

Public Hearing  
"Way to Improve the Industry and Ensure healthy Animals in Connecticut"  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Testimony of:  
Maggie Limone, Fairfield, CT

Good evening members of the committee. My name is Maggie Limone, I live in Fairfield CT. I am in 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Fairfield Woods Middle School. I am here tonight to support the proposal to ban the sale of puppy mill dogs in Connecticut pet stores.

I became an Animal Rights Activist after my family adopted our dog Moon from a rescue organization. Moon had been rescued from a puppy mill in Tennessee. Moon was rescued because the puppy mill where she was born was going to euthanize her. They were trying to make a 'Labradoodle' and she didn't come out right so they wanted to put her down. Moon had a lot of behavioral problems when we first got her because she was separated from her mother too soon- she would growl when you tried to take her toy from her. She didn't like to cuddle either and she was afraid to be put in her kennel at night. My parents took her to 3 different trainers to help her overcome these problems. Moon is now great dog and I wouldn't trade her for the world, but my family had to spend a lot of money to help her overcome the trauma of being a puppy mill dog.

In addition to behavioral problems, many puppy mill puppies suffer from other health conditions such as: heart worm, epilepsy, kidney disease, and deafness, just to name a few. Many of these conditions don't turn up until later in life and the costly vet bills associated with these disorders are a surprise to the dog's family.

Puppy mills do not have the dog's best interest in mind - their sole purpose is to make a profit. On the other hand, rescue groups such as the Humane Society and the ASPCA, and other smaller local rescue organizations put the puppy's well being first.

I support the proposal to require pet stores in Connecticut to only sell puppies that they got from these rescue organizations. They can still sell puppies at a price where they can make a profit. This would cut down on the demand for puppy mill dogs.

Pet store owners may tell you that they only get their puppies from USDA certified breeders. But the USDA standards are very low and there still is no guarantee that the puppy will be healthy. Pet store owners also say that the puppies they get from these "breeders" don't have any more health problems than puppies that come from rescue groups. The difference is organizations like the Humane Society tell you up front what health problems the puppies may have or may develop later.

There are plenty of dogs in Connecticut shelters tonight that need good loving homes. Pet stores owners can adopt these dogs and sell them in their own

stores at a price where they can still make some money. This also would cut down on the overpopulation problem in shelters and then everybody wins. Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinion with the committee.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maggie Limone  
Fairfield, CT.