

Testimony - Task Force on Pet Shops Hearing December 4, 2013  
From: Henry Petrofsky, 131 Four Rod Rd, Kensington, Ct 06037  
Treasurer – Connecticut Votes for Animals  
Director of Finance - Our Companions Animal Rescue

Dear Task Force Members,

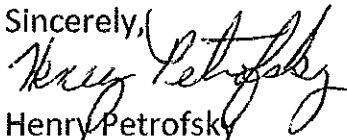
I would like to voice my strong support for the proposed legislation that would prohibit the sale of commercially bred pets in Connecticut's pet shops.

There is a growing awareness in this country that puppy mills are an inhumane source of providing domestic dogs to our nation's pet shops. It is time for Connecticut to follow the lead of other states and enact legislation to curtail this activity.

As people have been educated over the years about the cruelty, exploitation and suffering that is inherent with puppy mills, and as people come to realize the limitations to the Animal Welfare Act requirements and the limitations to the regulations and enforcement of the USDA, more and more people have chosen to explore more humane options when adding a pet to their family. They include rescue and adoption and buying dogs directly from local breeders. The education of the public and the movement to humane sourcing of pets is one reason why there are only a handful of pet shops left in our state that sell puppies.

Please support humane pet shop legislation. Connecticut's pet shops should source their dogs and cats only from rescues and shelters. If people want a purebred puppy, they should go directly to licensed breeders so they can confirm, first-hand, that the animals are bred and treated humanely.

Sincerely,



Henry Petrofsky