

Pet Shop Puppies & Kittens

If the Federal Government passed legislation nation wide that no puppies nor kittens nor adult dogs and cats would be permitted to be sold in pet stores, there would be NO high volume puppy producers, puppy facilitators or puppy mill types. Because there would be no outlets for them to sell their animals. But that would have to be a federal mandate.

Puppy Mills began to surface during the post WW2 era, when mid-western farmers were looking for an alternative source of income, resulting in the first commercial puppy business. This was encouraged by the Federal Government who in effect, started the puppy mill business. As these businesses grew, retail outlets popped up and the pet store chains were established.

There is little doubt that the term "mill" was ascribed to these facilities due to the negative connotation of the "grinding out" of their product – in this case puppies – like a wheat mill grinds out wheat.

Taken from: <http://www.petmedsonline.org/puppy-mills-definition-history-locations.html>

So where does the general public go to obtain a dog? You have the Pet shops, Rescue, Responsible Breeders and the Internet.

Pet Shops

We have heard testimony, and we hear it again and again, that many puppies sold in Pet shops are often defective. That is a fact.

When one considers that Iowa's FIRST puppy mill awareness billboard hit AMES, IOWA today (Iowa being one of the major puppy mill havens in the USA) and that this ad will run for an entire year and will be seen by over 50,000 people daily – you know that the pet store puppies can be defective.

For more info about our ad, click here:

<http://peopleforanimals2011.wordpress.com/2013/10/18/iowas-first-puppy-mill-awareness-billboard/>

The reasons that the Pet Shop puppies are substandard:

High volume, commercial puppy producers know very little about the lineage of the dogs they breed – as long as it looks like a specific breed, it's good enough.

High volume puppy producers know nothing about the inherited health issues of a specific breed nor of their breeding stock – none of them are health cleared by specialist in the various veterinary fields.

Pet shops misrepresent from whom they purchase their livestock, citing they are from breeders. They are NOT from breeders. They are from these high volume puppy producers and high volume facilitators who in turn acquire them as cheaply as possible from the puppy farmers.

The difference between a responsible breeder and these puppy producers is that when new owners call a responsible breeder, they will always get a call back. High volume puppy producers NEVER communicate with puppy buyers after the sale is completed. You buy a puppy – you are on your own.

Pet shops are manned by 20 year old kids that barely know the difference between a Rottweiler, a Cocker spaniel and a Chihuahua. Walking into a pet shop is like walking into a canine Baskin & Robins – step right up folks and see many original flavors. And if the flavor is distasteful, it can be flushed down the toilet. If a puppy is not the right puppy, it ends up in rescue or worse still, is abused.

With a handful of money or a credit card, anyone can purchase a “flavor” of their choice, irrespective of whether these people are responsible enough to have a dog at all or whether the breed is suitable for that person’s lifestyle.

On the other hand, we have heard testimony from the pet store owners that without the ability to sell puppies, their business will be curtailed and some will lose their jobs. However, if these smaller exclusive pet stores sell only high end, quality products, they will have created a niche for themselves, totally different to the large, box type animal supply stores. Liken it to Whole Foods that does so well, even with A&P and Shoprite on every corner.

So the question is, will the CT State Task Force choose to protect the residents of the State from impulse purchases of sub-standard puppies and ultimately protect them from high vet bills and potentially death of their dog, by banning all sales of puppies and kittens in pet stores?

Will the Task Force choose to take pity on the adult dogs that live their miserable lives producing puppies for resale in these pet stores and try to make a difference to these dogs’ lives, even in a small way? The fewer puppies the high volume puppy producers have outlets for, the fewer puppies they will produce.

Or will the Task Force choose to allow these potentially defective puppies from entering the State and being sold to unsuspecting owners in the pet stores, purely to save a number of jobs – and the job market is certainly is a hot ticket of conversation today?

It’s a question of jobs versus humanity.

Are you Rescuing a Puppy from a Pet Shop?

There have been so many people who have researched the puppy mill problem to death. They all, without question, say that if the puppy mill shills, the pet stores, sell their puppies, they will simply buy more to fill the slot. That makes sense – typical of any retail shop. When you sell out of something, you buy more. Therefore, it also must follow that when the puppy mills run out of puppies (due to the demand of the pet shops that have sold their puppies to the general public) they will then breed more puppies to fill that need.

Common sense tells us therefore, that puppies purchased in pet shops WILL indeed proliferate a hideous industry called puppy mills. The general public who buy puppies from pet shops are therefore supporting puppy mills. The general public must take some responsibility for the continuation of the puppy mills.

Rescuing a dog is when a dog does not have a home. The pet shop puppies HAVE a home – with the pet shop owner who owns them. So buying a puppy from a pet shop is not rescuing the puppy. It is simply buying a puppy with the aforementioned ramifications.

Rescue Groups

Then there are the rescue groups who seem to think we do not have enough dogs for adoption here in CT. Why do they think that when the shelters are full of adoptable dogs? The Hartford shelter alone takes in about 10 dogs a week.

Multiple dogs are brought up here from shelter in other States – why? 14,000 are brought to Massachusetts every year along with their host of diseases.

<http://www.wcax.com/story/23772297/15-treated-after-vt-puppy-tests-positive-for-rabies>

Often they are chosen because they are small sized and more adoptable. Let's clear out the existing dogs up for adoption in CT before bringing in others. These rescue dogs are up for adoption, not up for choosing what color, size and age a person may want. They are RESCUE DOGS. You get what you are given.

There is no question that it is a crying shame that there are wonderful, adoptable dogs outside of CT but they continually arrive with internal and external parasites, parvo and distemper and canine flu. The latter three of these became an epidemic here in CT. The various shelters have had to close down because of a Parvo outbreak and the veterinarians continually have parvo cases in their hospitals. This is not good for the State and risky for the well kept dogs by residents in the State. Good heavens, there is a law banning the transport of wildlife, in particular raccoons, across State lines – yet we allow many thousands of these feral, infected, street puppies to come in hoardes to our State. This HAS to be curtailed.

As an alternative to help these out of State rescue dogs, the rescue groups should communicate closely with rescue groups in other states. Let the dogs stay there until they are cleaned up, fully vaccinated, heartworm cleared and enough time has gone by to be sure the dogs do not come down with parvo or distemper.

Responsible Breeders

Responsible Show Breeders have a desire for excellence unsurpassed by any other purebred puppy producers.

Show Breeders are students of their chosen breed, they know the lineage by heart and they are proud of the quality of their puppies.

Show Breeders encourage communication from the pet owner throughout the puppy's lifetime. The puppies they produce will NEVER be a burden to the State because they always take their dogs back and care for them.

Whatever legislation is proposed by the Task Force, responsible breeders who breed for the sport of exhibiting dogs both in Conformation and Performance, should be exempt. Why? Because these breeders are already under the scrutiny of the AKC, they are required to DNA and microchip the dogs and are inspected by the AKC. It would be a waste of resources to repeat inspections for this group.

Internet Puppy Sales

This method of selling puppies is a major issue in the USA today. There is not much that can be done about it other than EDUCATION, EDUCATION and more EDUCATION. Someone, we/you needs to EDUCATE THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

In Closing

In discussing puppies and dogs being transferred from one person to another, the term should be "place". Whether the dog is sold or given away, the dog is PLACED in another home.

Any dog that is PLACED from one home to another – and it doesn't matter if someone hands over a dog to a neighbor – those people handing over the dogs MUST be held accountable under the Lemon Law.