeder Criteria

1. Any new breeder must generally have a minimum of 1.5 years of experience in canine breeding, a minimum of 3 litters, and an exemplary record of maintaining high standards of animal health and welfare.
2. In order for a breeder to place puppies on our site, the breeder must:
 - a. have purposefully bred the litter;
 - b. maintain custody of the dam and litter at all times (making guardianship homes, where the dogs are placed in third party care at any time, impermissible);
 - c. have the dam and litter registered in the breeder's (or a family member's) name;
 - d. retire adult breeding dogs between the ages of 6 and 7 years of age for dams, and 8 and 9 years of age for sires.
 - e. have an ongoing, formal relationship with an attending veterinarian (see #17); and
 - f. maintain and adhere to a current written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) (see #19).
3. A breeder must comply with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, as well as all PuppySpot standards, which will be reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis. PuppySpot will evaluate the nature and frequency of each breeder's past history of any non-compliance with government and industry standards.
4. A breeder must agree to send copies of all state and federal inspection reports to PuppySpot upon receipt.
5. A breeder will be screened at least annually by PuppySpot according to these standards.

6. A breeder must agree to send an updated set of facility photographs to PuppySpot at least once a year. Breeders are also required to send updated photos to PuppySpot if modifications are made to facilities. Site visits conducted at least bi-annually by a third party, and supplemented by PuppySpot will further facilitate an ongoing and thorough understanding of a breeder's kennel facilities.

7. A breeder agrees that auditors from a third party may conduct periodic site visits that are designed to promote compliance and facilitate dialogue concerning PuppySpot's standards, operations and services in order to ensure the highest animal welfare and health standards.

II. Pre-Screening of Breeders

8. PuppySpot is licensed and inspected by the USDA. While we do not breed dogs, we have identified and work with a network of breeders throughout the United States who we help connect with individuals and families seeking to bring home a new puppy. Each breeder we work with is thoroughly screened prior to receiving authorization to join the PuppySpot network.

9. PuppySpot conducts the following research on all potential breeders:

- a. a background check of each breeder's history, including a review of available public records, operational history records, and any contact the breeder has had with local, state and federal animal welfare regulatory agencies;
- b. a review of breeder facilities and practices to ensure that each breeder provides the best care for the adult dogs and puppies, including a comprehensive, standardized interview conducted either by phone or in person; and
- c. an evaluation to determine if the breeder is in compliance with PuppySpot's Standards for Breeder Selection and Performance through the review of breeder submitted materials and publicly available information.

10. To facilitate pre-screening, all prospective breeders must provide the following information to a PuppySpot Breeder Advocate:

- a. the physical address of all facilities used in the breeder's operation(s) (GPS coordinates are acceptable);
- b. a comprehensive set of digital photographs or video documenting all physical aspects of the breeder's operation(s), including, but not limited to, housing facilities and pens, storage facilities, cleaning methods and exercise/socialization facilities;
- c. contact information for the breeder's attending veterinarian (see #17) and confirmation that the breeder has adhered to, and continues to adhere to, a current and comprehensive Program of Veterinary Care (see #19); and
- d. Breeders shall develop and maintain a manual of standard operating procedures (SOP's) that provides consistency for all staff in approach to all aspects of the facility. SOP manuals shall be available for review by PuppySpot upon request.

III. Adherence to Regulations

11. A breeder must be knowledgeable of and in compliance with all federal, state and local licensing requirements. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) regulations are published in an [Animal Care Blue Book](#) that was last updated in May, 2022 and is available on the USDA website.

12. Regulations promulgated by the USDA state that breeders with more than four breeding females on the premises are subject to USDA licensing requirements. The USDA considers a breeding female to be any female on the premises that is capable of breeding. Deciding not to breed or to wait to breed a specific animal does not alter the animal's ability to breed or the applicability of the USDA regulations. If you are uncertain whether you need to obtain a license, the USDA maintains a Customer Service Call Center that is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT: 1-

844-820-2234. All breeders in the PuppySpot network must be in compliance with USDA regulations even if they are not required to be licensed.

13. A breeder that is a licensed veterinarian cannot certify his or her own facilities or the health of the breeder's own dogs (this restriction also prohibits breeders from filling out the Veterinary Health Records and health certificates).

14. PuppySpot may suspend its association with any breeder at any time and will automatically do so in the case of any breeder found with either one critical, or three noncritical violations of animal welfare regulations in any 24-month period. PuppySpot is aware that USDA policy was changed effective August 1, 2022 to discontinue the use of "teachable moments" for very minor non-compliance issues that would have been easily corrected during the time of the inspection and that would not have an impact on animal health or welfare. For such noncritical violations, PuppySpot may exercise discretion in counting items captured in inspection reports that would have previously been considered by USDA to be "teachable moments".

15. PuppySpot is not a regulatory agency. As such, these Standards are not regulations. We developed these Standards in order to promote the best possible practices for animal health and welfare. Although we have used applicable federal and state regulations as a basis for these Standards, in many instances we have incorporated practices that exceed government regulations. We are confident that all of the breeders in our network adhere to our Standards. We will use our site visits to not only facilitate the adoption of our Standards but also to receive comments on how the Standards could be improved.

IV. Veterinary Care

16. Unless otherwise specified, these standards apply to all dogs in the breeder's care.

17. A breeder must have a formal relationship with an attending veterinarian.

a. PuppySpot defines an attending veterinarian as a veterinarian who is currently licensed by the state where the veterinarian works AND accredited

by the United States Department of Agriculture. Each veterinarian's National Accreditation Number should be noted on the breeder's Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) (see #19).

- b. Information on how to locate a USDA-accredited veterinarian can be found here:

[Find Accredited Veterinarians](#)

18. A breeder shall ensure that the attending veterinarian has the appropriate authority to provide adequate and sufficient veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal health and welfare.

19. A breeder must have a written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC) developed in consultation with, and certified by the attending veterinarian (see #17). The PVC should be reviewed and updated as necessary, but no less than once per year. Each year and upon request, the breeder must provide to PuppySpot confirmation of the attending veterinarian's annual review. A copy of the PVC shall be made available to PuppySpot upon request.

- a. PuppySpot does not list specific forms that are required to be included in a valid PVC, although a model PVC can be provided upon request. A slide series providing some useful information regarding the content of a PVC can also be found on the USDA's website here:

[The written program of veterinary care](#)

- b. The PVC should include the breeder's plans to address both animal health and animal welfare concerns. Specifically, a valid PVC should include descriptions and implementation details regarding the following programs and protocols: routine and preventative care (including dental checks and nail trimming); parasite prevention, detection and elimination (including prevention, detection and elimination of Giardia); heartworm detection and prevention, a breeding plan (the breeding plan should include validated testing and control of infectious diseases such as Brucellosis); a vaccination schedule; an examination schedule; an exercise plan, and other elements recommended by the attending veterinarian. If the exercise plan is maintained separate from the PVC, it must be approved by the attending veterinarian.

- c. Dogs must be free from any genetic disease or condition that would be a concern for breeding when considering the breeding animals' health, their puppies' health or the health of the breed.
- d. The portion of the PVC dedicated to the breeding plan should include the age at first breeding, the breeding frequency, the age at retirement, any efforts to rehome retired breeding dogs, and a description of efforts to eliminate genetic defects and undesirable traits from the breeding pool. Certain breeding practices shall be prohibited (e.g. inbreeding and linebreeding). The attending veterinarian should review and approve the breeding plan. Adult breeding dogs should be retired no later than between the ages of 6 and 7 years of age for dams, and 8 and 9 years of age for sires to prevent over-breeding and ensure the health of any progeny. Adult breeding dogs should be spayed or neutered after retiring from breeding.
- e. Breeders are encouraged to consider genetic (DNA) or other testing to ensure breed purity of breeding dogs and freedom from heritable genetic defects such as ophthalmic conditions and hip dysplasia.
- f. PuppySpot recognizes that the AVMA opposes the practices of ear cropping and tail docking when done solely for cosmetic purposes. PuppySpot strongly encourages the AKC to modify breed standards to discourage these practices.

20. Each kennel operated by a breeder must be inspected by the attending veterinarian at least once per year, and all dogs must be examined by the attending veterinarian at least once per year.

21. More frequent visits by the attending veterinarian may be appropriate based on the number of breeding females, the number of litters and other factors that the breeder should consider in consultation with the attending veterinarian.

22. A breeder shall address any issues that have been noted by the attending veterinarian. A breeder should seek immediate follow-up with the attending veterinarian for any issues that do not appear to be responding to a prescribed treatment. Any issues that require a revisit by the attending veterinarian shall be

addressed within the time period specified by the attending veterinarian to ensure such issues have been resolved.

23. Each dog must have its overall health and behavior assessed daily by trained staff (see section VII concerning staff training).

24. Any deviation in health and welfare conditions must be addressed expeditiously and appropriately.

25. Guidelines should be established and documented within the PVC for establishing situations that require consultation with the attending veterinarian, with consideration given to a breeder's expertise.

26. Dogs must be afforded regular grooming to ensure their health and welfare.

27. Each facility must have a separate quarantine area to isolate newly-acquired dogs and dogs that are suspected of having a contagious disease. The quarantine facility must be adequate to provide for the welfare of the dogs and to prevent contagions from being transmitted to healthy animal areas through air or by other vectors. Breeders should consult with their attending veterinarians to ensure that the quarantine facility is appropriate to prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

28. All caretakers must follow appropriate hygiene procedures which should be developed in consultation with the attending veterinarian to prevent transmitting contagions to healthy animals. The welfare of the dogs in quarantine should remain a priority, subject only to limits imposed by the attending veterinarian.

29. All records of inspections by the attending veterinarian must be kept on file with the breeder and attending veterinarian for a minimum of three years.

30. The health records of each dog (including necropsy reports) either in written or electronic format must be complete, searchable, and detailed, and be kept as long as the dog is in the breeder's possession, but in no case less than one year from the date of issuance.

31. When euthanasia is medically necessary or advisable, it must always be performed humanely utilizing [methods approved by the American Veterinary Medical](#)

Association. The means of euthanasia should be documented in the PVC. The remains of any dogs that have passed should be handled in a respectful and environmentally responsible manner consistent with applicable state and local regulations.

V. Humane Handling & Animal Care

A. Food and Water

32. Dogs must have access to fresh, clean drinking water at all times.

33. Dogs must have access to a recognized, commercially-available food produced in compliance with all federal and state regulation, and that is provided at appropriate intervals to maintain a healthy weight during all life stages including growth, gestation, parturition and lactation. Dogs' weight should be monitored and recorded to ensure adequate nutrition. When questions arise as to the nutritional value of any food, breeders should consult their attending veterinarian.

34. Food must be appropriate for the size, age and breed of the dogs.

35. Leftover food from the previous day must be discarded unless a self-feeder is used.

36. Food and water bowls must be made of durable material that can be easily cleaned and sanitized. The bowls must be in good condition and not be chewed and/or jagged.

37. Food and water bowls must be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. Sanitation should be carried out in compliance with all applicable state, local and federal regulations, (See 9 CFR 3.11, which can be found in the USDA's [Animal Care Blue Book](#)).

B. Exercise, Socialization and Enrichment

PuppySpot is dedicated to going above and beyond the physiological needs of the dogs in our network. Breeders shall follow a structured socialization program that meets the needs of the puppies' behavioral development. Also, because we establish and maintain a relationship with customers after the sale as part of our dog-loving community, breeders must take steps to ensure each dog's behavioral well-being both during and beyond the puppy stage.

PuppySpot screens breeders to ensure that they provide detailed socialization, human interaction and desensitization.

Recommendations of experts in canine welfare include the following:

Social Enrichment of Puppies:

- a. When possible, puppies over 3 weeks of age should be petted and handled gently by a variety of people, not just the primary caregiver.
- b. It is recommended that puppies greater than 4 weeks of age interact with puppies from other litters that are close to the same age, for a few minutes a day, a couple of times weekly.
- c. It is recommended that puppies greater than 8 weeks of age interact daily with other dogs in the kennel, including outdoor play time in different social groupings. Additionally, efforts should be made to allow these puppies to interact with a variety of people beyond primary caregiver.

Environmental Enrichment of Puppies:

- a. After 3 weeks puppies need opportunities to eliminate and walk on a variety of surfaces: (e.g., grass, concrete, gravel, turf)
- b. It is suggested that sound enrichment and variation be provided, either through introduction of fans or music in varying volumes.
- c. If appropriate social groupings are not available for puppies, placing them in outdoor areas after other dogs have been there allows for olfactory investigation which is very enriching.

- d. Puppies should be provided access to a variety of items to explore and manipulate both in their pens and while outside, including safe plastic toys and plastic outdoor equipment that can be sanitized.

Follow-up reviews, including field visits and ongoing questionnaires are routinely conducted. For customers, PuppySpot provides ongoing support for behavioral concerns as well as informational articles.

38. All dogs must have a daily opportunity for play and exercise, either through unfettered access to an outdoor run or in accordance with an exercise plan developed in consultation with an attending veterinarian. Any such exercise plan should include details regarding how both the adult dogs and puppies are exercised, the length of time for exercise, any opportunity for interaction with other animals and the exhibition of positive species-specific behaviors, and exceptions for whelping/nursing females and young littermates. The exercise plan can be incorporated into the Program of Veterinary Care or maintained as a separate document.

39. All dogs must be provided with daily positive human contact and socialization beyond the normal feeding and cleaning routine.

40. To promote socialization, PuppySpot recommends dogs be housed in pairs or groups where in consultation with the attending veterinarian, it is deemed appropriate.

41. Puppies must demonstrate that they are appropriately socialized with people and other dogs, as well as familiarized with travel crates in preparation for travel to their adoptive homes.

42. Dogs exhibiting aggressive behavior should be segregated from other dogs. Dogs exhibiting maladaptive/dysfunctional behavior should be afforded appropriate rehabilitation/training. Use of electronic training collars (aka shock collars) for maladaptive/dysfunctional behavior is prohibited. Dogs identified for segregation or rehabilitation must be afforded compensatory human contact and enrichment. A breeder should consult with the attending veterinarian or a recognized/credentialed animal behavior specialist to identify effective and appropriate techniques to address aggressive behavior or rehabilitation in a manner that places a priority on the welfare of all the dogs in the kennel.

43. Primary enclosures and exercise areas must effectively utilize at least one dog-safe enrichment (examples may include toys, ramps or ponds). Such enrichments should be rotated to provide variety and should be of a sufficient number to accommodate the number of dogs in a given enclosure.

44. Treats (including dental treats) may be provided in accordance with the Program of Veterinary Care.

VI. Housing

A. Primary Enclosure Standards

45. The primary enclosure must be in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local standards (federal standards can be found in the USDA's Animal Care Blue Book),

46. The primary enclosure must be large enough so the dog(s) can sit, stand, lie down, and turn around comfortably with no overcrowding or physical constraints. It must also permit normal postural adjustments, include a solid resting place appropriate for the breed(s) being housed and provide space for the dogs to retreat to a separate area if necessary.

47. The primary enclosure must be large enough to accommodate the special needs of the animals, including nursing, estrus, aggressiveness and other compatibility concerns. The amount of space needed will vary by condition (i.e., a nursing female will require additional space for each puppy in her litter).

Effective January 1st, 2020 the floor space of all primary enclosures must be at least 3 times the combined size of all dogs occupying the individual pens.

Measurements shall be made by calculating the sum of the square footage of each dog in the pen measured by length from the tip of the nose to the base of

the tail, multiplied by dog's width from the greater of the widths of the shoulders or hips.

Floor space shall be calculated by multiplying the length and width of accessible floor space which shall include the outdoor portion in pens where dogs are provided unfettered access.

48. The primary enclosure must be constructed and maintained so that dogs are securely housed and wild animals are prevented from entering.

49. The primary enclosure must be structurally sound, safe and impervious to moisture.

50. The primary enclosure must be appropriate for the dogs being housed, taking into consideration the weather, the temperature, the special needs of individual dogs (including, but not limited to whelping and nursing dogs, sick dogs, aggressive dogs or those exhibiting maladaptive behavior), and other factors as determined by the attending veterinarian.

51. The primary enclosure must be easily accessible and safe for human caretakers to enter.

52. The primary enclosure must contain a roof and a floor and must be enclosed on all sides.

53. The surfaces of the primary enclosure must consist of materials that can be easily and effectively cleaned and sanitized and removed/replaced when worn or soiled.

PuppySpot recognizes that appropriate housing should be judged based on how it contributes to good health and welfare outcomes for all dogs, aka, "performance standards.", PuppySpot distinguishes between primary enclosures that are preferred, discouraged, and prohibited.

B. Preferred Primary Enclosures

54. A preferred primary enclosure is one that not only meets all of the engineering standards set forth below in subsections E-N), but that is also designed specifically to house dogs comfortably while prioritizing the animals' health and welfare. In addition, PuppySpot encourages breeders to utilize primary enclosures that are aesthetically pleasing, which helps promote a positive image of dog breeding.

C. Discouraged Primary Enclosures

55. Breeders who are currently employing a type of primary enclosure discouraged by PuppySpot must develop a plan to phase out the use of such enclosures in a reasonable period of time.

56. PuppySpot discourages the use of plastic barrels for housing (and prohibits the use of metal barrels—see below). Use of plastic barrels will be prohibited as of January 1st, 2023. Calf hutches, igloos, and doghouses are preferable alternatives. Until the phase out of the use of plastic barrels referenced above is complete a barrel made of plastic will only be accepted if the barrel has been modified to allow safe entry and exit, as well as ventilation and temperature control. It must also adhere to space requirements, have a rain/wind break, contain clean and dry bedding at all times, and be able to be easily cleaned. Acceptable plastic barrels cannot have ever contained chemicals that could be hazardous to dogs. Finally, a plastic barrel enclosure must adhere to all other requirements outlined for primary enclosures.

57. Use of stacked cages or crates is discouraged and where used, dogs should only be housed on the bottom layer. Effective on January 1, 2024, stacked cages or crates are prohibited for use as primary housing. PuppySpot may allow breeders to continue to utilize stacked housing until January 1, 2025 only if they have phase-out plans in place as of April 7, 2023. Further, exceptions may be made for temporary housing situations (e.g. grooming, whelping or transport). In these situations, stacked housing may not exceed two tiers. They must also have an impermeable barrier between them to effectively prevent the transfer of excreta between crates or cages. Stacked cages or crates must likewise be specifically built for the purpose of temporary dog housing. All other requirements for primary enclosures apply to the temporary use of stacked crates or cages including, but not limited to, size; proper lighting, ventilation and temperature control; proper sanitation as well as ease of cleaning; ease of accessing dogs; and use of approved materials, including flooring materials. Recognizing that the industry is moving away from this type of housing environment and the likelihood

that standards will be amended in the future to prohibit their use, breeders using stacked cages or crates for temporary housing should adopt a plan to phase out their use as soon as possible.

D. Prohibited Primary Enclosures

- 58. Rabbit hutches
- 59. Tethering is prohibited at all times
- 60. Metal barrels
- 61. Wood shacks
- 62. Cars and other vehicles must not be used

E. Fencing

- 63. Housing enclosures and fencing must be safe for the dogs, promote the dogs' welfare and be free of rust, jagged edges and sharp points. Any signs of rust must be addressed expeditiously.
- 64. All fencing must be appropriate to the breed and ages of the affected animals.
- 65. Invisible fencing is permitted, provided it is properly calibrated and maintained so that it will not cause any harm to the puppies or adult dogs.
- 66. Use of electric fences should be minimized. If electric fences are used, breeders must consult with their attending veterinarian to ensure animal health and welfare are not negatively impacted.

F. Utilities

- 67. All kennels utilized by the breeder must have and maintain fully functional utility services, including electric power (unless prohibited by religious customs), gas, drinking water and an appropriate wastewater disposal system.

68. Kennels must have appropriate drains to permit proper cleaning, disinfecting, and drainage.

69. Kennels must have fire and smoke detectors and fire suppression equipment. Kennels with gas heaters or gas water heaters must have properly functioning carbon monoxide detectors.

70. Breeders should have a contingency plan for responding to emergencies and natural disasters (e.g., flooding, tornados, hurricanes, power outages, etc.), including plans for evacuating the animals in an expeditious, humane and safe manner.

G. Ventilation and Temperature of Indoor Housing Facilities

71. All indoor housing facilities must be sufficiently ventilated to prevent strong odors, including excessive ammonia.

72. The temperature of the facilities must be controlled to ensure that the temperature and humidity levels are within a range acceptable for the breed, age, and health status of the animals, as determined in consultation with the attending veterinarian.

73. The air quality of the facilities must be monitored in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.

74. In facilities that have not yet been upgraded with central heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC), fans and heaters must be provided and effectively utilized. In addition, fresh air must be continuously provided.

75. If recirculating systems or other energy-recovery devices are used, these systems must be periodically inspected and adequately maintained.

76. Areas for quarantine, isolation or for the storage of soiled equipment should be appropriately exhausted to avoid contamination of “clean areas” and other animal housing areas.

H. Noise

77. Activities that create noise that has the potential to cause stress to the animals should be minimized and conducted away from dog housing whenever possible. The staff should be trained to minimize noise, including when using equipment.

78. Barking dogs that consistently produce levels of noise that could potentially cause stress to the other animals should, to the extent practicable, be housed separately and away from other dogs. In such situations, compensatory human contact and the use of enrichment activities should be provided to minimize the barking dogs' feelings of isolation and to promote their welfare.

I. Outdoor Facilities

79. Protection from adverse or extreme weather conditions must be provided in a manner consistent with the age, breed, and health status of the affected animals.

80. Outdoor facilities must provide:

- a. shade sufficient for all animals in the enclosure;
- b. adequate protection and shelter from the cold, heat and other elements;
- c. an adequate supply of clean and dry bedding such that temperature is maintained in compliance with the applicable federal, state and local standards. (For example, if a breeder resides in a state that has no state regulatory standards, then the breeder must adhere to federal standards for Heating, Cooling and Temperature (9 CFR § 3.3), which can be found in the USDA's [Animal Care Blue Book](#)); and
- d. an effective windbreak and rain break at the entrance to the facilities.

81. Any dog that is exposed to severe weather conditions should be immediately examined by the attending veterinarian and given care as indicated.

82. When dogs are present in outdoor facilities, they must be contained within or under the owners' control.

J. Flooring

83. Solid flooring is preferred.

84. Multiple (i.e., 2 or more) flooring surface types should be employed in each pen and may include areas with rubber mats, rubber-backed carpet, or other temporary surfaces.

85. PuppySpot discourages the exclusive use of flooring that is not solid. If, however, nonsolid flooring is used in the primary enclosure, the flooring must—

- a. be comprised of a material featuring a protective coating;
- b. be of an appropriate size/type to prevent injury (especially to feet);
- c. be kept in good repair;
- d. be structurally sound so as to eliminate sagging; and
- e. A solid platform of sufficient size must be provided to allow the dog(s) to attain solid footing and to rest comfortably.

86. Solid flooring, other than in exercise facilities, must be impervious to moisture, and all surfaces must be made of materials that can be easily and effectively cleaned, sanitized, or removed/replaced when worn or soiled.

87. Floors made of concrete, gravel, grass or other similar material must be raked or spot cleaned a minimum of once per day.

88. Dirt, sand and cedar wood chips are not acceptable flooring.

K. Lighting

89. Facilities must provide a regular night/day lighting cycle consistent with the general well-being and comfort of the dogs.
90. Lighting must be adequate for effective observation of all animals and to ensure appropriate cleaning of all facilities.

L. Bedding

91. Bedding material made available to the dogs must be clean and dry and not pose a risk to the dogs.
92. Bedding must be spot cleaned with sufficient frequency to afford all dogs the freedom to avoid contact with excreta, and as often as necessary to reduce disease hazards, insects, pests and odors.
93. A sufficient quantity of bedding must be used to protect the dogs from cold temperatures to maintain compliance with applicable federal, state and local temperature standards.

M. Cleaning, Sanitation and Pest Control

94. All housing facilities must be free from standing water, debris and odor; cleaned daily; and regularly sanitized in consultation with the attending veterinarian.
95. During cleaning/sanitizing of pens, dogs must be removed from the enclosures and appropriately housed.
96. Previously inhabited primary enclosures must be cleaned and sanitized before a new dog is introduced.
97. Feces must be picked up and disposed of as frequently as necessary, but not less than daily, so as not to pose a threat to the health of the dog(s).

98. Weeds, grass and bushes must be maintained to facilitate cleaning and pest control.

99. Breeders shall develop and maintain a written plan for managing pests that shall emphasize humane methods of pest control and safety of the animals and staff.

100. Trash and litter must be removed from animal housing and other storage facilities and handled in an appropriate manner and at a frequency that will prevent contamination of facilities and equipment and minimize odors.

N. Storage (Food, Bedding, Medication, Chemicals)

101. To minimize the risk of pest infestation, any area where food is stored must be separate, clean and temperature/humidity-controlled.

102. A sufficient supply of food and bedding may be held in an animal handling area so long as it is maintained in a controlled manner that precludes contamination.

103. All food must be stored and rotated as appropriate to prevent spoilage and to ensure the proper disposal of spoiled or expired food.

104. All food must be stored in sealed containers to prevent contamination.

105. Bedding must be stored separate from animal areas in an area that is clean and dry and free of infestation.

106. All medications and cleaning chemicals must be stored in areas that are secure and in an area that is separated from animal housing areas.

107. All medication must be used in accordance with veterinary instructions and may not be used if beyond its expiration date. Expired medications must be disposed of according to manufacturer's instructions and/or local ordinances.

VII. Training of Staff

108. A sufficient number of trained staff must be provided to maintain appropriate levels of care for the number of dogs kept.

109. Staff should be screened and selected for their qualifications, ensuring their suitability for the tasks assigned and demeanor to work with or around animals.

110. An appropriate level of staff supervision must be in place to ensure that all staff members are adhering to all established operating procedures and standards.

111. All staff must be trained in proper animal care and handling procedures. They must be knowledgeable about PuppySpot's standards, as well as applicable state, local and federal standards.

112. Washroom facilities must be separate from animal areas, and be maintained and accessible to all staff.

VIII. Transportation

113. Transportation of animals in commerce is regulated by the USDA pursuant to the Animal Welfare Act.

114. PuppySpot Logistics, LLC coordinates air and ground transportation services in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

115. Breeders who take personal responsibility in arranging transportation of their puppies either by land or air must be knowledgeable of, and ensure compliance with, all applicable federal, state and local regulations, including federal regulations governing Care in Transit (See 9 CFR § 3.17), which can be found in the USDA's [Animal Care Blue Book](#)).

116. All animals in transit shall be provided access to water/ ice chips at a frequency that ensures their well-being. Crates must indicate the date and times the animals have been fed & watered.

117. All animals must be fed at least every 8 hours. The ideal is 4 hours. Efforts should be made to minimize time between feeding, particularly for small puppies.

118. All animals shall be monitored for health issues while in transit. PuppySpot Logistics, LLC and other intermediate handlers shall have established standard operating procedures and be well trained for those puppies that experience health issues while in transit. These plans shall be made available to PuppySpot for review, upon request.

119. Transporters shall have contingency plans (e.g., animal welfare, health and infectious and zoonotic diseases) to provide adequate care during all stages of travel, including but not limited to situations that might arise during transport requiring unplanned stops or extended layovers.

120. Transporters shall reach out to nearest preferred veterinary service in case of health-related emergency. Any health escalations must be addressed and communicated with PuppySpot.

121. Animals should never be transported with hazardous materials as defined in 49 CFR § 172.101

122. Arrangement of crates should ensure proper ventilation on any transport vehicle or aircraft.

123. For any charter flight or when transporting 5 or more PuppySpot dogs on a commercial flight, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. Aircraft must be sound insulated such that sound levels do not exceed those of a typical commercial airliner, and which is not aversive to the puppies.
- b. Aircraft should be cleaned and disinfected prior to transporting PuppySpot dogs.

- c. Crew members who are ill or may have been recently exposed to a zoonotic disease may not participate in PuppySpot flight operations until they are asymptomatic or have been cleared by a medical professional.

124. Crew members shall ensure that temperature controls are activated and regularly monitored.

125. For any ground transportation, or when transporting 5 or more PuppySpot dogs in a vehicle, the following requirements shall apply:

- a. Pets should only be transported in vehicles equipped with functioning climate controls.
- b. Temperature and air quality within each transport crate should always be maintained to meet requirements similar to those for sheltered housing in Federal Regulations (9 CFR §Pets should only be transported in vehicles equipped with functioning climate controls.
- c. Built in crates must be well-ventilated, secure, and sized appropriately for each dog being transported.
- d. Enclosures must be large enough so the dog(s) can sit, stand, lie down, and turn around comfortably with no overcrowding or physical constraints. It must also permit normal postural adjustments.
- e. Proper bedding is required as well as food and water dishes, affixed to the interior of the kennel.
- f. Extra food and clearly labeled feeding instructions are expected to be attached to the top of each transport crate.