

Dear Members of the Environment Committee:

Please take action to stop the sale of commercially bred puppies in Connecticut stores. All of our research (much of it presented as testimony during the task force meetings) shows that these puppies are raised in inhumane, substandard conditions.

It is difficult to look at the hundreds of photos taken by USDA inspectors at facilities which send their puppies to pet shops in Connecticut. It is even more difficult to comprehend why this practice is allowed to continue.

Connecticut has the opportunity to join a growing number of jurisdictions -- 47 at last count (<http://bestfriends.org/Resources/Jurisdictions-With-Retail-Pet-Sale-Bans/>) which have banned the sale of commercially bred puppies, kittens and bunnies. The sixteen existing pet shops in Chicago have one year to switch over to a humane model. This legislation passed 49 - 1 earlier this month.

There are thriving humane models -- which do not rely upon pets bred in mills -- throughout Connecticut and the rest of the country. Promoting an inhumane business model can no longer be justified. Please do not allow future pet shops in Connecticut to sell pets sourced from mills and phase out current shops from doing so.

Also, I Oppose HB 5080, which would allow Sunday hunting, and I Support HB 5416, section 2, which would ban gestation crates.

Thank you,

JANICE S. CALKIN
PO BOX 12
Cos Cob, CT 06807