

My name is Shanna Maus - I live in Lewiston, MN

I was born and raised in Winona County and I am the dog director at the Winona Area Humane Society.

I have experienced some of the outcomes of breeding facilities here in Winona as well as others across the country.

These breeding facilities are not based on love or care for the animals. They are a business....selling puppies at the highest price possible with the lowest production cost possible.

In my personal experience I have cared for a dog named Juniper. When Juniper was spayed, the vet discovered that she had been so overly bred that her uterus was tearing from the inside out. I personally fostered Juniper each night to help her overcome her severe anxiety - which was brought on by her previous traumatic life as breeding stock.

I also took in a chocolate lab who came from a breeding facility in Winona County. The facility sold this dog to a convicted felon, who then severely neglected him. This dog, who I named Windsor, was so desperate for food he was eating the blinds behind his cage ... he was extremely emaciated when we took him in.

This just shows how these facilities can impact the whole community. Shelters and rescue volunteers take in and care for animals who are hurt or unwanted.... with no help from the breeders.

Please I urge you to discuss this issue in-depth.

I hope I can do them and so many others justice tonight.

Thank you.