

TESTIMONY OF SHERRI JUNE

TO THE CT PUPPY TASK FORCE

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The humane business model being proposed is unworkable from a financial as well as a practical as well as an operational standpoint.

It would represent a death knell for existing puppy stores.

Who chooses which dogs go to the pet shops- the shelters or the shop owners?

The appealing dogs in shelters will be readily adopted. The less adoptable ones are likely to go to pet shops where they are unlikely to fare any better than in a shelter.

Are all pet shop employees savvy enough to manage the onerous adoption process and deal with mostly adult dogs?

Do the shops "buy" from the shelter and then incur extra costs for food, grooming, meds, extra employees to manage the necessary training and exercise needed to make the adult dogs saleable?

What happens to the dog if the buyer returns it as is the case with over 20% of shelter dogs?

Is the pet shop stuck with it or does it go back to the shelter and how does the store recoup its losses?

The merchandise required for shelter dogs is vastly different from the inventory carried by a puppy store.

What about staffing levels? Currently pet shops control their number of dogs through purchasing, but how could they rely upon a consistent number that would support permanent staff?

What if the supply of shelter dogs suddenly drops while fixed expenses remain constant?

Do the stores have the facilities to house and manage a majority of adult dogs as well as the need for quarantine areas for additional dogs?

How will some shelter dogs handle life in a busy pet shop? Puppies are unlikely to react aggressively to poking fingers and squealing children running around the store.

If adult dogs with unknown histories are placed in a pet shop environment they may either retreat and shut down from stress or lash out and possibly bite or scratch in self-defense or fear. This creates a serious liability risk for consumers and employees

The potential for pet shop quarantines due to parvo and distemper outbreaks from imported rescue dogs and public surrenders would rise dramatically and only hasten the financial collapse of the pet shop.

Would the shelter take the dogs back if the shop owner deems the dog unsalable?

How long would an unadopted dog languish in a pet shop?

What about rabies, other vaccinations and vet care costs? Vets would no longer have the financial incentive to discount services in return for customers with new puppies. CT vets would lose \$3,000,000 just in annual spay/neuter charges for current pet store puppies.

The humane pet store model would require repeal of virtually all current pet shop regulations- no licensed breeder papers, no certs of origin, limited health records and no lemon law warranties or vet reimbursement.

There are so many more serious questions that have no acceptable answers.

Is Connecticut truly prepared to embark on such an uncharted course where the ultimate results are at best uncertain and at worst a total disaster? The answer is clear.