

Lauren Kaufman from Puppies of Westport

My husband spoke to this committee about some of the ways to ensure the health of puppies in CT.

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT

Neither this committee or any other committee has the ability to enhance the health of puppies in CT if you are going to limit your focus on just 6% of the dogs that are acquired statewide.

I am here to talk about what I have done to try to both ensure the health of puppies in CT as well as to bring great joy into the lives of thousands of happy clients who have dogs from our business.

I LOVE DOGS more than just about anything in my life other than my immediate family- And maybe even more than some of them. Dogs played a key role in helping my children become the caring and loving people they are today. My daughter graduated at the top of her class at Cornell University Vet School and is presently a intern at the prestigious Animal Medical Center in New York.

We opened Puppies of Westport over seven years ago because we had purchased a total of six puppies from two CT puppy stores- both no longer in business- and we experienced numerous issues.

We decided that we were going to do it better and we have.

But I want to talk about our puppy buying experience. We often spend hours and many visits working with families to insure that they get the puppy that best suits them. Every purchaser gets our cell numbers and many use them frequently for help with their new puppy. I frequently visit clients's homes to help and spend hours on the phone seven days a week assisting them.

Every puppy we sell has been inspected by at least three vets before it goes home and every puppy is microchipped and enrolled in an amber alert recovery program before leaving. All of

our pups are well socialized and given the highest quality food and vaccinations.

WE are proud of our accomplishments and WE have nothing to be ashamed. Despite our detractors questioning how we sleep at night, we actually sleep well but for the noise of many puppies we often take home for extra socialization and or care.

We never hesitate to give all of our puppies the best possible veterinary care.

Unlike the many lies spread about us personally and professionally, we have never euthanized a puppy. Every single one gets a loving home.

We have been unfairly vilified, called all kinds of horrible names from bottom feeder to murderer to having it said that we should be killed.

I want to know why CT has to import over 14000 dogs from out of state while about half that number are being euthanized right here in our backyard.

What the activists won't tell you is that Pit Bulls constitute over 60% of the dogs that are euthanized and the vast majority of the rest are sad dogs that are either too old, too sick or too aggressive to be easily adopted.

Our business, along with the other puppy stores in the state could not survive if the ban under discussion came to pass. My husband addressed some of the many unintended consequences that would result. Those who wish to get a puppy from whatever place they choose will still manage to do so. It will simply be via a method outside of legislative control and it will not do anything to ensure the health of puppies.

There simply is no level to which the animal activists will stoop in order to achieve their ultimate goal of eliminating ownership of any dogs or cats and it is a shame that CT has given them this forum to further spread their lies and misrepresentations.