

**Environment Committee**  
**Public Hearing: 3/15/13**

**Testimony Concerning HB 5027**

An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs and Cats Obtained from Substandard Domestic Animal Mills.

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Some of the most egregious animal cruelty offenders can be found inside the puppy mill industry, which supplies CT pet stores with animals. The living conditions and extreme lack of care for these breeder dogs are truly unspeakable, and they translate into unhealthy, sick animals coming into our state. The purchasing families often find debilitating heartbreak and financial expense with puppy mill dogs.

There are other, far better options for families who like to have a puppy. Rescue organizations and shelters nearly always have puppies who are looking for homes. For those who desire a specific breed, there are responsible breeders within Connecticut, who take the time to ensure their animals are placed in the right homes and that the new owners are well-informed of the specific needs of each breed.

I fully support a complete prohibition on the sale of commercially-bred dogs, cats, and rabbits in Connecticut's 18 pet stores.

Thank you for your support of this bill.