

The Task Force on the Sale of Dogs and Cats from Inhumane Origins

My name is Barbara Rudnick and I am a registered voter in East Berlin. I have been involved in animal welfare and rescue for approximately 30 years. I am also a member of Ct. Votes For Animals.

Many years ago my husband purchased a Beagle for me from a local pet store. When he brought her home for the first hour she did not walk and we were afraid she would be unable to. He informed me that she had been in a cage for months and was on sale because she had been there for so long. Fortunately she was able to walk, but as time went on she developed numerous medical conditions requiring thousands of dollars in care and life long visits to the veterinary hospital.

Many people in Connecticut do not realize that a high number of puppies presently for sale in our pet stores come from puppy mills. You are all aware of the incredibly abusive circumstances in which these dogs are kept and that unfortunately they are actually legal under the present laws. These dogs are bred over and over with no concern for the care or well being of them or their puppies. They are simply used to make money for the commercial breeders and the pet stores that sell their puppies.

I recently visited a pet store and witnessed numerous puppies in cages with no bedding, nor did they have any toys to play with. This is so incredibly abusive, we take them away from their mothers and siblings at a very young age and lock them in cages with no stimulation and then wonder why they have behavioral issues.

While these puppy's are being abused commercial breeders are making lots of money and many wonderful dogs are being euthanized in our shelters. In 2012, 2700 dogs and cats in Connecticut were euthanized. . There are humane alternatives to puppy mills and the pet stores that sell their puppies. Petco and Petsmart for example partner with nonprofit rescue organizations to find homes for needy dogs and cats.

We can put puppy mills out of business, but people need to care and stop buying from them. Connecticut can be a state to be proud of. In stead of euthanizing all these poor cats and dogs make those in our shelters, rescue organizations or reputable breeders available for adoption in pet stores. How wonderful would it be to put puppy mills out of business and save homeless animals at the same time.

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