Talking Points:

**Why are puppies $300**

All of our puppies (4 months and younger) are given the following:

* DA2PP (Distemper combo- Duramax 5, includes canine distemper, adenovirus type 2, parinfluenza, and parvovirus) 1 initial vaccine and up to 3 boosters if old enough. (adopter is responsible for all recommended boosters after adoption).
* Rabies vaccine (if older than 4 months)
* Bordatella vaccine
* Treatment for internal parasites
* Veterinary care and treatment
* Monthly heartworm preventative
* Monthly flea preventative
* Treatment for fleas if necessary
* Microchip
* Evaluation by our staff behavior specialist
* Spay/neuter surgery
* Housing and top notch care
* 6 week puppy class

Due to the nature of puppies, they sometimes require extra care- cleaning kennels increases staff time, prone to worms- have to treat more often and potentially more aggressively, more vaccines due to boosters, etc.

If you receive continued pushback on the subject, either get a director or supervisor to speak with them. If none are available, get their name and phone number and give it to a director or supervisor to call back.

**Why are you taking in dogs from other states through PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin’ Program?**

* We are lucky to be in a place where demand for adoptable puppies is high. This gives us the opportunity to be able to get more rescue animals into homes.
* We work with several county shelters in West Michigan and beyond to help save homeless animals.
* Our first commitment is always to the animals in our community.
* PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin’ Program is one strategy we use to save more lives in our community.
* PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin’ Program relocates dogs and puppies from areas of high homeless-pet overpopulation to shelters in areas where adoptable dogs are in more demand.
* PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin’ Program operates under professionally-developed industry standards for originating and receiving shelters, spay/neuter and animal health practices and humane transport.

**I heard you adopt out sick puppies.**

Most likely, you can transfer to a director/supervisor.

But remember as it states on the application that adopters sign:

* The dog you may want to adopt has been exposed to viruses, perhaps before he was brought here, but most certainly after he arrived. We receive owned and stray animals and rescue sick, injured and abandoned ones. In an effort to keep the dogs/puppies healthy while here, we maintain a clean kennel, keep fresh air circulating throughout the animal housing animals, and give the dogs/puppies preventative vaccines. Each dog receives a DA2PP, is a Distemper combo- Duramax 5, that includes canine distemper, adenovirus type 2, parinfluenza, and parvovirus) 1 initial vaccine and up to 2 boosters if old enough).
* He also receives a Bordatella vaccine that further protects against kennel cough.
* However even a vaccinated dog/puppy could become ill with any of the above conditions because vaccines do not provide immediate protection and because the dog/puppy may have been incubating the condition before being admitted to the shelter.
* There is simply no guarantee that the animal you adopt (or really any animal for that matter), may not become seriously ill after you have taken it home.
* Apart from the measures we take in keeping shelter animals healthy, there are no other reasonable, affordable precautions that we can take to prevent a pet from becoming ill after adoption. There is always a chance, as there is with any animal, that he may require extensive post-adoption veterinary care.

**In adoption consults and when getting contracts signed- please stress the above as well as the following points:**

* I understand that the animal(s) I adopt from HSWM may require veterinary medical or health treatment beyond that provided by HSWM prior to taking my animal home. Such additional veterinary medical treatment could be costly. I acknowledge that HSWM is not responsible for providing any additional veterinary treatment of the incurring cost of any additional veterinary treatment provided by veterinarians I select to provide such treatment.
* Animals are living creatures and as such cannot come with a guarantee of perfect health or behavior. Occasionally a condition or medical problem may exist that needs vet care, which is not obvious to HSWM while the animal is at the shelter; HSWM is not responsible for treatment costs.
* I hereby accept possession and title of the animal described above at my own risk, understanding that there is always some element of the unknown when adopting a pet and those adopters may never know what challenges and joys lie ahead.