

I urge you to support S.B. 445, the legislation resulting from the recommendation of the pet store task force that was formed to explore if CT should cease to allow puppy mill puppies to be sold in CT.

I am a founding member of the Westport Coalition Against Puppy Mills a group that formed when a store opened locally, claiming that they don't buy from puppy mills. These claims prompted us to do the research on this one store and, in turn, we decided to expand our research to all of CT's pet stores. Our findings are undeniable (see Karen Rasmussen's testimony). If the public was aware of the conditions from which pet store puppies originate, they would be shocked and horrified and would likely boycott these stores. I am aware of approximately 100 complaints and stories of heartbreak, from our 1 local store alone. Unfortunately, the majority of these complaints don't reach dept of agriculture, as most people don't know to contact them.

It was my hope that CT would finally put an end to the sale of puppy mill puppies in our state and implement a zero tolerance policy on animal cruelty. We can now prove that puppies sold in CT pet stores come from inhumane commercial breeding facilities. Karen Rasmussen's research proved this without a doubt. While the pet store lobbyist encouraged the task force to take her research with a "grain of salt", they produced nothing to counter or prove her claims were false – because her information is not false and they know they have a lot to hide. This information is all available online if you take the time to connect the dots. With the passing of SB 445 we would be at least taking small steps towards reducing the cruelty sold in CT's pet stores and become a more humane state.

Please pass this legislation on behalf of all the dogs trapped in puppy mills and the unwitting consumers that buy sick puppies (and incur thousands of dollars in unexpected vet bills) and also those that seek to "rescue" puppies from pet stores. Most importantly, please also:

1. Add a requirement that prevents any new stores from opening and selling commercially bred dogs
2. Include a phase-out of the sale of commercially bred dogs for all current pet stores.

I also urge you to **OPPOSE HB 5080, which would allow Sunday hunting**. I feel very strongly that 6 days of hunting is enough and that the majority of CT residents who don't hunt, deserve one day where we can enjoy the outdoors without having to potentially encounter a hunter killing animals. Please do not cater to the less than 1% of CT's population that hunts. It's time to stand up to the NRA and say No to Sunday hunting

Finally, I urge you to support **HB 5416 (Section 2) which would ban gestation crates**, another truly inhumane business practice that should be outlawed as well, once and for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Allison Allen
Norwalk, CT