

Kess, Quinn

From: JessicaRR [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2013 10:16 AM
To: CTPS
Subject: my puppy mill dog

Dear Sirs:

i bought my sweet dog, "Sparky," a Maltese, from a dog store in Manchester, CT, in April 2007. I did not know at the time, but he is a puppy mill dog. The store is well known in CT for selling puppies to people like me, who, unknowing and well meaning, buy a little puppy who then becomes quite sick.

In my case, my dog did not become sick until he was 4 years old, when he started having serious bladder problems. We eventually discovered, after over a year of trying to cure his infections, that Sparky had a congenital prostate problem. He needed surgery to save his life.

Sparky was operated on in July 2012, at a cost of over \$3,300. This was the cost of the surgery, and did not include the thousands of dollars spent prior to the surgery...for X rays, lab work, office visits, antibiotic treatment (both oral and injected).

Sparky was very lucky to survive the surgery. Over a year later, we still must get ultra sounds on him two or three times a year, and must get lab work done on him every month. Our vet recently had us put Sparky on a special prescriptive diet, to try to prevent him from getting kidney stones.

His health problem is congenital, according to the surgeon who operated on him. We thought we bought a healthy puppy, and mistakenly did not get health insurance for him, We could not obtain insurance once he started getting sick, as the companies all tell us that Sparky has a "pre-existing condition," a condition we didn't realize that he had from birth.

His medical care is a financial and emotional burden, but one i accept, because Sparky is a member of our family. I am glad that i worked hard all my life, and have managed to afford his medical care. Still, i worry that i will not be able to afford the medical care he may need in the future.

Even so, i am one of the lucky ones...Sparky survived.

He is now 6 and a half years old, and we are so glad that he is sweet and happy. I waited until i retired to get a dog, and i spend almost all my time with him. He brings us joy every day.

Stories like Sparky's, and stories of dogs who were sicker, puppies who did not survive their illnesses, should not be allowed to happen.

Puppy mills breed misery, They should not be permitted to operate with the continuous neglect and abuse of the dogs that they force to breed. The

owners of puppy mills care only about making as much money as they can, and spending as little on the dogs as they can get away with. The welfare and well being of the animals in their charge is of no concern to them. The dog stores that get their puppies from those puppy mills keep the abuse going, often selling to unsuspecting, well meaning (but naive) people, like me.

Please...pass legislation that stops the kind of treatment the puppy mills and dog stores get away with.

The dogs cannot tell you. We, their owners, must speak for them.

Sincerely,
Jessica Roszczewski,
(Sparky's human momma)
28 Ellington Avenue
Ellington, CT 06029

