

*Proclamation Declaring September 19, 2026 as
Puppy Mill Awareness Day*

Whereas The Hidalgo County Pet Advocacy Coalition is dedicated to promoting the health, safety, welfare, and humane treatment of companion animals throughout Hidalgo County and the Rio Grande Valley; and

Whereas Puppy mills are high-volume commercial dog-breeding operations that prioritize profit over the health and well-being of animals, often keeping dogs in overcrowded, unsanitary, and inadequate conditions with insufficient veterinary care, exercise, socialization and human interaction; and

Whereas An estimated 13,000 puppies are imported into Texas each year for sale through pet stores, many originating from commercial breeding operations. Texas faces an urgent and ongoing animal shelter crisis and remains the number one state in the nation for euthanizing healthy and treatable shelter pets; and

Whereas The overpopulation of companion animals places immense strain on municipal shelters, animal welfare organizations, and rescue groups throughout Hidalgo County and the Rio Grande Valley, which work tirelessly to provide shelter, medical care, rehabilitation, foster placement, and loving homes to homeless and abandoned animals; and

Whereas Local shelters, humane organizations, and rescue groups provide an essential service to our communities by giving homeless animals a second chance at life while working to reduce pet overpopulation through adoption, spay and neuter programs, education fostering, and responsible pet ownership; and

Whereas Puppy Mill Awareness Day provides an opportunity to educate the public about the realities of commercial puppy mills, encourage compassionate and responsible decisions when acquiring companion animals, and recognize the importance of protecting animals from neglect, exploitation, and unnecessary suffering; and

Whereas The Hidalgo County Pet Advocacy Coalition encourages residents, businesses, community organizations, animal welfare advocates, and elected officials throughout Hidalgo County to stand together in support of humane treatment, responsible pet ownership, adoption, and meaningful efforts to address companion animal overpopulation and homelessness.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court declares September 19, 2026 as Puppy Mill Awareness Day and encourages the community to educate themselves about the cruel realities of puppy mills, practice responsible animal sourcing and pet ownership, and to choose adoption whenever possible.

Approved this 15th day of September 2026.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO "EVER" VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: _____
ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk