

I am writing this statement as a pet owner and volunteer for our local animal shelter. I have become extremely involved in animal rescue missions since I became aware of puppy mills and the deplorable conditions in which these animals live. The lack of veterinary care, proper food and water, and loving human contact is heartbreaking. I am begging the legislators of Connecticut to require pet shops to humanely source cats and dogs only from rescues and shelters, instead of commercially-bred puppy mill dogs. The shelter where I volunteer takes in an average of 30 dogs a year with microchips linked to pet stores. Most, if not all, of these dogs come from pet stores that acquire their animals from puppy mills. That is an average of three dogs a month who started their lives as puppies traveling in tractor trailer trucks in horrific conditions to end up at a pet store where they sit in a cage waiting for a home just to be dropped off at the shelter when the family decides it was a bad idea to buy this puppy during the holidays. I am an advocate of humane treatment of animals of any species and it is my hope that Connecticut will be the first state to pass this law requiring pet stores to support their local shelters and discontinue their support of puppy mills. Imagine if every puppy mill in the country no longer received any money from the pet stores and ceased to exist. It would mean the end of suffering for these dogs who are forced to live in horrific conditions, while delivering litter after litter of puppies, only to be neglected, abandoned, and abused until their "job" is done and they are disposed of in the most inhumane ways imaginable. It has been said many times that a country can be judged based on how it treats its animals. Let's make Connecticut be the first to help this country treat its animals with respect and humanity.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jill Olejniczak