

Kess, Quinn

From: Michael Balter
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 12:52 PM
To: CTPS
Subject: Puppy mill dogs - proposed legislation

I am a local citizen (Monroe) writing in support of the legislation to ban the sale of puppy mill dogs in CT. My hope is that enough people will realize the horrible effects puppy mills have on dogs, and subsequently the people who buy them. This issue is about Connecticut but it should be a national one.

The first issue with puppy mills is the animal cruelty rampant in those operations. Breeding mothers are bred repeatedly, are forced to lose contact with their offspring almost immediately, live a life without socialization or play, and are neglected, dumped, abused or killed as soon as their usefulness has expired. The puppies are crammed into tight quarters with numerous others, eat low quality food, are not trained or socialized, usually do not have access to exercise or play, do not receive proper medical care, and then are shipped to a store for sale to an unknowing person or family. This leads to the second issue...

People who buy puppy mill dogs are rarely if ever told about where the dogs have come from. These are dogs who have been treated as objects and have been denied any measure of joy, healthful upbringing, training, socialization, or medical care. An unsuspecting buyer has a good chance to bring home a dog with behavioral issues, aggression toward people or animals, health issues, etc. Subsequently, puppy mill dogs often end up in shelters because they were not sold or because they were not wanted after sale due to previously mentioned issues.

Cluttered shelters lead to enormous euthanization rates. Millions of dogs and cats are euthanized annually, largely due to mill operations and backyard breeding.

Banning the sale of dogs from puppy mills could be one step towards discouraging puppy mill operations. This could in turn reduce the number of improperly treated, unhealthy dogs filtered into the system. This would benefit the dogs, potential buyers, and over-crowded shelters in CT and nationwide.

Please pass this legislation.

Michael Balter