

**Kess, Quinn**

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**From:** Susan Chapin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 01, 2013 5:56 PM  
**To:** CTPS  
**Subject:** Stop the sale of puppy mill dogs

Dear Task Force Members,

I am writing to support legislation requiring Connecticut's pet shops to humanely source cats and dogs only from rescues and shelters instead of breeders. We need to stop puppy-mills and this is the only way to accomplish that goal. Please adopt this new law and make Connecticut a state that will not tolerate inhumane commercial breeders.

The following list of reasons clearly supports my position on this important issue:

- ***The pet shop supply chain is inherently inhumane.*** The commercial breeder regulations outlined in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) are woefully inadequate and essentially allow for federally-sanctioned cruel conditions. Further, even these minimal standards are poorly enforced by the USDA. There is very little chance of reforming the AWA at the federal level. Meanwhile, CT pet shops are full of dogs from USDA "certified" breeders, which are essentially puppy mills.
- ***There are approximately 130 pet shops in CT, and only 15 sell puppies.*** This means, 115 pet stores have built a strong business without selling commercially-bred puppies – in fact, 50 stores have signed the HSUS' "puppy friendly pledge", meaning they pledge to NOT sell puppies. There is no reason to believe the 15 puppy stores cannot also build a humane business.

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. If pet shops sell only rescued animals, they align themselves more closely with customer values.

- ***Reputable breeders generally do not supply pet shops with their puppies.*** Just because a pet shop claims an animal comes from a "local home raised breeder" does not ensure that the dog is coming from ideal, non-puppy mill conditions. Adoption is always the best first option. But those who can't find what they're looking for in shelters or breed-specific rescues are welcome to work directly with a breeder and verify conditions themselves.

Thank you very much,

Susan Chapin  
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