

Kess, Quinn

From: Sally Westcott [mailto:sallywestcott@rockwell.com]
Sent: Monday, October 14, 2013 12:59 PM
To: CTPS
Subject: Personal Testimony for 10/17/13 Fairfield "Puppy Industry" Hearing

Hello.

I hope Ct. pet shops soon will stop buying puppies commercially bred in inhumane, filthy cages stacked up- i.e. cruel "puppy mills." Instead of supporting this cruel business, it makes more sense that the pet stores could source their pets from the overflowing shelters and pounds across the state.

As a volunteer at a Ct. shelter, I know there is a multitude of pets in rescues, shelters, and pounds, as well as many good pets being euthanized for lack of space.

My friend "rescued" 3 little dogs that had originally come from a "puppy mill" down south: these dogs didn't even know how to walk, since they had lived their entire life in cages. They are afraid of everything! Poor things.

The Office of the Inspector General in 2010 found pervasive evidence of filth and cruelty in the puppy mills: puppies with open wounds, stacked in wire cages so that their waste falls onto the dogs below, flea and tick infestations, no room to turn around in their cages, bred constantly until they are "spent" and then killed.

With awareness growing about the horrors of puppy mills, many people are choosing to adopt from shelters and pounds-people really want to do the "right thing." Why not make it easier for them by allowing the pet stores to offer these animals (and save the towns/cities the costs of caring for/euthanizing) for sale- this is a win/win situation.

Thank you very much.

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