

Kess, Quinn

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 1:14 PM
To: CTPS
Subject: Testimony for hearing on banning Sale of cats & Dogs

To Whom It May Concern,

My husband and I strongly support the proposed legislation to end the sale of cats and dogs in pet shops from inhumane origins.

As people who have personally adopted several cats over the years from shelters, we've seen up close how many cats are left living their lives out in cages at shelters because maybe they aren't pretty enough, or young enough to be adopted. Or worse, these animals are put to death for no reason other than they weren't lucky enough to be adopted as kittens. Each cat and dog NOT bought at a store, is one more animal that might be adopted from a shelter.

Most people shopping at pet stores are ignorant of the conditions cats and dogs endure being bred by inhumane breeders. If these shops were outlawed, people would be forced to seek out shelters and see all the beautiful animals available for a minimum fee.

We'd like to share a personal experience that happened to us when Puppies of Westport first opened in their original location in Westport. We went in to see what they'd say about where their puppies were sourced from. We looked at two specific dogs and were told that both the dogs had "Championship lineage" from top showdogs in Europe. When we asked for specifics about the breeders and lineage, they could not answer the questions and were very vague. Clearly they were not used to having people probe so much once they laid eyes on a cute puppy. They kept giving us blatantly false information and steering us away from specifics. This shop is still in operation, having moved to Norwalk to avoid the constant protesters in Westport. Perhaps they moved to an area where people aren't as informed of puppy mill horrors, but it's clear that these shops are willing to lie about the origins of their animals to make a sale. And as many studies have shown, these "pure bred" dogs have multiple health issues and are usually ill with undisclosed issues.

You don't have to be an animal lover to understand the inhumane conditions and horrors of puppy and kitten mills. Not to mention, every sale they make is one less animal adopted from local shelters that are struggling to make ends meet and often performing low cost or free spaying and neutering to the public, as well as controlling the feral population.

We are not "crazy cat people". We are just people who feel this bill is a "no-brainer" and the "cost" to these shops to close should not even be considered when you consider the cost in terms of tax payer dollars to have animal control officers and local shelters brimming and the pain and suffering to both the animals that are coming out of inhumane breeder conditions and the animals stuck living in a shelter for life.

Please pass this legislation! It's one of the bravest pieces of legislation to be brought in the United States regarding animal rights and so very necessary.

Thank you.
Sincerely,

Jamie and Ron Prentki
Westport, CT