



HB 5729 AN ACT MAKING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES CONCERNING KENNEL SERVICES ADVERTISEMENTS.

Environment Committee, March 20, 2015

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this bill. To the extent the objective of this bill is to increase transparency and accountability in kennel advertisements, I am supportive of the language as drafted.

CVA would oppose any amendments to this bill that would reverse any of the requirements made in last year's pet shop bill, SB 445, now Public Act 14-77. This new law is making progress in the fight toward eliminating puppy mill dogs from Connecticut retailers.

It would be very unwise to introduce an exception to allow pet shops to sell dogs from "small local breeders" for the following reasons:

1. "Backyard breeders" abound in Connecticut. These are essentially small-scale versions of puppy mills. A small breeder is not necessarily a responsible one.
2. The requirement that pet shops source their pups from USDA licensed breeders ensures some level of accountability and transparency. Consumers are able to request information about the source of their puppies. Allowing pet shops to source pups from neighborhood breeders eliminates that accountability.
3. Last year we heard repeatedly from Connecticut breeders that responsible breeders do not sell to pet shops.

At first glance, it may seem reasonable to make an exception for selling pups from "small local breeders." But in reality, this will create a giant loophole and potentially lead to the proliferation of backyard breeders and "micro-puppy mills."

Thank you.