

How dog protection is regulated in Colorado

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Federal Government:

USDA/APHIS/AC (Animal Care) licenses breeders who sell to wholesale or retail businesses. It does not license breeders who sell directly to the public (i.e. via the internet).

[Click here](#) for USDA breeder inspection violations. Note that this list is not always up to date; you can file a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for any information that the USDA has on any breeder. See the USDA website to determine the FOIA process.

[Click here](#) for a list of all U.S. breeders licensed by the USDA.

State of Colorado Government:

PACFA (Pet Animal Care Facilities) is the program that licenses and inspects pet animal facilities throughout Colorado. PACFA is a program under the Division of Animal Industry, Colorado Department of Agriculture.

People who sell 25 or more puppies in a year require a PACFA breeder license. It is therefore possible for someone to sell puppies to a pet store and not have a PACFA or a USDA breeder license.

PACFA is THE route to take with complaints. If you have concerns about the health or care of pet animals in a licensed facility then you can file a complaint with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, Pet Animal Care Facilities Program (PACFA) [online](#) or by phone at (303) 239-4167.

PACFA follows statutes set by the Colorado Legislature. They also craft administrative regulations that are set by the PACFA Advisory Group. [Click here](#) for the Advisory Group list.

Per Colorado regulations, pet store must disclose to a consumer any medical treatment or diagnosis within the past 30 days. Bills of sale must include age and breed. Any other public disclosure by a pet store is voluntary.

Pet stores must be able to provide invoices (purchases of dogs and puppies) to PACFA inspectors. An invoice must include date of purchase, contact info of the supplier/breeder and each dog's age and breed. Pet stores must also have bills of sale and medical records for the PACFA inspectors. Depending upon the pet store and the circumstance, PACFA will usually inspect a facility at least every year.

[Click here](#) for the PACFA website.

Other help:

Municipalities usually have anti-cruelty laws; the police and local District Attorneys can help take action. PACFA works with the State Attorney General (AG) to pursue. Civil issues with facilities. The AG can also get involved with animals regarding consumer protection or fraud.

[Click here](#) to look pet stores and breeders up at the Better Business Bureau.

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