

## **Testimony for SB 445- Pet store recommendations, HB 5416-Gestation crates and HB 5080-Sunday hunting**

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Connecticut has the chance to sever connections with horrific puppy mills. There are not just a few bad actors in the commercial breeding business. We have seen behind the scenes thanks to a CT law mandating that pet stores post certificates of origin for puppies. Over 95% of breeders that are used by CT pet stores operate horrific dog factories. People in CT are ready for the remaining pet stores to phase into a humane model because parents of commercially bred puppies are condemned to an existence that none of us would wish for any dog.

### ***..It's legal in commercial breeding facilities for dogs:***

- ..To never be taken for a walk.*
- ..Not to socialize with people or other animals.*
- ..Not to see the sun.*
- ..To be forced to stand continually on grates.*
- ..To live in crates piled upon each other.*
- ..To be bred every heat cycle without recovery.*
- ..To shiver in cold temperatures.*
- ..To suffer in the heat.*
- ..To be uncomfortable without grooming.*
- ..To suffer without veterinary care (facilities are required by AWA to have to have a Vet plan in place) but most times, dogs are suffering from a myriad of ailments due to neglect.*
- ..To have nothing to look forward to and be overcome with despair.*
- ..To be killed after their breeding bodies are spent.*

If the USDA visits a facility and happens upon a dog who is tortured beyond what the law allows, then the owner may be cited for a violation. Most times they go on, business as usual and the hideous cruelty above still continues. USDA workers have their hands tied by the pathetically weak standards of the Animal Welfare Act.

We care about these suffering parents as proven by the task force. It's time to be responsible and make a true difference for dogs caught in this cruel, archaic system.

Over 100 pet stores in CT have made the humane decision and are thriving. Sixteen more can step up and stop profiting from exploiting these innocent dogs. There are many ways for them to grow their businesses, such as:

Training

Grooming

Photography

Self operated pet wash

Adoption fees

Coordination with advertising local responsible breeders

Agility contests

Playdates and parties

Vet care

Wellness programs

Support groups

Dog sitting

Dog daycare

**Please include language to phase-out the sale of commercially-bred dogs in CT's current 16 pet stores**

I support House Bill 5416 to ban cruel gestation crates for pigs and I oppose the addition of Sunday for hunting.

Thank you,  
Karen Laski

