October 16, 2013  In reference to scheduled hearings regarding Special Act 13-19, I would like to affirm the idea of looking into means of protecting dogs and cats, sold in pet stores, from prior abuse in 'puppy mills', mass breeding facilities. As a member of the Grange for more than 25 years, I can remember a charge spoken to us upon initiation that urged respect for all domestic animals "that are committed to our keeping by the Great Author of our being." We were further urged to treat them kindly. The charge, in part, concludes: "It is one of the objects of our Order to protect dumb animals from abuse..

Respectfully submitted  Dennis Rich