

October 16, 2013

Good evening everyone,

As an animal shelter volunteer, and the owner of a basset hound rescued from animal control, I feel the need to speak up for the voiceless animals that are currently being raised like crops throughout the country before being shipped off to pet stores for profit.

Pet store animals come mostly from mills, where they are mass-produced in horrible living conditions. The animals are usually kept in wire-floor cages, with little access to food and water, and rarely (if ever) given a chance to see sunlight or a patch of grass. They are not properly taken care of, and often come down with severe illnesses, and even blindness or deafness, due to infection. These animals are then expected to raise a litter from a very early age, which is an impossible task (even for a fully healthy animal). As a result, puppies and kittens are often improperly nurtured, and don't go on to live fully healthy lives once they are shipped off. Meanwhile, the mother pup is killed or discarded shortly after she is done producing litters. All of this, of course, is assuming the mother pup doesn't eat her litter of babies – a common tragedy on-site at these mills – as these young mothers are still puppies themselves, and often mistake their own litter for a food source (which they are desperate for).

Thousands upon thousands of animals are euthanized in shelters every year. However, we still continue to mass produce them throughout the country, and add to the already over-populated crowds. The animals are treated like out-of-style clothing; simply discarded to make room for younger, trendier models. This is a disgusting & offensive practice that needs to change. And here in Connecticut, we can take the first step towards securing a better culture for everyone involved with the process. Rather than mass-producing an over-abundance of companion animals (and having a large number of them wind up in shelters across the country), let's take the ill-fated souls that wound up in animal control cages and give them a second chance at a normal life.

The general public would surely welcome these loving and appreciative pets... but most of the population, sadly, just doesn't know where to look. The unfortunate truth is that most of the public is ignorant to the horrors of pet store animal origins, and therefore have never spoken out or attempted to change the principles. I was guilty of this myself years ago, when I got my first dog from a breeder. However, knowing what I know now, and having the experience I've had with my beautiful, loving shelter pet... I feel it's in the best interest of all parties to put an end to puppy mill production, while also helping the homeless pets in shelters.

Please do the right thing and push forward the legislation that would help try to end the sale of cats and dogs in CT pet shops from inhumane origins.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration,

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