



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

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March 15, 2013

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Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-0440

Re: SUPPORT of HB 5027, An act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats obtained from substandard domestic animal mills

Dear Co-Chair Meyer, Co-Chair Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Connecticut supporters of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), I submit this letter in support of a prohibition on the sale of dogs and cats in Connecticut's pet stores.

Nearly all puppies sold in pet stores come from puppy mills. A puppy mill is an inhumane, commercial dog-breeding facility in which the health of the dogs is disregarded in order to maintain a low overhead and maximize profits.

Stores that do sell puppies should be encouraged to help end pet overpopulation by stopping the sale of puppies and supporting their local shelters and pet adoption programs instead. In Connecticut, 45 pet stores have taken the "Puppy Friendly Pledge", an HSUS initiative that asks dog lovers everywhere to work with their local pet stores to encourage them to implement a "puppy friendly" policy by refusing to sell puppies in their store. Stores that already do not sell puppies can sign up to show that they are taking a stand against puppy mills and to make official their policy of not selling puppies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Annie Hornish
Connecticut State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
Cell: (860) 966-5201 Email: ahornish@humanesociety.org

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