

Hello, my name is Hedy Hartley. I am from Glastonbury, CT. My family and I currently have 3 small breed dogs, 2 of which we purchased from The Dog House.

I was looking for a hypoallergenic dog as I tend to have allergies from other breeds. Since we weren't sure what breed we wanted, my family and I decided to visit The Dog House as we were told by The Dog House staff over the phone that they had several different hypoallergenic breeds to choose from.

During our visit, The Dog House was very clean and all the puppies appeared to be alert and well taken care of. The staff was very friendly and knowledgeable. After visiting with a Yorkshire Terrier, a Miniature Poodle and a Bichon, we decided to take home the Bichon who we all fell in love with. We named her "Bailie." The Dog House staff told us that Bailie came from a USDA inspected breeder. She was checked by a licensed vet and came with a health record, a health warranty, and a microchip.

We took Bailie to our vet a few days later and she was given a clean bill of health. A few years later, an acquaintance of ours had a Maltese that had a litter of puppies. We decided to get Bailey a friend so we adopted one of the litter and named her "Lily." Lily and Bailie immediately became good friends. Unfortunately however Lily was soon diagnosed with a life threatening liver shunt. Lily was part of our family so we had to do what we could to save her life. After spending over \$3000.00 in medical treatment Lily fortunately pulled through. We contacted the woman who had the litter to inform her of Lily's condition. We were hoping she could help with some of the vet costs but she was unable to do so.

A few years later my family and I decided to visit The Dog House again for a possible third dog. We fell in love with a Maltese mix and took him home. "Pip," as we named him, was given a clean bill of health by our vet.

Bailie is now 11, Lily is 6 and Pip is 3. All 3 of our dogs are wonderful but it was very unfortunate that the one we purchased from a local private breeder cost us thousands of dollars to keep alive and we received no compensation.

I understand that the Connecticut legislation is considering banning pet stores from selling puppies. My family and I would never have been able to obtain our 2 healthy puppies, Bailie and Pip if such a law was passed. I don't want to see puppy mills selling dogs to pet shops but I don't believe it is fair that Connecticut politicians are threatening responsible pet stores who do a good job in providing well-cared for puppies to customers. As a Connecticut consumer I believe my family has the right to choose where we obtain our pets from.