


**CONNECTICUT PET SHOP TASK FORCE HEARING
PRESENTED BY:**

**ALISON FISHER
90 WESTOVER AVENUE
STAMFORD, CT 06902**



I want to tell you two stories about two very different dogs. They reach from one end of the spectrum to the other.

My Zach was used as a back yard breeder for 4 years. He was kept either chained up outside or locked in a laundry room. He was so badly matted, with his collar imbedded in his fur when rescued, that he had to be completely shaved down. Did his puppies wind up in Pet Shops? We'll never know for sure. But whoever acquired these puppies could have been in for a world of heartache. Zach was sick. He had "Collie Nose", raw crusty areas on the nose often related to Lupus. He also has the Collie Eye Anomaly which is inherited and can cause blindness. There is no cure. Whoever purchased these puppies became a victim of what I call the "Instant Gratification Syndrome". I want the puppy NOW.

Then there is Teddy, a story much more typical of what we see happening because of Pet Shops being allowed to sell puppies.

My step-daughter decided she wanted to get a dog. She knew I was very involved with various rescue organizations and I offered to help her find whatever type of dog she might be looking for. There are wonderful search engines that allow you to look for dogs across the country. You can even narrow it down by breed, age, male or female; limit the area you want to search in. All the information you could possibly want. If you absolutely must have a purebred there are, again, rescue sites for all types of purebreds. In short; any type of companion she could possibly be looking for was out there. Just, waiting, hoping for a loving home.

Instead, this is what happened.

One day she walked past a pet store that sold Puppies. She looked in the window and the rest of the story is pretty obvious. She bought one.

Two days later, the puppy was sick. Not surprising, kennel cough. A very prevalent disease among puppy mill dogs. She took him to the Vets and discovered he also had eye infections. Two illnesses she now had to treat. Fortunately, she was able to keep up with his treatments and get him the proper veterinary care he needed so he recovered.

Because of the "Doggy in the Window", a shelter dog went without a home and most probably has been put to death due to overcrowding.

Sadly, none of this had to happen; if only Pet Stores were not allowed to sell puppies. How many people have done this, walked by the window and on a whim bought a puppy, perhaps as a gift, without even thinking about the consequences? How many of these puppies have died from their illnesses or perhaps have been discarded, or turned into shelters by their owners, because after the puppy started to grow the novelty wore off?

We can change all that. Connecticut can make history by banning the sale of these Puppy Mill puppies in Pet Shops; and thus start to put these disreputable breeders out of business.

If Pet Shops *Cannot* Sell Puppies We Can Begin To *Stop* These Atrocities.

