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**Testimony from Elizabeth Abbe, 44 Knollwood Drive, Glastonbury CT 06033**

I have seen the pet shop business from two vantage points.. as a customer and as a pet “supplier”

Many years ago I bought a “pure bred” dog from a pet store in a mall because she looked so pathetic and I felt that I had to rescue her. She came from a puppy mill in the mid west and had numerous health problems but we kept her because we loved her.

Subsequently I became aware of the atrocities at puppy mills including the abuse and neglect of the animals, the mark up of costs from the breeder through the middle man, to the pet store and then on to the customer, and the shameful approval of this breeding by the American Kennel Club!

Puppy mills can be found just about anywhere. Even in Connecticut. Just recently 16 dogs were taken from a Connecticut puppy mill for Labrador retrievers. Their living conditions were pitiful and their need for rehabilitation is extensive.

I also volunteer with Protectors of Animals, the oldest local animal welfare organization in Connecticut, established in the early 1970’s. We rescue, rehabilitate, train and place only animals who have been stray and abandoned in Connecticut. POA has also established an excellent and successful working relationship with local pet stores that do NOT sell puppies from puppy mills. This relationship has resulted in excellent PR for the pet stores and wonderful placements of animals that need homes.

I strongly support the prevention of Connecticut pet shops from selling commercially bred puppies.