

Ruby Anzo -

Awareness on puppy mills

Throughout my life, I have always had a profound love for animals. I was raised on a ranch so every animal is like family to me. This led me to my career path of wanting to work with animals in my future career. During my junior year, I began the journey of enrolling in West-Mec for Veterinary Science. This program introduced me to HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America). In addition, I was given the opportunity to create a non-profit campaign that spreads awareness about the issues within these breeding facilities. This led me to choose animals who suffer from puppy mills and the benefits of adopting your next animal instead of shopping , as this is a major problem. I learned about the widespread corruption that exists in this field and the detrimental effect animal breeding facilities have on the health of animals in this field.

It is estimated that every year, around two million puppies are produced in puppy mills, and around three million shelter dogs are euthanized due to overpopulation in the United States due to the number of puppies produced. These animals come from small overcrowded facilities with little to no food each day. Many individuals don't know where their animals may have come from. Therefore the breeder may not inform their clients about these conditions as they only want money. This is what my main goal was to help make a change for the people around me by creating a group to inform others about what these animals go through. By spreading awareness of puppy mills and spreading their adverse effects on pets and the environment, I hope to encourage pet owners to adopt animals instead of purchasing them from the “puppy mill pipeline,”. According to a report by the American Veterinary Medical Association, 90% of the puppies in pet stores are supplied by puppy mills, thus creating the “puppy mill pipeline.”

To spread awareness on this topic there were many ways I communicated with my community. Including social media, shelter partners, classroom presentations, hashtag campaign, t-shirts, a car wash and donation drive. The group I created felt that we were highly proficient at informing individuals of the community, the conditions and the reach of puppy mills. I took on the role of leading my group by creating Fundraisers , making social media accounts such as Instagram (nwcvet.awareness) and TikTok (nwcawareness23) to post facts and pictures about puppy mills, and how to avoid the “puppy mill pipeline.” One post on TikTok, which gained over 1,000 views, showed the benefits of adopting animals instead of shopping for them. Another one reaching 1500 views, listed reasons why people should adopt their next animal. On our Instagram we were able to post facts about puppy mills, and create reels that were able to reach a variety of people. These social media accounts give me a bigger opportunity to advocate for animals who are suffering. With every post educating others what a puppy mill is , alternatives for getting their next animal , and even fundraisers.(May 17, 2023)

Wanting to spread more awareness, my group conducted further research on the issue. I gave the idea of and dedicated a day to visit our local classrooms and gave a presentation in December of 2022 on puppy mills and presented it to West-mec Northwest campus. This resulted in students wanting to adopt their next animal. We received lots of support and feedback as 24 students signed our petition to either adopt animals or purchase from a reputable breeder.

Not only did I want to just spread awareness in my West-Mec campus, but I also wanted to inform people at my school Valley Vista High School. I discussed it with the staff and was given permission to speak to the class about Puppy mills. I encouraged them to adopt their next animal. With the enormous amount of support i got students created signs that said to adopt their next animals as our staff let students hang these notes around campus.

The next part involved creating shirts and selling them to the community, so that we could donate the money to a local animal shelter. We worked with a local t-shirt company, Ten Cow, to get our message out. Our t-shirt design was simple and to the point, with a graphic and simple message on the front of “End Puppy Mills” and our hashtag on the back. During the two week selling period we were able to sell 20 shirts turning a \$57 profit.

In conjunction with selling shirts to raise money we also held a community car wash. We were able to raise \$178, which we promptly donated to The Humane Society of The United States. This didn't stop here as I set up an animal donation/food drive as we asked the community to donate blankets, food, and other necessities, which resulted in an outpour of support for the animals.

Puppy mills and the “puppy mill pipeline” is a huge problem that many people are unaware about. I feel strongly about helping advocate for these animals as I will forever continue to raise awareness. As me and my HOSA group have all committed ourselves to veterinary science, hoping that through our commitment we will be able to help all animals in need and raise awareness from more than one perspective.

Shirts
3/11/23

We sold shirts from March 1st- March 17th to help raise money for The Humane Society of the United States



We sold 19 shirts, totaling a profit of \$57

Donation Drive
5/8 5/22/23

We hosted a pet food drive to donate to local animal shelters!

Pet Donation drive
 A group helping to end puppy mills and leave no starving animals

May 8th -22nd

Wishlists

- Canned Dog/Cat Food
- Animal toys
- Old/new Towels and Blankets
- Peanut butter
- Dog soft treats
- Cat toys
- Leashes / Harness
- Kong's
- Kitty litter
- Gift cards

100% Of proceeds will be donated to animal shelters

Drop off- Veterinary science building May 11-12
 Donation bins will be placed in each classroom and picked up on May 12

CarWash
3/11/23
#adoptdontshop



CAR WASH

Please help us raise money to end puppy mills! Our Community Awareness group aims to end puppy mills in the U.S. and worldwide. All proceeds will go to The Humane Society of The United States.

Want to help more?
 Order one of our shirts!

On donation bases!

Date: 3/11/23
 Time: 6-11:00 AM
 Location: Tailgaters
 15529 W Bell Rd, Surprise, AZ 85374



Our carwash raised \$178 for The Humane Society of The United States



Social Media- Instagram
@nvcvet.awarness

INSTAGRAM
120+
Followers



Did you know?
 Around 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized every year in the United States.

DOGS ARE NOT MONEY MACHINES
 STOP BUYING FROM PUPPY MILLS

BE A DOG RESCUER!

Citations

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Stopping Puppy Mills

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