

TESTIMONY OF LAUREN KAUFMAN

TO CT PUPPY TASK FORCE

HARTFORD, CT 12/4/2013

I WANT TO OFFER THE TESTIMONY OF ONE OF MY FAVORITE PEOPLE AS WELL AS ONE OF MY FAVORITE BREEDERS. SANDY IS ONE OF MANY COMMERCIAL BREEDERS I KNOW WHO GENUINELY CARE ABOUT ALL OF THEIR DOGS AND PUPPIES

MY NAME IS SANDRA BLAKE.

I OWN SANJON KENNELS. I AM 61 YEARS OLD AND A PROFESSIONAL BREEDER FOR 30 YEARS.

I'VE LIVED ON A MISSOURI FARM FROM BIRTH.

MY PARENTS MILKED COWS, RAISED CATTLE, CHICKEN, AND HORSES.

FARM CHILDREN GET UP EARLY FOR CHORES AT AN EARLY AGE. I LEARNED HOW TO CARE FOR ANIMALS BECAUSE IT WAS MY LIVELIHOOD.

I DIDN'T WATCH TV, OR PLAY COMPUTER GAMES, AND I DIDN'T GET IN TROUBLE BECAUSE I WAS BORED.

MY FIRST JOB WAS WITH A VET AND I LOVED THE ANIMALS, ESPECIALLY DOGS. I DECIDED TO GET A BREEDING PAIR OF BOXERS.

WHEN MOMMA HAD PUPPIES I KNEW THIS WAS WHAT I WANTED TO DO. IT WAS TOUGH KEEPING EVERYTHING CLEAN BUT I WAS USED TO HARD WORK.

I BOUGHT MORE DOGS. I WANTED MORE THAN ONE BREED.

I ONLY RAISE BREEDS I LIKE. I HEAVILY RESEARCH THEM, GO TO VETERINARY SEMINARS AND BELONG TO MANY BREED GROUPS.

I HAD A HAVANESE THAT SHOWED AT WESTMINSTER- NOT MANY BREEDERS CAN SAY THAT!

MY DOGS HAVE A NICE PLACE TO LIVE WITH HEAT IN WINTER AND AC IN SUMMER.

MY HUSBAND OFTEN SAYS HE'S GOING TO THE KENNEL CAUSE IT'S MORE COMFORTABLE THAN OUR HOUSE.

WE SPARE NO EXPENSE ON OUR DOGS.

MOST PEOPLE WOULDN'T WORK FOR OUR WAGES.

IT'S A SEVEN DAY JOB.

EACH NIGHT JOHN GOES TO THE KENNEL TO TUCK EVERYONE IN.

ON OUR RECENT VACATION. THE LADY THAT WORKS FOR US SLEPT IN THE KENNEL FOR 4 NIGHTS.

WE. DIDN'T ASK HER TO DO THAT. SHE JUST LOVES THE DOGS AS MUCH AS WE DO

AFTER A 2007 ICE STORM, WE LOST ELECTRICITY FOR 9 DAYS. .

WE SLEPT IN THE KENNEL TO RUN GENERATORS.

IT WASN'T EASY. DON'T TELL ME THAT WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF OUR DOGS.

ANIMAL ACTIVISTS SAY NO REPUTABLE BREEDER WOULD SELL TO A PET STORE. ARE THEY CRAZY?

I HAVE SOLD TO PUPPIES OF WESTPORT FOR SEVEN YEARS. LAUREN AND MONTY ARE GREAT PEOPLE. THEIR MAIN CONCERN IS THE HEALTH OF THE PUPPIES.

CUSTOMERS BUYING FROM A STORE HAVE A MUCH BETTER

EXPERIENCE THAN THEY COULD ON THE INTERNET.

THERE ARE BAD BREEDERS. BUT THEY CAN'T KEEP SELLING BAD PUPPIES TO STORES FOR LONG.

MANY OF THE BAD BREEDERS HAVE CLOSED OR MOVED TO THE INTERNET.

I'M USDA AND STATE LICENSED. THE INSPECTIONS ARE TOUGH.

YOU CAN GET CITED FOR A COBWEB. I'M GLAD THEY DON'T INSPECT MY HOUSE CAUSE I HAVE A FEW COBWEBS. BUT MY KENNEL DOESN'T.

MY DOGS TEETH ARE CLEANED ANNUALLY. A LOT MORE THAN MOST PEOPLE DO.

I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY RESCUE PEOPLE KEEP CALLING US BREEDERS TO SEE IF THEY CAN BUY OUR PUPPIES AND OUR BRED DOGS.

AND DON'T LET THEM TELL YOU IT'S NOT HAPPENING!

THEY DON'T WANT THE RETIRED DOGS I'M NO LONGER BREEDING AND FINDING HOMES FOR.

WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

IF THERE'S SO MANY SHELTER DOGS THAT NEED HOMES WHY DO THEY NEED MY PUPPIES?

I JUST WANT TO RAISE MY PUPPIES AND SELL THEM WHERE I WANT AND TO WHO I WANT.

IF THEY DON'T WALK IN MY SHOES. WHAT MAKES THEM RIGHT AND ME WRONG?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THEIR MOTIVE. ITS NOT ABOUT THE CARE OF THE ANIMALS -- IT'S DEEPER THAN THAT.