

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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Varner, of the Nebraska Humane Society in Omaha, they have visited these facilities and they will tell you they represent the worst violators of Nebraska's cruelty to animal laws. They will tell you that they constitute a fraud upon the unsuspecting consumers who buy the animals produced in these facilities. That's because many of these animals are often sick, they are inbred, and they are so abused they make terrible and sometimes vicious pets and have to be destroyed. Just think if you answered an ad in the newspaper and you were looking for a fluffy little puppy for your child and you answered the ad and said, when can I come out or where do I come? And they said, oh, I'll save you a trip; will you meet me at the southeast corner of Gateway parking lot and I will give you the puppy; it will be \$400. So you drive up with your child, who's extremely excited. The exchange is made, you know, the little puppy for the dollars. Well, then they take this puppy out of the cage, put it in the backseat with your child. Your child proceeds to hug this puppy and your child is bit. Why? This dog has been raised in a cage on top of a cage, on top of a cage, and has had no socialization until they took it out of the cage, particularly if it was on the bottom cage, cleaned it up, shampooed it, put it in a cage, put it in a car, and took it to the southeast corner of Gateway parking lot. So it's terrorized and so here comes Johnny and he hugs the puppy and proceeds to be bit. Good puppy raisers will handle and work with these puppies so that they do have socialization skills. Judy Varner and Bob Downey, who I consider very good resources, will also tell you that these facilities exist because there's a hole in Nebraska's cruelty to animal laws that make it extremely difficult, and sometimes impossible, for local animal control authorities to shut down these puppy mills. In order to understand the problem you need to know how the cruelty to animal laws work. First, enforcement of the laws are mainly a local responsible. Second, in order for a local enforcement authority to enter a facility suspected of violating the laws it has to get enough evidence to convince a judge to approve a search warrant, and this takes time. Now that sounds easy, but it isn't, because if I am running a puppy mill I'm not going to let you or anybody else on my property that might blow the whistle on me, and that's exactly what happens. So this is the benefit of LB 825. Under this bill, in order to operate a commercial facility I, as the puppy mill operator or the