

> October 16, 2013

>

> Bob Duff

> CT Task Force Concerning Sale of Cats and Dogs Hartford, CT

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>

> Dear Bob Duff:

>

> I am PRO CHOICE when it comes to where to get my next dog. There are only

> 4 places to get a dog -- the inspected, regulated pet store, an

> unregulated rescue shipping dogs into the state, an unregulated backyard

> breeder either in state or via the internet, or a responsible hobby

> breeder.

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> While admirable in their objectives, rescue organizations cannot possibly

> fill the demand for family friendly puppies for novice pet owners.

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> As a pet store owner in Ridgefield Connecticut, I sell livestock but not

> puppies. I direct my customers looking for puppies to either AKC hobby

> breeders, local rescues, or Connecticut pet stores with great puppy sales

> operations.

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> I AM PROUD TO STAND WITH MY INDUSTRY COLLEAGUES IN SUPPORT OF CONNECTICUT

> PUPPY STORES.

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> Consumers in Connecticut deserve a choice where to find the perfect pet

> for their lifestyle. Responsible pet stores in Connecticut, who support

> the highest standards of care for their animals, should be one of those

> options.

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> I support a person's right to choose their pet from a shelter, rescue, AND

> a pet store. Banning good pet stores from selling pets does not weed out

> bad breeders. Instead it will shut down good businesses.

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> A Connecticut-wide retail pet sale ban will hurt animal welfare since

> other sources are not regulated like pet stores. For example, pet stores

> in Connecticut must have the puppies and kittens in their care seen by a

> licensed veterinarian within 48 hours after receiving the animal and every

> 15 days the pet remains in the store. No such requirements exist for other

> pet sources.

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> Banning the sale of pets in Connecticut will remove one of the most

> stringent consumer protection laws in the United States which protects

> consumers with a warranty on the pet they choose.

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> A statewide ban on pet stores selling pets will only make it more

> difficult for the public to find the best pet for their families and will

> foster an unregulated black market for the breeding and sale of pets.

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> Everyone who cares about the welfare of pets has zero-tolerance for bad  
> breeders. Why not institute appropriate regulations to improve standards  
> of care instead of shutting down responsible, regulated pet stores?

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> If the Task Force wants to help ensure animal welfare, I hope it will  
> recommend legislation that makes it impossible for bad, out-of-state  
> breeders from selling animals in Connecticut.

>  
> Sincerely,

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>  
> Connie Packard Kamedulski, Animal Fair Pet Shop