



News

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Linda J. Nofer (480) 510-2353

Marketing Director

[Puppies 'N Love/Animal Kingdom Pet Stores](#)

Puppies 'N Love & Animal Kingdom Pet Stores Will Provide Breeder Records Despite USDA Website Closure

PHOENIX — Puppies 'N Love and Animal Kingdom pet stores in Arizona continues operating with transparency when it comes to selling puppies and providing breeder information to consumers. We are committed to doing the right thing when it comes to giving the public access to important records and inspection reports so consumers know where our puppies come from and how they are bred.

This in response to a major policy change by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Feb. 3 to remove inspection reports and other documents including personal information, such as “regulatory correspondence, research facility annual reports, and enforcement records that have not received final adjudication” from its Web site. The information is accessible via Freedom of Information Act requests, according to the agency. The decision was made after a year-long review of USDA policies.

Many state and local laws, including Arizona's SB1248, rely on those reports to verify responsible breeders by accessing their USDA inspection reports. Dog and other pet owners also use that Web site to make sure their pets were bred and raised humanely and responsibly.

"The law in Arizona requires pet stores to operate with transparency and high standards with regards to breeders. This move by the USDA was surprising and definitely causes us more work, but we continue to scrutinize inspection reports on our breeders and make them available in our stores," says Frank Mineo Jr., owner of Puppies 'N Love and Animal Kingdom pet stores.

"SB1248 gives consumers and animal advocates the right and ability to research the sources or breeders supplying puppies/kittens to pet stores. We work very closely with our breeders and we are proud of them, but we still request copies of all inspection reports dating back two years before we buy any pet from any breeder," says Mineo.

Animal Kingdom and Puppies 'N Love is part of the national Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) - which issued this statement last week:

"In their statement, the USDA made it clear that protection of personal information was a motivating factor in this decision, and we applaud that commitment to their constituents," said PIJAC President and CEO Mike Bober. "Transparency is key for a well-functioning pet industry, however, so we look forward to working with the USDA to make sure that privacy is properly protected even as legislators, regulators, prospective pet owners, and the pet industry have access to critical information."

USDA inspections and enforcement remain intact and are unaffected by the USDA Web site closure. In the meantime, we remain committed to our breeders and consumers and will provide those inspection reports while parties on both sides work towards a compromise.

Note to media: We have four Puppies 'N Love and Animal Kingdom stores in the Valley, one in Tucson and Trendy Pet & Rescue in Scottsdale. We are available for on-camera interviews.

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