

Mr. Chairman (*or madam chair*) and members of the committee. My name is Timothy Sheehan of Bridgeport CT and I am speaking in support of HB 5027 An act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats obtained from substandard domestic animal mills.

One of the reasons for my support of this bill is that I have been a recent victim of such a pet store.

My abbreviated story is as follows;

On 12/28/2012 I responded to online advertising posted at ALLPETSCLUB.COM for the sale of a bloodhound puppy.

I went to the business which operates out of four locations in Ct to view the puppy advertised.

I was introduced to the puppy by an employee of the store , told the employee I was interested in purchasing , and reviewed all the paperwork they presented related to the animal.

No current medical issues were brought to my attention and I had been assured by the employee that the puppy was healthy. I told the employee I wanted to purchase the puppy, and we completed the paperwork. After the transaction was completed, I took the puppy home.

The next morning the puppy was not breathing right, and it looked very sick. I then rushed the puppy to an animal hospital in Shelton CT.

The puppy was taken immediately for an emergency medical examination and put on oxygen.

I called the pet store from the hospital .I advised them I was at the vet hospital with the puppy and that the animal is on oxygen and very sick. I asked the employee what they wanted me to do. I was told "do whatever you have to do , keep us informed", and "not to worry that the puppy was under warranty".

After examination I was informed by the Vet Hospital staff that the puppy had pneumonia, was very sick, with a low oxygen blood count, and that they had found a screw in the puppies stomach on x ray. That the puppy would need to have the screw removed, to stay in an oxygen tent , and be treated for the pneumonia. The puppy stayed two nights at the vet hospital and the vet bill totaled \$ 4,412.32 (four thousand four hundred twelve dollars and thirty two cents.) They filled out the Puppy's First Veterinarian Visit checklist to validate the warranty which was faxed to the pet store.

After treatment I took the puppy home, and by the next day, it again appeared to have difficulty breathing. I called All Pets Club again and was referred to the manager of the puppy department who told me to take the puppy to their veterinary hospital located in Rocky Hill CT and that they would assume the cost of medical care. She also told me she would speak to the owners of All Pets Club and they would likely cover the cost of the initial veterinary care. Those costs were never covered. I took the puppy to their vet hospital and the puppy was assessed with Pneumonia, Anorectic, along with labored breathing, moderate nasal discharge, and Increased

BP sounds. The puppy was given Oxygen, fluid therapy, and supportive care. All pets club balked at the cost for the animals care and had the puppy transferred out of that hospitals care the next day to the care of another veterinary hospital for continued treatment. The diagnostic testing performed at my cost showed the puppy had two bacterial infections present E-Coli ,and in a larger amount ,a second bacteria, which I won't even attempt to pronounce, both resistant to the antibiotics described. I ended up having to make several calls between the vet hospitals to coordinate a workable treatment plan for the animals care.

After continued medical treatment the puppy was released to me. After exposure to the puppy my other pet, a Terrier mix, developed kennel cough, requiring a vet visit and treatment with antibiotics at a cost of \$85.00. I had the puppy re evaluated by my regular vet at further additional cost.

On January 10th I was then contacted by All Pets Club and was offered a five hundred dollar store credit along with a club membership in compensation for my thousands of dollars in accumulated vet bills. I asked to be reimbursed as required under the Pet Lemon Law ,and told the puppy store manager the store credit was unacceptable. The manager hung up the phone without resolving the issue or making any arrangements with me for reimbursement of my vet bills.

On January 21st the puppy was again taken to a veterinary hospital with difficulty breathing . After an Emergency examination and chest radiographs the puppy was found to have a ongoing case of pneumonia, which required another round of antibiotics and follow up care.

I have incurred additional veterinary care bills of over six hundred seventy six dollars. Both animals are now completing their antibiotic regiments and appear to be recovering pending further veterinary evaluation. The antibiotic given to the puppy has long term joint related side effects but was needed due to the severity of the infection present.

As All Pets Club has refused to follow the pet lemon law requirements to date have I filed a complaint with the Ct States Attorney General's Office, Department of Agriculture, Animal Control Division, Federal Trade Commission, Better Business Bureau, and several animal rights organizations. I have also notified my credit card company to dispute the charge . To date I have received no compensation from All Pets Club for my accumulated veterinary bills totaling well over five thousand dollars, and keep from going deeper into debt, am now bartering professional services with my vet to pay for the puppies ongoing care.

When I researched the breeder used by this pet store I found the puppy was from a large scale mill operation called the Rockin H Kennel out of Coffeyville Kansas.

My detailed Statement of Complaint against All Pets Club and all documentation is available upon request.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.