Task Force Concerning the Sale of Cats and Dogs at Connecticut Pet Shops from Inhumane Origins

Testimony, December 4, 2013

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To Chairmen Senator Duff and Representative Kupchick, Senator McKinney, and other Task Force members:

A long history of failed attempts at reform allows only one solution: A ban on the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats in Connecticut pet stores. I will make two points.

1) From the 1950's, starting I believe with the Christian Science Monitor, probably every national media company has done repeated exposes of the puppy mill industry. In the 1980's, I myself did a thorough and much publicized study of the sources of each Connecticut pet store that sold puppies. As a result, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture appointed a committee. Yet:

100% compliance (which is rare) with federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations still allows:

- A dog to be kept in a stacked cage only 6 inches longer than the dog in each direction.
- A dog to live on wire flooring that injures the dog's paws and legs, and through which waste sometimes falls on dogs in the cages below.
- A dog to be bred repeatedly with little or no recovery time between litters (this is routine).
- A dog to be killed when "spent" after a few years also routine.

Even the weak federal law is not enforced.

2) My challenge: Think of your own dog whom you love and treat like a member of your family.

Force yourself to imagine him or her living under such conditions.

Do puppy mill breeding dogs deserve so much less?

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E. Lewin