

Kess, Quinn

From: emily [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2013 12:46 AM
To: CTPS
Subject: Task Force Concerning the Sale of Cats and Dogs at CT Pet Shops from Inhumane Origins

I would like to thank the Task Force Concerning the Sale of Cats and Dogs at CT Pet Shops from Inhumane Origins for the opportunity to express my opinion on puppy mills. I live and am a registered voter in Stafford Springs, CT.

I am against stores buying or trading in puppies (or cats) from puppy mills. The AWA does not adequately protect dogs and cats from the abuses at puppy mills and other substandard breeders. The standards are minimal at best, and almost never enforced. It would be better and faster for each state to ban puppy mill sales than to try to get the federal government to act on this.

There are many abuses the dogs suffer at puppy mills, from basic neglect and lack of veterinary care, to living in filthy, deplorable conditions, to inbreeding, to malnutrition, to abandonment when the "breeder" dogs are "used up." Puppies are ripped away from their mother long before they're ready, and shipped off in conditions no living thing should suffer (squalor, inadequate food, water, ventilation or shelter). The puppy mills go for quantity over quality, resulting in genetically deficient dogs. These poor animals then have to spend their lives receiving medical care an otherwise healthy, well-cared for and well-bred animal would not. Not to mention the astronomical price tags attached to the vet bills. I have a close friend who bought his Bichon Frise from a pet store a few years ago. The dog was a puppy when my friend bought him, his name is Sammy. Within a few months of my friend owning the dog, Sammy started to get sick. It cost a small fortune to diagnose Sammy, finally they found a heart problem. The vet thought he was sourced from a puppy mill, we were told it's a common problem among dogs inbreeding.

The pet stores do not need to sell puppies from mills. There are millions of animals being killed in shelters across the country every year. We need to be responsible and source dogs from shelters and reputable breeders instead of allowing puppy mills to remain functioning.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

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