



Stop Puppy Mills Ohio Rules for Gathering Signatures

Thank you for volunteering to make a difference in the lives of puppies in Ohio. Your dedication is crucial to our success, so don't let your efforts be wasted. **Your petitions may not be counted if you don't follow these rules! Be sure to review these rules thoroughly before collecting signatures and keep them with you at all times!**

Before collecting signatures:

- **DO: Use a different stapled petition packet for each county.** i.e., all Franklin voters sign in one petition packet, all Cuyahoga voters in another, all Butler voters in a third, etc.
- DO: Be prepared! Have your clipboard with plenty of petitions, fliers and blue- or blank-ink pens ready.

When collecting signatures:

- DO: Make sure **only Ohio registered voters** sign!
- DO: Tell signers to use the **address where they are registered to vote**. If they will be registered at a different address by July 2018, they should use that address where they *will* be registered.
- **DO NOT: Let signers use Post Office Boxes!** Street addresses only!
- DO NOT: Be concerned with the "Ward/Precinct" box – it's fine to leave that blank.
- DO NOT: Allow anyone to sign the petition more than once. If someone cannot recall whether or not they have signed, allow them to sign but warn them against signing again – **their signature only counts once**.
- **DO NOT: Let signers use ditto marks!** Each voter must sign his/her full information even it is the same as another voter's (i.e. husband/wife, roommates, etc.)

Important guidelines:

- **DO NOT: Un-staple or rearrange the stapled petition packet's sheets, write in the margin, make any unnecessary marks on, or cut the petition.** Do not use white out!
- **DO NOT: Sign your own petition.** Please find a friend's petition to sign!
- **DO NOT: Make copies of the petitions.** If you need additional petitions packets, please contact our office.
- DO NOT: Leave your petitions unattended—**you must witness each signature that you collect**.
- DO: Have all signers use a blue or black ink pen. **Signatures made in pencil do not count**.
- DO: If you recruit your friends/family to help gather signatures (and we love it when you do!) **PLEASE make sure that they have a copy of these guidelines!** Remind them they can only have ONE circulator per stapled petition packet – in other words, they can't get 5 signatures and then hand that same petition packet off to a friend to gather another 5 signatures in that same stapled petition packet.

Turning Petitions in:

- **DO NOT: FORGET TO COMPLETE THE STATEMENT OF CIRCULATOR SECTION on the back page. PETITIONS WILL NOT COUNT if this is not filled in with your name in the first blank, the number of signatures in that stapled petition packet in the second blank, and your signature and address at the bottom. Please leave the (Name and address of employer) line in the middle blank.**
 - When filling in the number of signatures in the second blank, start with the number that appears pre-printed on the top left of the last signature box where someone signed. Then subtract blank pages or signature boxes, crossed out boxes, or boxes with missing addresses or signatures. **If you aren't sure if a signature should count, count it.** When in doubt of the number of signatures to report, report the larger of the 2 numbers, not the smaller.
- **DO NOT: fill in the "Number" line on the front – that's for our office use.**
- **DO: Send the petitions in regularly!** Mail or drop off the petitions to the campaign office on a weekly basis. Send them in if you have just 3 OR MORE SIGNATURES. Mondays are a good day to send them to us. Please send regular 1st class mail – do not send certified mail. **Mail your petitions to: Stop Puppy Mills Ohio, P.O. Box 82228, Columbus, OH 43202**

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING FOR STOP PUPPY MILLS OHIO!

Paid for by Stop Puppy Mills Ohio

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL SIGNATURE GATHERING

We will not succeed without the dedication of volunteers like you! Please read our “tried and true” signature gathering tips below. **Remember, our goal is for our volunteers to have fun and feel empowered while gathering signatures to help animals!** We sincerely appreciate your help!

Be Prepared:

- **Organize your supplies** in a way that makes sense to you; each stapled petition packet must be county-specific. Once a voter from Franklin County has signed a petition, only fellow Franklin County voters may sign that stapled petition packet, voters from Cuyahoga County would sign a second stapled petition packet, voters from Stark County a third stapled petition packet, and so on. To help avoid signers signing in the wrong packet, you can fill in the county on each signature block before collecting signatures.
- If you are attending a large event where signers from several counties are likely to be present, consider putting petition packets for each county in folders in a binder, so you can quickly flip to the correct petition. **DO NOT PUNCH HOLES** in the petitions!
- **Bring supplies:** Bring clipboards, petition packets, blue- or black-ink pens, and a “sign here” poster taped to the back of clipboards or displayed on a table.
- **Set up:** Set up with three clipboards of stapled petition packets for the county where you’re gathering and a fourth with extra blank/unassigned stapled petition packets.
- **Choose a location:** a high-traffic location is your best bet: an event that will draw a crowd or a busy public place.
 - Grocery stores and farmers’ markets are typically the most productive locations.
 - Big events on public property such as fairs, festivals, and 5/10ks are also productive.

Make the Ask:

- **Ask everyone!** There’s no guessing who will sign, so give everyone a chance.
- **Presentation:** Remove sunglasses for effective eye contact, speak clearly, and always be polite.
- **Posture:** Be friendly, smile, work the crowd.
- **Pitch:** Be quick and find a line that works for you. For example, “Hi, please help prevent puppy mill cruelty with a quick signature?” Remember, an education and persuasion campaign comes later, for now we need signatures.
 - *Gatherer:* “Quick signature to help dogs in Ohio?”
Signer: “Sure, what is this?”
Gatherer: “Great, in what county are you registered to vote?” (This line saves you time, instead of asking, “Are you registered to vote?” and then, “in which county are you registered?”)
- Remind signers to please **print their name, address where they are (or will be by July) registered to vote, sign and date.** If possible, quickly check that signers have filled in all the necessary boxes (“M.I” and “Ward/Precinct” boxes are not necessary), so you can ask them to fix any mistakes before they walk away.
- **Pace:** Rather than wait for someone to finish signing, once they’ve started, look to the next person. Keep several clipboards going at once.
- **Don’t engage with angry people!** If someone wants to pick a fight, don’t give them that satisfaction, just smile and walk away. You’ll look so much better, especially to all the other signers just behind that person!
- **Mistakes:** If someone mistakenly signs the incorrect petition sheet (from another county), simply cross the name out with a *single* line and have them sign the correct petition. If someone prints the wrong address on the correct petition, simply cross the name out with a single line and have them complete the next signature block.
- **Success:** Base your success on signatures gathered per hour (30 is a good goal), not the people who pass by.

SEND PETITIONS INTO THE CAMPAIGN OFFICE WEEKLY. Each week, mail your petitions to: **Stop Puppy Mills Ohio, P.O. Box 82228 Columbus, OH 43202**

Once the campaign office receives your petitions we will immediately mail you new packets. Please send regular 1st class mail, please don’t send certified mail! Mondays are a good day to send them to us. Arrangements can also be made to drop them off to the campaign office. If you have any questions, email: Katerra@stoppupmillssohio.com.

DON’T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE DECLARATION OF CIRCULATOR SECTION on the back page. PETITIONS WILL NOT COUNT if this is not filled in with your name in the first blank, the number of signatures in that stapled petition packet in the second blank, and your signature and address at the bottom. Please leave the (Name and address of employer) line in the middle blank. THANK YOU!!