



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony

Task Force on the Selling of Cats and Dogs in CT Pet Shops Public Hearing

December 4, 2013

Dear Representative Kupchick, Senator Duff, Senator McKinney, Representative Grogins and Members of the Task Force:

I wanted to say a few words about your efforts. I will be one of the 187 legislators who are likely to act on the final report you present to the Environment Committee.

I'd like to ask that you focus on the charge of the task force—which is to determine if there has been a proliferation of dogs and cats coming from substandard breeders into the state. More factual in your final report, can you please tell us how many breeders are selling dogs and cats into Connecticut. How many of those are bad breeders?

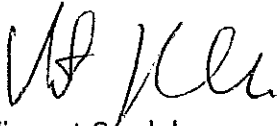
If you identify legitimate breeders, then shouldn't they be able to continue providing dogs to pet stores? Conversely, if you identify bad breeders, what can be done to put them out of business so that they don't have an avenue to sell their puppies? I would also ask you to look at the law of unintended consequences.

If you ban pet stores from getting dogs from legitimate commercial breeders, and as a result, stores will no longer sell dogs, where will people go? I don't believe it's realistic to think that everyone who wants a family pet will be able to go to a family owned breeder or a rescue shelter. One place these people will be forced to go is the internet, but then they will lose any warranty or reimbursement for vet expenses. This scenario again, will raise questions of the legitimacy of the breeders.

Finally, I would ask that you be cognizant that legislation on this issue could potentially put some pet stores out of business. I think that is the last thing we should be doing right now in this difficult economy when our citizens are struggling.

Thank you for your time and consideration and all your work in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Candelora', written in a cursive style.

Vincent Candelora

Deputy House Republican Leader