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Facts About Cage Stacking

The Humane Society of the United States

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THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Facts about Cage Stacking

One of the most troubling conditions seen at puppy mills is overcrowding, which can lead to sanitation problems, stress, and disease. Puppy mills commonly use stacked cages to house more animals than a given space should reasonably hold. Specific problems with cage stacking include:

- In cages with wire or slatted flooring, stacked cages allow urine, feces, wastewater, and other filth from higher cages to rain down onto the dogs in the lower cages.
- Stacked cages encourage overcrowding. The HSUS has been involved in numerous puppy mills where the ammonia levels inside buildings with stacked cages were so high that rescue workers had to wear respirators.
- Dogs in stacked cages are often so high or so low that caretakers or inspectors can't easily see the dogs to check on their well-being.
- Stacking makes it more difficult for adequate lighting and air flow to reach all parts of the enclosures; in some cases some of the dogs in stacked cages have been found living in almost total darkness and neglect.
- Adequate cleaning of stacked cages is difficult and often hinders proper care.
- Removal of the dogs and puppies from the highest or lowest tiers for maintenance or cleaning can be difficult and often leads to unsafe conditions or injury to the dogs.

