

**Task Force Concerning the Sale of Cats and Dogs
at Connecticut Pet Shops from Inhumane Origins**

Testimony, December 4, 2013

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To Chairmen Senator Duff and Representative Kupchick, Senator McKinney, and
other Task Force members:

A long history of failed attempts at reform allows only one solution: A ban on the
sale of commercially bred dogs and cats in Connecticut pet stores. I will make two
points.

1) From the 1950's, starting I believe with the Christian Science Monitor, probably
every national media company has done repeated exposes of the puppy mill
industry. In the 1980's, I myself did a thorough and much publicized study of the
sources of each Connecticut pet store that sold puppies. As a result, the
Connecticut Department of Agriculture appointed a committee. Yet:

100% compliance (which is rare) with federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) regulations
still allows:

- A dog to be kept in a stacked cage only 6 inches longer than the dog in each
direction.
- A dog to live on wire flooring that injures the dog's paws and legs, and
through which waste sometimes falls on dogs in the cages below.
- A dog to be bred repeatedly with little or no recovery time between litters (this
is routine).
- A dog to be killed when "spent" after a few years also routine).

Even the weak federal law is not enforced.

2) My challenge: Think of your own dog whom you love and treat like a member of
your family.

Force yourself to imagine him or her living under such conditions.

Do puppy mill breeding dogs deserve so much less?

Respectfully submitted,

Julie E. Lewin