

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen of the Hartford County area. I am a resident of Enfield, CT.

My family and I decided to add a dog to our home in the beginning of December 2011. We fell in love with a puppy named Sapphire who was with a rescue named Nick of Time. We had found our love on petfinder.com and he was located in GA. I contacted the coordinator and she said she would transport him to CT. that Saturday. We made arrangements to meet at Cabella's parking lot. Upon arrival, I observed the van that she was driving was full of dogs that were housed improperly, several to a crate and in unsanitary conditions. There was a significant amount of liquid on the floor of the van of what I assume to have been fecal material. Despite my reservations I proceeded with the adoption because we loved this dog. When she removed him from the van and handed him to me he was covered in fecal matter, very lethargic, and riddled with many large sized ticks on him. He also had a yellow discharge coming from his left eye.

We took him home and thought that maybe he was just lethargic from the long ride. My son and I waited about 4 hours to see if he would perk up. We

bathed him, offered him some food (which he refused) but drank excessively. It became apparent to us that this was a very sick dog, his stools were loose and bloody. I made the decision to take him to the nearest after hours animal hospital. They took a snap test and it tested positive for Parvo. They instantly admitted him but did not give us much hope as his symptoms were very severe. We had to pay up front for 3 days of hospitalization. They wanted to keep him longer than this, but we were not able to afford the continued costs of his hospitalization. They sent us home with care instructions, and despite our best efforts, our baby passed away the next day.

This was devastating to me and my family! This dog we thought we would be able to give a wonderful life to died right in front of us.

Upon having conversations with people, I decided to research this rescue and found that her license was expired in GA. When he got to us he had no paperwork that belonged to him. We have no idea if he was vaccinated. And it was clear he had not been seen by a vet recently because he was so very ill upon arrival. Because I had the “wrong paperwork” there was no way for me to confirm that this puppy had ever been to a vet.

In speaking with rescues, I see that current state laws require dogs to be seen by a vet within 48 hours of arrival. I think all dogs should be seen by a vet, but the

way things stand, this would have done **nothing** to prevent this tragedy. The rescue community is calling for legislation that protects CT families. I support laws being proposed that require pets coming in to be fully vetted and seen by a vet before traveling. I also think that rescues should be using licensed transport companies. If this dog was taken care of before he traveled, this would have never have happened.

Please require rescue pets coming into the state to be healthy. I support the stipulations outlined by Big Fluffy Dogs Rescue and hope that this never happens to another family.

Thank you.

Danielle Rock

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