

March 15, 2013 – Testimony Concerning HB 5027

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DOG DAYS ADOPTION EVENTS, INC.

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for the opportunity to express my support of **HB 5027, An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs or Cats From Substandard Domestic Animal Mills at Pet Shops**. I am a registered voter in the town of Essex, Connecticut.

I represent a Connecticut based non-profit whose mission is to assist small rescues and municipal shelters throughout Connecticut, as well as out of state, place their dogs by organizing community supported dog adoption events. To date we have managed eight such events and we are fortunate to have found over 700 responsible adopters from towns around our state for shelter dogs in need. We partner with many in state and out of state rescues as well as state municipal pounds and we continue to have a good working relationship with our Department of Agriculture.

While our focus is supporting rescue through responsible adoptions we are also concerned about the welfare of all animals coming into the home of a new family. We are encouraging you to vote for HB 5027 because of the following considerations:

(1) There are many reported instances of extreme physical abuse suffered by animals who have been raised in “puppy mills”.

This information is not “anecdotal” but substantiated time and again. Puppy mill dogs live in barbaric conditions, are not socialized and suffer from many variations of illnesses and structural deformities. Unsuspecting families buy these dogs and puppies and then suffer needless heartache and financial hardship because of corporate greed.

(2) Connecticut has the opportunity to be a national leader in a movement to prevent abuse instead of legislating actions once it happens.

Our Department of Agriculture does not have the personnel to inspect each facility on a consistent basis - therefore, preventing the abuse instead of regulating the abuser is a more appropriate course of action and HB 5027 offers a viable solution.

(3) Overwhelmingly the public has show it's disgust with puppy mill businesses and exposing their poor practices will not fall on the shoulders of our state but more from public investigation.

Just like the Animal Import Law, where enforcement of the law is 'complaint driven' as opposed to inspection driven, the public will gladly expose puppy mills for their abusive and inhumane conditions.

(4) We need further regulation for the standard of care ANY animal receives in our state whether at a pet store, municipal pound or rescue facility.

Unfortunately many people with different job titles profit from the sale of animals – a minimum standard of care for ANY facility or ANY person responsible for participating in the transfer of ownership of an animal is long overdue. Rescue organizations should be required to house animals in a humane environment which allows them to thrive. Too often we hear of far less dedication to animal health and well being from our news stations and it's our time to end this abusive profiting.

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter and for the opportunity to address you today.