



**Mandy Wieting**  
64 Valley Falls Road, Vernon CT 06066  
Graphic Designer for Our Companions Animal Rescue

November 13, 2013  
Pet Shop Task Force Hearing #2 Testimony  
"Should Puppy Stores be Banned in CT?"

Should puppy store be banned in CT? No, I don't believe they should. What should be regulated however, is where these puppies come from. Currently, these puppies come from extremely inhumane conditions where dogs are bred over and over causing sickness not only the mothers, but in the puppies as well. These horrific places are puppy mills.

There is no reason why this should continue. Not one. As a consumer, I have never stepped foot in a pet shop that sells puppies, because I know where they come from. I have many pets and I spend lots of money on food and supplies for them, but I would never spend one dollar in a shop that contributes to the puppy mill problem.

A recent study done by the American Veterinary Medical Association cites that only 4.2% of the population intends to get their next dog at a pet store - the overwhelming majority intend to go to a pound, a rescue, or a local reputable breeder. There are only 15 shops out of 130 in CT that sell puppies. If these shops were to work with local shelters and rescues and build a more humane business, I imagine their business would greatly improve. I personally would start spending my money with them. It's a win-win.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Mandy Wieting

---