

March 15, 2012

Dear Honorable members of the CT Environment Committee

I am writing in support of Raised Bill 5409. Regrettably I can not attend the public hearing on March 16. However, this letter serves to document my family's ordeal with purchasing our dog, Jethro from a CT Pet Store (Puppies of Westport).

We purchased Jethro in February 2011. He weighed 3.2 pounds. Ten days later he had a seizure and needed immediate hospitalization. For months Jethro endured multiple blood tests, injections, medications, ultrasounds and surgery. When he was six months old he still only weighed 3 pounds. The doctors determined that Jethro had multiple parasites and bowel disease. After months of extensive treatment totaling over \$10,000 Jethro is finally healthy weighing 10 pounds. He still needs a monthly injection for his bowel disease, which will most likely continue for the rest of his life.

We contacted Puppies of Westport throughout this ordeal and they were usually unresponsive except for offering to have Jethro see their vet. At no time, was I made aware of a puppy lemon law and after researching the breeder, I was even more disheartened to find that Jethro came from a puppy mill.

Coincidentally my young son also had to be taken to the hospital with gastrointestinal problems, soon after purchasing Jethro. In retrospect, I have to wonder if he caught something from our new puppy as I also learned that parasites like giardia are contagious to humans as well as other dogs!

In addition to the financial hardship, this has been a heartbreaking experience. I urge you to support passage of this bill, as something must be done to better protect people who unknowingly purchase sick puppy mill puppies in our local pet stores.

Sincerely,

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