

TESTIMONY OF MONTY KAUFMAN
TO THE CT PUPPY TASK FORCE
HARTFORD, CT 12/4/2013

Last hearing, every speaker supporting a ban had one answer to the agenda topic.

To punish bad out of state breeders by banning all commercially bred puppies from 15 stores.

The fact that these stores account for only 6% of all dogs was irrelevant.

The fact that under 1/5% of purchasers filed State complaints was irrelevant.

The loss of jobs and tax revenue was irrelevant.

The already heavy regulations was irrelevant.

The fact that 6 rescue dogs were imported for every one that was euthanized was irrelevant.

The fact that fatal viruses are far more prevalent in shelters than pet stores was irrelevant.

But It is totally relevant that while bad breeders must close, there are no facts to support a claim that all or even a sizeable minority of licensed breeders are guilty

and no facts to show that you will close bad breeders by shutting every puppy store in the nation, let alone CT.

The tide has turned. Animal rights groups have lost momentum.

Carlsbad, California repealed a ban one month after passing it and a Councilwoman said, "it's not the pet stores who are troublemakers, it's the breeders" and she went on to express frustration that the activists had trumped up claims to further their own mission.

Oceanside California voted down a ban along with other localities, including Toledo, Ohio this week.

Half of the towns that passed bans had no puppy store. Those laws were the equivalent of Connecticut outlawing the planting of palm trees on i95!

Just last week papers were filed in Federal Court challenging the San Diego ban on the grounds of violating equal protection, due process, interstate commerce and protections granted under the fourteenth amendment.

The President of the group most cited to support the humane business model describes the bans as "misguided and illogical legislation."

A Hartford Courant editorial opposing the ban stated that “crafting improved state regulations...is preferable to forbidding commercial puppy sales.”

An online survey sent to 3400 random CT puppy purchasers got 464 responses. 88% were satisfied with the puppy purchased with 77% very satisfied. If you extrapolate those numbers to all puppy store purchasers since 2010, there are over 20000 satisfied puppy store customers in Connecticut that would be totally disenfranchised by the ban.

I'd like to conclude with the somewhat blunt but true words offered by a speaker opposing the Toledo bill:

“This law is ridiculous; it is government sticking its nose into business in an extremely obtrusive way just so politicians can appease a small vocal minority of their constituents. This law is a prime example of government creating a problem to make a solution that is just not needed. Completely missing in this debate is the concept of free choice and whether government should limit that choice just because some people disapprove.”