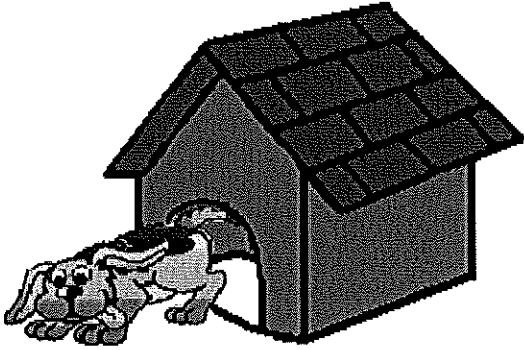


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## **THE DOG HOUSE**



*December 2, 2013*

*Dear Committee Member:*

*As you deliberate all the testimony and facts presented to you concerning Ways to Improve the Puppy Industry and Insure Healthy Animals in Connecticut we respectively request that you consider the fact that the overwhelming majority of CT consumers who have purchased a puppy from a CT pet shop are happy with their purchase. From the over 9000 pups sold by pet shops in the state of Connecticut in the year 2012 consumer complaints registered 8 at the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture. There were 13 complaints in the year 2011.*

*The Dog House has purchased dogs from hundreds of different breeders during our thirteen years of business. We do our best to identify the responsible ones versus those who aren't responsible. The definition of a "puppy mill" will always be subject to debate but one cannot assume that all commercial breeders are irresponsible, neglectful breeders. We have adopted a "zero" tolerance rule at The Dog House. We will not purchase puppies from any breeder who has had a direct or a series of indirect violations noted by The United States Department of Agriculture.*

**Comments:**

- *Pet Shops selling puppies in the State of Connecticut are highly regulated and are subject to unannounced inspections by the State Department of Agriculture.*
- *Pet Shops, including The Dog House, offer the consumer a comprehensive health warranty for their new pet.*

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- *Back yard breeders, internet provided breeders and out of State Rescue Operations all of whom would be the primary alternative if there was a ban placed on CT pet shops from selling puppies generally are unregulated and would be near impossible to regulate.*
- *These groups are not required to offer pet health warranties.*
- *Pet Stores are required to have all puppies offered for sale examined by a veterinarian licensed in the State of Connecticut. Each puppy has to be declared fit for sale by the vet.*
- *Banning CT pet shops from selling puppies, kittens and rabbits would impose an unfair, discriminatory restriction against pet stores and provides no benefits to the public, the state or the animals themselves.*

*As animals lovers, we are very passionate about what we do at The Dog House. Along with our veterinarians, we try our very best to insure that all of our puppies and rescue dogs are happy and healthy when they go to their new homes. We have thousands of happy, satisfied customers many of whom have come back to purchase their second or third puppy from us.*

*We believe that the action your task force is considering is misguided. We urge you to consider other alternatives to putting The Dog House and other CT pet shops out of business. We request that you put your energy and resources in supporting the US Department of Agriculture efforts to identify and eliminate any and all the "bad" breeders. This is definitely a way to improve the puppy industry and insure healthy animals in Connecticut.*

*Respectively submitted,  
The Dog House Staff*

*R.Carty,C.Carty,V.Colon, J.Parsons,  
V.Burnsworth,J.Robinson,,I.Quelette,T.Delorenzo,J.Sweeney,E.Munroe,D.Tirozzi,A  
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