FACT SHEET FOR ALABAMA LEGISLATORS · NOVEMBER 2026

Alabama's dog breeding industry operates with almost no oversight

Alabama has no state law that licenses or inspects dog breeders, and no Alabama breeders currently hold an active federal USDA license in BOB's records. Meanwhile, more than 1,300 Alabama breeders are advertising puppies online.

1,385
Alabama breeders advertising puppies on three websites. None has a state or USDA license on record.

0
Licensed dog breeders in Alabama. The state has no licensing program, and BOB found no active USDA licenses.

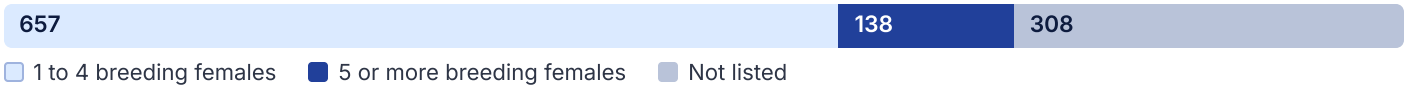
68
Online breeders who list 5+ breeding females and ship puppies, conditions that generally require a USDA license.

23
USDA inspections of Alabama dog breeders and brokers in six years combined (2021 to 2026).

The oversight gap

In states that license breeders, inspectors visit kennels on a set schedule. In Alabama, the only possible oversight is federal, and it applies only to breeders who meet USDA's criteria and apply for a license. BOB's records show none currently do. Six Alabama breeders have had a USDA license cancelled, five of them since 2020.

The online market is large. BOB reviewed Alabama breeders on Good Dog, Puppies.com and AKC Marketplace and found 1,385 after removing those listed on more than one site. Of the 1,103 on Good Dog:



Most are small sellers. But 138 list five or more breeding females, 290 ship puppies through flight nannies or ground transport companies, and 68 do both. Buyers who receive a shipped puppy never see where it was raised, and no one else checks either.

Alabama is one of 18 states with neither breeder licensing nor a puppy lemon law. 18 states license dog breeders, and 22 have puppy lemon laws that give buyers recourse when a puppy is sick at sale.

How neighboring states compare

State	Licenses breeders	Inspects breeders	Puppy lemon law	Licenses pet stores
Alabama	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
Georgia	**Yes**	**Annually**	No	**Yes**
Florida	No	No	**Yes**	No
Tennessee	No	No	No	No
Mississippi	No	No	No	No

Source: BOB's State Requirements research, which tracks breeder and pet store laws in all 50 states.

Approaches other states use

States have taken several approaches to oversight of dog breeding and puppy sales. These are drawn from BOB's tracking of laws across all 50 states.

State breeder licensing and inspection

18 states, including Georgia, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas, license commercial dog breeders. Most set a size threshold and inspect licensed kennels on a regular schedule.

Puppy lemon laws

22 states, including Florida and South Carolina, give buyers recourse, such as a refund or reimbursed vet costs, when a puppy turns out to be sick shortly after sale.

Pet store licensing and sourcing rules

Several states license pet stores, require stores to disclose where puppies came from, or restrict which breeders stores may buy from.

Breeder advertising disclosure

Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin have laws covering what breeders must disclose when they advertise puppies for sale.

Pet stores in Alabama

BOB tracks 7 open pet stores in Alabama that sell puppies. Two are rated High on BOB's pet store sourcing concern scale. BOB doesn't yet have enough sourcing data to rate the other five.

About these numbers

- **Online breeders:** BOB reviewed Alabama sellers on Good Dog, Puppies.com and AKC Marketplace, removing duplicates across sites. Facebook, Craigslist and breeders' own websites aren't included, so the true number is higher.
- **Breeding dog counts and shipping** are what breeders list on their own profiles.
- **License status** was checked against BOB's database of USDA licensees. BOB's nationwide license audit is ongoing, so figures may be updated.
- **Inspections** come from USDA APHIS inspection reports compiled by BOB.
- **State laws** come from BOB's State Requirements research. Please check current statutes before drafting legislation.

About Bailing Out Benji

Bailing Out Benji (BOB) is a national nonprofit that researches the commercial dog breeding industry. BOB maintains a database of licensed and unlicensed breeders, brokers, pet stores and online sellers used by legislators, regulatory agencies and animal welfare organizations. BOB is glad to answer questions or provide more detailed data for your district.

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