

I am glad to see that CT is considering legislation that would stop the import of live animals from others states for sale in pet stores. This is a great step to cut down on pet deaths, cruelty to animals and customer fraud. This will provide people with healthier companion animals and cut down on the great strain to animal shelters and animal control departments in CT towns.

The cruelty in puppy mills in the Midwest and rural areas has been well documented by organizations like the Humane Society and American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals(ASPCA). These dogs are packed into cages that are too small for the to turn around, stacked on top of each other and fed only enough so they can produce puppies from forced breeding. When these dogs are no longer useful for breeding that are disposed of with no thought to their well being, sanitary conditions or the pain they have experienced. Unfortunately this is not the case in a few bad examples but widespread throughout the industry. In addition, the transport of puppies, who are taken away from their mothers too early, causes more cruelty and death as they are packed in the back of unlit trucks and transported thousands of miles across the country. Many don't survive the journey. Banning the import of these animals will remove the incentive to cruelty and save the lives of the next generation that would experience this painful life.

This measure will not only prevent the cruelty far way but benefit the citizens and business in CT. Citizens who want to add a canine member of the family can be assured that the animal they choose has been screened for behavior and health issues before they adopt. Businesses can save the cost of buying animals from puppy mills and instead concentrate on the more profitable pet accessories they sell. They can also feel better about helping the community where they operate alleviate the overcrowding in pounds and shelters that is a constant stress on municipal budgets. This measure can also allow local animal control officers to concentrate on other duties by helping alleviate the over population of stray cats and dogs.

This measure is a positive step for all citizens in CT and I hope that is passed and implemented as soon as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

Sincerely,

Ben Martin

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