

## Kess, Quinn

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**From:** jess [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 03, 2013 9:33 PM  
**To:** CTPS  
**Subject:** puppy mills

Dear Task Force members,

Puppy mills are the ultimate form of animal cruelty. I have worked with animals as both a veterinary technician, and in rescue work for 17 years. In both cases, I have the cruelty and pain associated with puppy mill animals.

In rescue work I have seen female dogs that have been overbred, and dogs that have been kept in cages and scared to walk on the real ground. As a veterinary technician I have seen pet store dogs from puppy mills with extreme sicknesses. These dogs don't always make it, and it is devastating to the families that have purchased them. Many people, sadly, are simply uneducated about what a puppy mill really is.

Connecticut has an opportunity to help stop the horrific suffering of dogs in puppy mills and require the small number of pet shops still selling cruelly-bred puppy mill puppies to develop a humane business model. Connecticut's 15 remaining puppy stores currently source their puppies from commercial breeding facilities where unimaginable, federally-sanctioned cruelty occurs everyday, for the dogs' entire lives. .

The bottom line is that the requirements outlined by the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) permit dogs to permanently live in cages - barely bigger than their bodies - consisting of wire mesh floors, devoid of toys, a bed or any other normal comfort most companion dogs receive. They lack socialization, exercise, and they are bred over and over like machines until their bodies wear out.

And yet it gets even worse. The USDA does not adequately enforce the AWA's minimal standards, which results in horrific cases of untreated illnesses, insect-infested food, cages and surrounding areas filled with animal waste, exposure to the elements, and other horrific conditions.

Unfortunately, the Animal Welfare Act is beyond our control. But we can still stop the flow of these dogs into our pet shops, and send a clear message to all that Connecticut does not support this cruelty.

Please support humane pet shop legislation. Connecticut's pet shops should source their dogs and cats only from rescues and shelters. At least 115 other pet stores in Connecticut have already decided not to sell cruelly-bred, puppy mill puppies. It is time that we require the other 15 stores to do the same.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Iannacone  
[REDACTED]