

SA13-19

HB5027

Environment	1955-1962, 1968, 1969-1971, 1980-1986, 2024, 2031, 2033-2035, 2038, 2040-2042, 2044, 2045-2055, 2115-2117, 2119-2121, 2186, 2234-2246, (2247), 2248-2252, (2253), 2254-2272, 2434	87
House	10095-10110	16
Senate	5143, 5157-5159	4
		107

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 29
9742 – 10110**

The Clerk will please announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

In concurrence with the Senate, Senate Bill 465
as amended by Senate "A"

Total Number Voting	142
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	142
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	8

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The bill is passed in concurrence with the
Senate.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar 287?

THE CLERK:

On page nine, Calendar 287, favorable report of
the Joint Standing Committee on Environment,
Substitute House Bill 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE
SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD
DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS AND REQUIRING A STANDARD OF CARE
APPLICABLE TO ANIMAL IMPORTERS.

Another rough one.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I move for acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question is acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

Representative Gentile, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the Clerk has Amendment Number LCO 8543. I ask for the Clerk to please call it and that I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Will the Clerk please call LCO Number 8543, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A"?

THE CLERK:

House "A" on cats and dogs 8543, introduced by Representative Kupchick, Gentile, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize the amendment. Is there an objection to summarization?

Seeing no objection, Representative Gentile, you may proceed with summarization.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, this is a bill that has lived nine lives. And sorry couldn't resist. It's a strike all amendment and what this bill basically does is it forms a task force to study in fact the proliferation of dogs and cats sourced from inhumane origins and sold in Connecticut pet shops and it requires the study -- the task force to report its findings to the General Assembly not later than January 1st of 2014.

Madam Speaker, I move for adoption of the amendment and I would like to thank all the people that participated in this.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

The question before the Chamber is adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A".

Will you remark on the amendment? Will you remark on the amendment?

Representative Becker, you have the floor, sir.

Okay. We'll try Representative Shaban, you have the floor, sir.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in support of the amendment which will become the bill, you know, this bill did go through several iterations and I think you'll hear some commentary about why, because, you know, all jokes aside there is -- there is an issue here that should be addressed and that's what this task force will do.

I too thank the folks who've worked long and hard on this to and have settled on let's get the facts before we do anything else, so I urge support.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Kupchick, you have the floor, ma'am.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I rise in support of the puppy bill amendment, which some of you may not be surprised by. This is actually a wonderful compromise that Representative Gentile, Senator Meyer and Representative Shaban and I were able to work out. Originally many of you signed on -- 50 of you actually signed onto the original amendment that has now morphed into this amendment.

And what we're trying to do is -- while I realize many people may not completely understand that there is a situation or real problem with the inhumane treatment of puppies in mills in parts of our country. And maybe because it doesn't actually happen here in Connecticut people aren't really aware of it.

So we thought it was a good idea to start a task force so we could have a lot of the information that myself and the ASPCA, the United States Humane Society and the Connecticut Votes for Animals already has. And I just wanted to just quickly say that in 1997 Ted Lovegrove was the Senator for Fairfield and that he -- there was a truck that crashed on I-95 -- a big tractor trailer truck. And in that tractor trailer truck were nine -- were cages stacked from ceiling to floor, front to back with 93 puppies in it coming from out of state from a substandard animal mill.

And the only reason anyone found out about it is because it crashed. In that -- in that truck -- the back of this truck were small little puppies that were even younger than eight weeks old. They were all jammed in cages. There were no water. There was feces everywhere and many of them of were already sick.

The Humane Society seized those puppies because they were sick. We wouldn't have really known about puppy mills, if in fact, this truck did not smack -- crash on I-95.

Senator Lovegrove introduced a bill back in 1997 and as did Senator McKinney who took over him -- for him many years and it's taken this long for people to really take a look at puppy mills. And I know that many people think that it's sort of an animal issue.

It's a feel good issue. But actually if you really look at what's going on at these mills you would be disgusted and you wouldn't want to have a dog come from there.

And if you saw the way that these breeding pup -- breeding dogs were treated, you wouldn't want a puppy from one of them because it's just simply inhumane. So I'm really excited that we're going to be looking -- we're having all stakeholders come and we're going to look more closely at this issue and hopefully we'll have something that will actually address this problem in the next legislation.

And I would like to really Minority Leader Larry Cafero and Themis Klarides and Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader for having this opportunity

and I really appreciate working with Representative Gentile.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RITTER:

Representative Paul Davis, you have the floor, sir.

REP. DAVIS (117TH):

Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good evening.

Madam Speaker, I have some concerns about the concept of this task force. I think I have a pretty good track record when it comes to protection of animals. Last year I worked on language that extended and improved the pet lemon law.

This year in committee when this bill came up it mentioned that we should ban the sale of pets that were obtained from inhumane puppy mills and I suggested an amendment that would simply ban puppy mills, at least in Connecticut, as well as the obtaining of those animals.

The underlying bill does that. It bans the sale of in pet shops, of animals that were obtained from substandard puppy mills. It regulates the activities of animal importers and sale of dogs in open areas. It requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to

prescribe conditions that constitute humane treatment of animals.

We're striking all of that quality language for a task force. A task force that is designed to study the proliferation of dogs and cats sourced from inhumane origins and sold in Connecticut pet shops. With that information I -- I have a question for the proponent of the amendment if you don't mind, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Please proceed.

REP. DAVIS (117TH):

Mr. Speaker, through you.

Proliferation to me means the rapid increase in numbers. I would ask the proponent of the amendment if she has the information that would document that we have this major problem of a proliferation of sale of dogs that were obtained from inhumane puppy mills in our pet shops in Connecticut.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Gentile.

REP. GENTILE (104th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

No, we do not have numbers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Davis.

REP. DAVIS (117TH):

So we are -- we are organizing a task force to look at the proliferation when we're not even sure there is proliferation? In any case, pet shops are responsible for approximately 7 percent of the sale of dogs in Connecticut. The greater problem may be sale from open trucks, which the underlying bill helps to address, as well as some private owners who do not take care of their dogs.

As a result of that I think the underlying bill has greater strengths than the amendment and I will be opposing the amendment and I ask my colleagues to join me in doing so.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative.

Will you remark further on the amendment before us? Will you remark further on the amendment before us?

If not, I will try your minds. All those in favor of the amendment, signify by saying, aye.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Those opposed.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Nay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The Chair is in doubt. When the vote will be taken it will be taken by roll call.

Will you remark further on the amendment before us? Will you remark further on the amendment before us?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House? Will members please take your seats; the machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will members please return to the Chamber immediately?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board to see if their vote is properly cast?

If all the members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take the tally.

Will the Clerk Please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

On Substitute House Bill 5024, House Amendment

(HB 5027)

"A"

Total Number Voting	140
Necessary for Adoption	71
Those voting Yea	115
Those voting Nay	25
Absent and not voting	10

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The amendment passes.

Will you comment further on the bill as amended?

Will you comment further on the bill as amended?

Representative Grogins of the 129th, madam.

REP. GROGINS (129TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to thank Representative Kupchick for all the work that she's done on this bill. I know that she's been working since the beginning of session and even prior to that studying this issue and doing whatever she can to craft a bill that strikes the heart of animal cruelty. It's very well publicized

that many puppy mills here and across the country in breeding animals are extremely cruel to them, keeping them in cages without the proper food, nutrition, veterinary care and exercise.

And I think this task force is extremely important to study this very significant issue so we can properly legislate on this in the future and we can address the issue of this continuing animal cruelty. So again, thank you to Representative Kupchick and the Environment Committee for supporting this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Will you remark further on the bill before us?

Representative Lavielle of 143rd, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Good evening, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you.

Just very briefly, I also want thank Representative Kupchick and Senator McKinney and everyone who worked on this. I was a co-sponsor of the original underlying bill. I -- I still would have loved to see it, but this is a -- this is a great

start. I'm glad we have it. And I hope that it will lead to an action as it comes to fruition.

So I stand in very strong support of the -- of the bill and hope it passes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, Representative.

Representative Carter of the 2nd.

REP. CARTER (2nd):

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

I -- I would like to thank some folks including Representative Kupchick, not so much for bringing the bill forward, but opening my eyes to something that I hadn't seen before.

Like anybody, I like pets. I like animals, but it wasn't until, you know, I was approached about this bill coming that I started doing a little more research and I learned a lot from the ASPCA, from different animal organizations and it really opened by eyes to something I hadn't seen before, so for that I thank you and I support the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Kupchick of the 132nd, madam, you have the floor.

Representative Kupchick, you have the floor,
ma'am.

REP. KUPCHICK (132ND):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just would obviously rise in support and I do -
- one person I didn't -- I forgot to thank was House
Republican Attorney Chris Adams, who really gave a lot
of time and effort to assisting, to putting together
this compromised amendment, that I believe is -- is a
fair compromise to look into this issue more closely,
and I just wanted to say, thank you, and I hope
everyone will support this amendment.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Thank you, madam.

Will you comment further on the bill as amended?
Will you comment further on the bill as amended?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the
Well of the House? Will members please -- please take
your seats; the machine will be opened.

THE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will
members please return to the Chamber immediately?

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Have all the members voted? Have all the members voted?

Will the members please check the board to determine if their vote is properly cast?

If all the members have voted, the machined will be locked and the Clerk will take the tally.

Representative Larson, what purpose do you rise, sir.

REP. LARSON (11TH):

I would like to -- I would like to have my vote in the affirmative, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Willis, what purpose do you rise?

REP. WILLIS (64TH):

Mr. Speaker, I would like to cast my vote in the affirmative, please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Representative Willis, Representative Larson will be noted in the affirmative.

Representative Janowski, what purpose do you rise, madam?

REP. JANOWSKI (56TH):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I wish to cast my vote in the affirmative as well.

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

Be noted your vote in the affirmative.

Representative Arce? Representative Arce of the 4th.

Will the Clerk please announce the tally? Will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 5027 as amended by House "A"

Total Number Voting	139
Necessary for Passage	70
Those voting Yea	137
Those voting Nay	2
Absent and not voting	11

DEPUTY SPEAKER BERGER:

The bill as amended passes.

It should be noted to members please stay in the Chamber. The votes will be moving quickly.

Is there business on the Clerk's desk?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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Senate Agenda Number 5 be acted upon as indicated and that the Agenda be incorporated by reference in the Senate Journal and the Senate Transcript.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And, Madam President -- Madam President, would move to place the items on Senate Agenda Number 5 on our Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

And Madam President, would move for suspension for the purposes of -- of taking up two of the items on Senate Agenda Number 5 for purposes of moving them to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And, Madam President, would move to place on the Consent Calendar from Senate Agenda Number 5 House Bill 6509 and Substitute for House Bill 5027.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

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Madam President, seeing no objection, would this item please be placed on our Consent Calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Senator Looney..

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, with that item being moved to the Consent Calendar, Madam President, there is an -- an item on the foot of the Calendar to be removed and, Madam President, on -- on the foot of the Calendar, Calendar Page 42, Calendar 648, House Bill 6660, would move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it passed retaining its place on the Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, at this point if the Clerk would list the items on the second Consent Calendar so that we might proceed to a vote on that Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

House Bill 5607; House Bill 6509; House Bill 5027. On Page 4, Calendar 459, House Bill 6622; on Page 7, Calendar 536, Senate Bill 1163.

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Page 14, Calendar 651, House Bill 6565. On Page 15, Calendar 660, House Bill 6290. Page 17, Calendar 678, House Bill 6671. Also Calendar 686, House Bill 6528.

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On Page 19, Calendar 689, House Bill 6677 and on Page 24, Calendar 484, Senate Bill Number 983.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the second Consent Calendar. The machine is open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call on Senate -- on Consent Calendar Number 2 has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted, if all members have voted, the machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On Consent Calendar Number 2.

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of any items voted on the second Consent Calendar needing additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

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So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

And also if there are any other items that were voted individually that may need additional action by the House.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Good, thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, that will conclude -- conclude our business for this evening or this morning at this point. Before adjournment I would yield the floor to any members for announcements or points of personal privilege.

THE CHAIR:

Any announcements or personal privilege?

Seeing none, Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President, for a -- a Journal notation. Senator Coleman was -- was absent and missed votes today due to -- due to illness.

THE CHAIR:

So noted, sir.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, one other item. On the -- the -- the items on the foot of the Calendar beginning on Calendar Page 27, beginning with Calendar 59, on Calendar Page 27 at the beginning of the foot and

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bill is what we've got to work with, then just modify it a little bit so it's clearer and a little stronger. That would be what I would support. Thank you.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Mary, for your testimony. We appreciate it.

Any questions?

Thank you.

Representative Kupchick followed by Caryn Rickel.

REP. KUPCHICK: Thank you very much for allowing me to have the opportunity to testify today before the committee. I am testifying in support of H.B. 5027. And before I start my testimony, I would just like to say there are quite a few people who took the day off from work today to be here to support the humane welfare bills and if they could just raise their hands if you're here to support humane bills. Thank you.

Senator Meyer, Senator Chapin, Representative Gentile and Representative Shaban, members of the committee, I'm here to testify today on an ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED BY SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS. I originally introduced this bill with Senator McKinney last year and also again this year. Most people would say that I'm a strong advocate for animal welfare, a big supporter of animal rescue, a strong advocate for shelter pets, and I am; however, someone even like me can get caught up in purchasing a puppy mill pet.

Nearly 20 years ago, when my mixed-breed dog that I adopted from the Humane Society was approaching her 15th year, my then nine-year-old son really wanted a puppy. I asked him, what kind of puppy do you want? And he said he wasn't so sure, so we took some books out of the library and did some research.

That was before really the age of the Internet and I got, before I really got involved with rescues. I thought we would just go to a pet store and look at the breeds to try to get an idea. The entire ride, I repeated to my son over and over that we were only looking. We are not buying a puppy from a pet store, because they come from puppy mills. I thought we would just look at the breeds.

We went to the store, and my son asked to play with the beagle puppy. And as soon as they handed him that floppy-eared puppy, it was all over. He fell in love with her immediately, and everything I said about us not getting a puppy from a pet store went right out the window. And realizing I couldn't convince him that this wasn't the puppy for us, and he just wasn't going to go for it, and so I asked detailed questions of the proprietor.

You know, where did this puppy come from? Let me see the paperwork. Are you sure this puppy is not from a puppy mill? Of course, it's not from a puppy mill. The puppy is, you know, perfectly good. So as my son stood there with this small little beagle puppy and tears running down his face, we walked out with a puppy. And don't misunderstand, Copper was a cute little puppy, and we loved her very dearly.

But she ended up costing us over \$16,000 during her 12 years that we had her. While she was healthy the first year we had her, she developed strange illnesses soon after and most of her life, perplexing even our vets about what was wrong with her and I mean illnesses, and I could go on and on, but strange illnesses where she was all the sudden anemic, or she had leukemia, and then she didn't have leukemia.

And it just went on and on and on. And we spent, like I said, a considerable amount of money. My point being is that the dog that I rescued from the Humane Society never had a single health problem. The only thing I ever had to spend money on were immunizations. And the dog lived 17 years. And our sweet little puppy mill puppy, Copper, cost us over \$16,000 and a lot of heartbreak, quite honestly.

So my point is that somebody as well-known about animals got kind of sucked into this, and, but there's a lot of people out there who don't really understand this, you know, and they just go there and buy this puppy. And you'll hear from some today. Since I introduced this bill last year and this year, I have been contacted by quite a few people who have shared with me very sad stories about what they've had to go through.

So after really thinking about this and being contacted by so many people, Senator McKinney and I wanted to request that we have the language changed on this bill to really ban the sale of puppies in puppy stores. After being contacted by a large amount of people and reviewing the data that shows that there's only 18 stores in the entire state of Connecticut out of hundreds of pet stores, only 18 sell puppies.

So, I mean, I look at the way that our, that the USDA simply can't keep up with the inspections to protect these breeding dogs and their puppies and the unsuspecting public. Our own Department of Agriculture can't and doesn't have the manpower to track people who file complaints about puppy mill puppies. Our intent is to stop puppy mill puppies from being sold in the state of Connecticut.

We are concerned, we were originally concerned about the pushback from the pet store lobby, but I'll tell you, I have to say I'm not really worried about that anymore, because I think that Connecticut should stand up in this issue. We should be a leader here and say that we condone this inhumane practice. And there will be people testifying today and showing you pictures of what goes on in these puppy mills.

I mean, it's really atrocious to see the kind of stuff that's going on just so somebody can sell a puppy for a thousand bucks to an unsuspecting person who's going to be spending a lot of money trying to fix this little puppy that they now are in love with. And while we've passed a law, Pet Lemon Law, you know, five hundred bucks doesn't cut it. It's not enough money.

And so I'm asking that the Committee consider adopting some language that Los Angeles, and I will submit it to the test, to the Committee, that they recently passed just last year in 2012 that just bans the sale of puppies in pet stores. We can get dogs at reputable local breeders in our state.

These are small business owners that are tracked, that are inspected, and that are

typically a place where you can go back, and you can see where the dog has been raised, you can have some faith in the process, or you could go to a shelter or through a rescue. I just don't see why we need to sell puppies in puppy stores, in pet stores.

I don't even have a single pet store in my town that sells, but I have quite a few pet stores that sell products, and they're very successful. So I'm asking, humbly asking for at least this consideration by the Committee.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Representative. Any questions? Senator --

SENATOR MEYER: Meyer. I'm just wondering if this bill, as it's written, is really enforceable, because what it says in the prohibition language is that you can't sell a dog or a cat if the dog or cat was obtained by a pet shop from a substandard domestic animal mill. And let's assume that a puppy came from a substandard domestic animal mill in Georgia.

REP. KUPCHICK: Right.

SENATOR MEYER: How do, how would, how would, how do you, how do you enforce this?

REP. KUPCHICK: Well, that's why I, that's why Senator McKinney, who, by the way, had car trouble on the way up, hit a, but that's why we will, we are requesting that the language be changed, because once we really looked at it, and we wanted to do something, but then we realized that you're right, we can't regulate that. We can't regulate it.

There's just not the manpower to do it. The USDA really doesn't have the manpower to do the inspections that they should be doing.

And so much stuff, and as the ASPCA from Connecticut will be here talking about how many things slip through the cracks on these puppy mills. There are some pretty unbelievable things.

And that's why we're asking that the language be changed to a full-out ban of puppies. That way, we don't have to spend the money through the Department of Agriculture to be inspecting these (inaudible), and we simply can't. We don't have enough money. We don't have the manpower to be, you know, policing people.

SENATOR MEYER: But to do an outright ban is to go from one extreme to another. Senator McKinney has spoken to me about an outward ban before. I don't, you know, we've, I don't think this Committee is going to do an outright ban of selling puppies and making people go to breeders only.

I just don't think we're likely to do that. So, but this bill as it's drafted just seems to me totally unenforceable, and why would we pass a bill that was unenforceable?

REP. KUPCHICK: Well, I'm asking, well, what we're asking and what we're trying to convince you, Senator, is that we would like you to consider an all-out ban. And as I said earlier in my testimony, 18 stores sell puppies out of --

SENATOR MEYER: Right. John McKinney has been asking for that one, ban in the eight years I've been here, and it hasn't happened, so I wouldn't go to bank on that. Okay?

REP. KUPCHICK: Well, that doesn't mean we shouldn't keep trying. I mean, I have to tell you, I have a lot of tenacity when it comes to pets. I look at them as defenseless animals

that cannot speak on behalf of themselves. And so I think it's important enough, and I will bring it up every year even if you keep telling me no, because I think it's worth it.

And, actually, I also think it's our obligation as Legislators to protect our constituents from this. This is not right. There are puppies being transported from out of state who have pneumonia, who have surgical problems, taken away from their mothers too young and then unsuspecting constituents walking into a pet store, picking up a cute, little puppy and then having serious health problems, spending thousands of dollars. So I'm not really sure why the Committee wouldn't think about doing it.

SENATOR MEYER: Because there are plenty --

REP. KUPCHICK: It's not as if we're putting them out of business.

SENATOR MEYER: There are plenty experiences that go just the other way. My wife and I went on vacation, and when we came back, we found out that our two children, who were aged 12 and 13, had gone, while we were on vacation, my wife and I went on vacation, they had gone to a puppy store, pet store, and bought a puppy. They bought a Labrador puppy.

REP. KUPCHICK: They sold to two young children, minors, a puppy?

SENATOR MEYER: Well, they, we, they had somebody babysitting with them who brought them, so they, but it was their idea, this pet store in Westchester County, and they bought the puppy, and that puppy, whose name is Mo, is now 17 years of age and very healthy and has been

healthy all her life, from a pet store in
(inaudible).

REP. KUPCHICK: And that's one of the unusual
stories.

SENATOR MEYER: I don't think so.

REP. KUPCHICK: And that wasn't in Connecticut.

SENATOR MEYER: No.

REP. KUPCHICK: My point being is that I don't
think we're putting out, pet stores out of
business. There are hundreds of pet stores
that sell all kinds of stuff, birds, fish,
reptiles, expensive dog food products, you
know, everything you can possibly get. It's a
lot of work having puppies in a pet store.

You have to make sure they have vet care. You
have to make sure they're walked. You have to
make sure they're clean. You have to make
sure they have immunizations. It's a lot of
effort, a lot of work. So the way to make
profit is to get them cheaply. And how do we
get them cheaply? Where do they come from?

REP. GENTILE: Representative Case.

REP. CASE: Good afternoon, Representative. Thank
you for your testimony.

REP. KUPCHICK: Good afternoon, Representative.

REP. CASE: I just have to touch on a few things.
I do agree with you. I hope we can do
something with this. I have a similar
situation where I did purchase one dog, didn't
do the background check on it. The poor dog
lasted six months.

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SENATOR MEYER: Oh, Senator McKinney has arrived.
We were told you had a breakdown.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: Yes, a flat tire in Stratford on
I-95.

SENATOR MEYER: Oh, dear.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: But thankfully, I was right near
exit 31, which has a Town Fair Tire off at the
bottom.

SENATOR MEYER: Yeah.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: So there's a good advertisement
for Town Fair Tire. Is it afternoon yet? It
is, isn't it?

SENATOR MEYER: It is.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: Good afternoon, Senator Meyer,
Senator Chapin, Representative Albis,
Representative Bowles -- nice to meet you
officially for the first time --
Representative O'Dea, Representative Miller.
Welcome to my favorite Committee in the
Legislature that I no longer serve on.

I actually wanted to just briefly testify in
favor of two bills, the first you were just
discussing, Senate Bill 1016 regarding bamboo,
and I appreciate the Committee's raising that
bill as a Committee bill. I had initially, in
talking with a number of constituents, thought
about the concept of getting bamboo listed as
an invasive species. I understand the
Invasive Species Council didn't want to do
that.

I think perhaps the better idea would be if
you have bamboo on your property, it's your

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responsibility to contain it on your property so it doesn't go into your neighbor's property. The details of liability and issues like that I think we can work out. I think establishing the responsibility of homeowners with respect to bamboo is the more important issue to go after, and I appreciate the Committee bringing that bill up.

The second one, at no surprise, I think, Senator Meyer, is the puppy bill, which is House Bill 5027. As you may recall, a long time ago, it seems like, I put in a bill to ban the sale of dogs at pet stores. Unbeknownst to me, there was a pet store lobby who quickly and swiftly diminished and extinguished any chance I had at banning that practice.

5027 was written to try to do something less than a ban, but I have to admit to you that my goal would still be to prohibit the sale of dogs at pet shops. It's my understanding that there are only 18 pet shops left in Connecticut that actually sell puppies I think therefore undercutting some of the arguments that it's not an economically viable business without the sale of dogs since so many others survive without the sale of dogs.

And my last point is simply this, we have animal shelters that are overflowing. We have animal shelters, and we've had this debate in this Committee as to whether or not if a dog goes unattended for seven days or more it can actually be put down. There are dog rescue organizations, ASPCA. There are so many animals out there and dogs out there that families can adopt and take.

We don't need to be selling them at pet shops considering the fact that certainly not all

but so many of the dogs that end up having problems are ones that came from puppy mills sold through pet stores. I don't mean to say that all of them, obviously, but it seems that the cases where there's something, you know, that's really wrong with the dog comes from a puppy mill sold to a pet shop.

And I just think it's a practice we should end. I understand that seems unfair to some. I understand it's controversial, but it's where I am and what I believe and respect the fact that we at least get to have an opportunity to have a public hearing on it. And thank you for your time.

SENATOR MEYER: You know, I think, you know, the Bill 5027 we were talking about before you came in, John, and it is, it probably is not enforceable, because if a puppy comes up from Georgia, and from what the bill defines as a substandard domestic animal mill, we're not going to know here in Connecticut what kind of housing that puppy had in another state. And that could really be unbelievably bad stuff. But I don't know how we're going to know it, how we could police it.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: I don't disagree with you. And I think given the constraints on our agencies, the lack of funds that, you know, they have or may not have in the future, this would impose a cost on them. I don't disagree. This was an attempt to see if we can do more to make sure that, you know, puppy mills weren't churning out dogs and selling them through pet stores that were short of a prohibition because there was a lot of opposition to the prohibition.

I think at the end of the day that it's best for people like myself and Representative

Kupchick to continue to push for prohibition and see if we can convince the majority of Legislators to be with us. That may not be possible, but I think what you point out is some difficulties with 5027, point out the difficulties of taking half measures or three-quarter measures.

And maybe our job is just to convince enough of you through a lot more hard work and education that a lot of these dogs that are sold at pet stores come from puppy mills, and many, not all, come from substandard conditions. And it's just not what we should be doing in Connecticut.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Senator. Any questions? Appreciate it.

SENATOR MCKINNEY: Thank you very much.

SENATOR MEYER: Glad you made it. Okay. Our next witness is Gail Reynolds.

GAIL REYNOLDS: Good afternoon. I'm here to give testimony for Bill 1016. I support that bill. My neighbor --

SENATOR MEYER: Just for the record, can you state your name?

GAIL REYNOLDS: Okay. My name is Gail Reynolds. I live in Higganum, which is part of the town of Haddam.

SENATOR MEYER: Uh-huh.

GAIL REYNOLDS: And I didn't put this in my testimony, but I am chair of the Haddam Conservation Commission, but I am not testifying on behalf of the Commission, and I also participate with the Connecticut Invasive

responsible for planting the invading bamboo and retribution and damages for each new invasion, the assignment of liability for damages for each new invasion. The bill should include the species name, (inaudible), yellow groove.

I urge you and the Legislature to enact laws to protect the abiding homeowners from invasions of bamboo. Thank you so much. And I hope you'll take this into sincere consideration.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you.

PRISCILLA WEADON: Uh-huh.

REP. GENTILE: Senator Hartley. Senator Hartley will be followed by Enilda Rosas.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Good -- is it afternoon, I'm losing track fastly -- Madam Chair and Members of the Environment Committee. And with your indulgence, I have also, seated with me to my right is veterinarian Brad Davis from Woodbury, Connecticut.

I appear before you to testify in favor of House Bill 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS. I first of all want to congratulate the new House Chairman and recognize the work of this Committee with regard to this subject over a period of years. You have demonstrated incredible leadership and I think distinguished this state on this subject. Of course, as we recognize in all legislation, there are always refinements and further iterations.

And so as I speak in favor of House Bill 5027, I would, I appear before you to request the

addition of some germane language on an aspect of this particular subject. And I am, there was a bill that was submitted but is totally germane to the underlining House bill or perhaps some other legislative proposal that may currently be before you.

It actually is the genesis of a very troubling situation that occurred in Bethlehem, Connecticut, as the result of animals that were imported from, I believe, California, New York, and South Carolina, 62 dogs that were imported into the state and were boarded this past November, and if you could remember the weather, which has been so atypical, but it was cold, in a setting which was a partially completed barn, unheated other than two makeshift portable heaters in a, as you can imagine the square footage of a barn and the ceilings and so forth. So what, two, these two small heaters did was effectively nothing.

The dogs were housed in crates that were so small, they were basically crates for cats, if I understand the report from the animal control person in Bethlehem, that they couldn't fit a bowl of water in without tipping them over, they could not stand, they couldn't turn around. They basically had to be lying down and the larger animals in a curled up position.

Now it may have been helpful in some instances, because the temperature in this unfinished barn was about 32 degrees, and the animals were visibly shivering, and I will defer to Veterinarian Davis to talk about this, because he was on the site. The animal control officer identified the fact that the crates were unfit.

They were, she described them as crates for cats and that the animals were in their own urine and feces and that there was not a water bowl in these crates. Long story short, the town sought an injunction. The judge was conflicted in his decision, and that's the reason why I appear before you, because there wasn't explicit statutory reference to this.

We have identified standards of care for commercial kennels, pet stores, and the like, but we haven't included rescue import, whether they be intrastate or out of the state, for rescue operations. And that's really what was lacking here.

So the judge, in dealing with this, and I look at it as a real conflicted decision, said that the smaller animals had to be removed, and, once again, Brad will talk about this, because they couldn't withstand the temperatures and so forth, but the larger animals may have been more equipped to do this.

So the larger animals remained, which was a little bit of a contradiction, larger animals in those small, small cages. And so what we're asking is something very simple, and that is to apply those standards that already exist and are appropriate in commercial kennels to importers who are boarding animals so that they have a decent standard of care. But I defer to Veterinarian Davis who is clearly the expert on this. Brad?

BRAD DAVIS: Thank you, Senator Hartley. Thank you, Committee, for allowing me this opportunity. I really appreciate it. My name is Dr. Brad Davis. I own a veterinary hospital in Woodbury, Connecticut.

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As a veterinarian practicing in the state of Connecticut for 30 years, I have been involved in the treatment of thousands of newly acquired pets. Being part of the care is a privilege I still cherish.

However, treating obviously sick, weak, or poorly bred young animals acquired from less than responsible providers, whether a puppy mill or a poorly run rescue agency, has been a constant source of heartache for the new families incurring unanticipated expenses and often undeserved emotional distress.

I am testify in support of H.B. 5027 but, in my case, more importantly, finding a way for some additional language in this bill or another appropriate bill prescribing the Department of Agriculture to set standards of care for imported homeless animals when kept in significant numbers in one location. The exact language of that particular bill is yet to be finalized, but that's my interpretation and my, the intent that I'm supporting.

I was recently involved in a legal action pertaining to the confiscation of 65 dogs in my hometown of Bethlehem. These dogs were imported with the express purpose of being placed in Connecticut homes, and the agencies of origin had put great care into getting them here in a safe and healthy manner. In fact, good existing regulations help guarantee this.

The Connecticut adoption agency involved stood to realize significant income with nonrefundable application fees and adoption fees running into hundreds of dollars per dog. Make no mistake, this is a business. Although the groups of original trusted these creatures would be kept in appropriate and humane ways, they were, in fact, being kept in what was

considered inadequate and inhumane conditions by both myself and the enforcement professionals involved.

Very little attempt appeared to have been made to keep them comfortable and safe. The utter heartache I felt as I entered a very cold, dark barn to see all these dogs kept in small cages meant for temporary transport with totally inadequate heat sources, no water in their cages, and small pieces of newspaper to protect them from the cold ground will not soon be forgotten.

The relief the small dogs in particular felt as they climbed inside my coat to be carried to the waiting warm vans could not be missed, and the good natured trust they still held in their captors was heartwarming but incredibly frustrating. The disappointment I felt in the fact that these creatures had weathered much adversity and traveled long distances to be subjected now to this neglect spoke of profound failure at many levels.

As the process went on, I was called to testify in the civil hearings designed to confiscate these dogs and to find them proper homes. The inadequacy of the existing regulations as they pertained to imported rescued dogs kept in significant numbers became readily apparent.

While regulations setting minimum humane standards exist for pet stores, pounds, and commercial kennels and are clear, there are no similar set of standards for these collections of rescued dogs languishing in their transport cages.

As the circumstances in this case warranted criminal charges and some of those standards

were applied, nonetheless, the difficulty the judge had in disposing this case was evident, basically due to the lack of applicable and specific standards of care. To date, the 65 dogs are barred from finding their forever homes as they remain in municipal pounds waiting months for a resolution of this case.

I want to be clear. Finding homes for animals otherwise destined for death in shelters outside the state is a noble cause which I have supported financially and professionally my entire career. My parents were involved in the rescue of homeless and abused animals my entire childhood. My mother was often called upon to convince a negligent owner to give up their pet when legal means provided inadequate. She was fearless in these cases and always won.

We need to give these professionals we have entrusted with protecting the voiceless better tools to do their job. Guidelines must be constructed to enable enforcement of reasonable standards so that these rescued animals' lives improve as they advance along the road to a home and not prolong or worsen the suffering they are forced to endure.

They must also be protected from the unscrupulous individuals who seek to profit from their hardship endured under the moral authority of those principled rescuers who do amazing work often at great personal sacrifice. It is in their spirit I thank and commend your work here and Senator Hartley her interest in making a difference.

The relationship man and dogs share is like no other in nature. This species has helped us feed our families, protect our homes, and provided loyal, nonjudgmental companionship

for thousands of years. We have selectively bred them to be like this, but we share a common bond deeper than any breeding program could produce.

We owe them a warm place to rest, water and food, and freedom from pain and suffering to the very best of our ability. To do less than this is to diminish our humanity. Thank you.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, sir. And Senator Hartley, thank you for bringing this to our attention. Any questions? Thank you.

SENATOR HARTLEY: Thank you very much, as always.

REP. GENTILE: Enilda Rosas followed by Representative Widlitz.

ENILDA ROSAS: Good afternoon, Environmental Committee, and thank you. My name is Enilda Rosas from New Haven, Connecticut. I am also here to support Bill 1016 regulating the invasive bamboo. I had no idea that there were so many of us here this morning.

The, I'll be very brief in the interest of time. The running and growth of this weed needs to really be seen to be believed in the way in which it damages, it kills, and overpowers everything in its path. You have had some demonstrations this morning with this.

I am also asking that the bill include the liability that the person who planted the bamboo, this yellow groove bamboo, in their yards should also be responsible to contain them in their yards and to pay for all the damages that the bamboo costs to the neighbors not only to their yards but also to their property and so that they also pay for the

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the university needs to be on the table and held accountable for community use of resources.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, sir. Amy Harrell followed by Susan Linker followed by Karen Laski

AMY HARRELL: Good afternoon. My name is Amy Harrell. I'm the president of Connecticut Votes for Animals and a resident of Vernon, Connecticut. I'd like to thank the Members of the Environment Committee and Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, for the opportunity to testify today in support of three bills, House Bill 5844, 5836, and 5027.

Concerning 5027 on prohibiting the sale of pets from animal mills, some of the most egregious animal cruelty offenders can be found inside the puppy mill industry which supplies Connecticut pet stores with animals. There are far more humane options for families who would like to have a puppy, including rescue organizations, shelters, and responsible breeders.

I fully support the complete prohibition on the sale of commercially bred dogs, cats, and rabbits in Connecticut's 18 pet stores as Representative Kupchick and Senator McKinney intend to amend. They discussed that this morning.

Concerning House Bill 5836 on the expansion of the Animal Population Control Program, the main goal of this bill is to further enhance and protect the ACP program by helping to ensure that money in the account actually goes toward its intended purpose. The ACP account is well funded not through taxes but through

REP. ZIOBRON: Yep.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you. Any additional questions? Thank you, Amy.

AMY HARRELL: Thank you.

REP. GENTILE: Susan Linker followed by Karen Laski.

SUSAN LINKER: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify. My name is Susan Linker. I am the CEO of Our Companions Animal Rescue. I'm also a member of Connecticut Votes for Animals. I'm here today to testify on three bills, House Bill 5836, which is the APCP bill, 5844, which is the tethering bill, and 5027, which is the pet shop bill.

First, with respect to 5836, the Connecticut's Animal Population Control Program in the past 19 years has done remarkable things for animals. And one of the concerns that we've brought over the years is the fact that there is a surplus of funds that aren't being used for the intended purpose, so much, so much money just sitting out there that about a million dollars has been stolen, swept out of this fund, and allocated elsewhere to make up for deficits in other areas.

This is a state program that by statute was designed for the sterilization of pets, for animals adopted from municipal pounds, for feral cats, and for the pets of those who are defined as low income who can't afford to screen their animals. And to have close to a million dollars taken out really indicates that this is an area that we need to address.

The Department of Agriculture, in the last two or three years in their own report, has

safety issue. And I've seen how aggressive this dog gets. It's not socialized to people. It never has been. And when people approach, it is very aggressive, guarding its territory which he is chained to.

This bill is, I think, very reasonable. In the middle of the night when there is the most risk, I have seen wild animals destroy tethered dogs. That is as inhumane as it can get. I would never leave my dog out all night long chained to something. And I think most reasonable people would understand that.

So I'm hoping that we can build upon the successes we've made in the past years and have more protections for dogs that, unfortunately, are resigned to living their entire lives at the end of a chain.

Last, with respect to 5024, the pet shop bill, obviously, we strongly support that. Dogs from, puppies sold in pet shops come from puppy mills. And no reputable breeder I've ever met in my life would ever sell their dogs to a pet shop for resale. There's a reason why they're being sold in pet shops.

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And if you just google puppy mills, you'll realize the horrible nature of this industry. And a lot of states are moving towards this, and I'm hoping that Connecticut will be one of them. So thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Susan. Karen Laski followed by Marlene Wilhelm and then Debora Bresch.

KAREN LASKI: Hi, everyone. Thank you for this hearing. My name is Karen Laski, and I have been involved in animal welfare for over 40

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years, and I'm currently on the board of Connecticut Votes for Animals.

I'm here to support House Bill 5844, the dog tethering bill, House Bill 5836, the animal population control program bill, and H.B. 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

Many years ago, I would drive by places where dogs were chained and check on them in the middle of the night to see if they were still there. I was so frustrated that I could never help them, because no law prevented them from being chained day and night in the sweltering heat and frigid cold.

Several generations of dogs later, we are here with a bill that could give some relief to dogs enduring this endless misery. Dogs who are continually chained are frustrated, bored, and many times driven to extreme anxiety and depression. They pace back and forth repetitively. Chained dogs are vulnerable to attacks by wild animals or cruel humans.

They suffer from pressure sores, frostbite, and heat stroke. They are constantly on the edge and can never relax. Along with wide constituent support for this bill, there are many positive aspects and benefits. Less people will be waking up in the middle of the night to the barking of a frustrated dog.

Homeowner security could be increased by the presence of a dog being inside at night rather than outside. Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to an intruder is an inside dog. Outside dogs become aggressive, not protective.

Regulations against chaining give animal control officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting since many fighting dogs are kept in chains. According to world renowned dog expert Victoria Stilwell, many common behavioral problems could be avoided if owners understood how severe confinement can compromise natural behavior.

Dogs teach us love and patience. They improve our health and lift our spirits. Our best friends are suffering. Let's give them a break. Thank you.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Karen. Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Karen, you're such a good advocate, and thank you for doing this.

KAREN LASKI: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: We see you every year. I've got to tell you, I am suffering so much today because of my dog last night though. 2:30 in the morning, dog hears a raccoon, and our dog, Mo, went crazy. You know, we had to let her out in the middle of the night.

KAREN LASKI: Yeah.

SENATOR MEYER: I mean, you know, just would not stop.

KAREN LASKI: Yep.

SENATOR MEYER: The raccoon was --

KAREN LASKI: (Inaudible) you.

SENATOR MEYER: -- trying to get into a bird feeder, so I'm exhausted today. Just had to share that with you.

for an Easter photo having rabbit excrement on it.

So I would really like to see rabbits and small animals extended to that small, or the pet bill shop that is coming up. So I thank you for your time today. I ask you to really consider what I have proposed today. And, again, thank you for the work that you are doing.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Debora. Any questions? Thanks. Our next witness is Debora Bresch followed by Steve Alexander and Nancy Parker.

DEBORA BRESCH: Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I'm here on behalf of the ASPCA's 22,000 members in Connecticut. I'm here in support, like the others, of H.B. 5844 and H.B. 5836, 5844 concerning chaining, 5836 concerning the Animal Population Control Program.

And I am here requesting an amendment to H.B. 5027 to prohibit the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores. And I will note that Los Angeles, Representative Kupchick mentioned the Los Angeles ordinance that was passed just in November that prohibits the sale of cats and dogs and rabbits in pet stores, so that is, has been considered a reasonable inclusion in these bills.

I'll start just briefly with the chaining bill. We know that chaining is a moral hazard. It's inhumane to the dogs. It's a public safety hazard. The importance of this bill, like that bill that you passed in 2010 to also regulate chaining to a certain degree, this bill is essentially an endangerment statute.

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This is what's being done in New York now. We, the ASPCA actually runs the program there, but we give out large grants to registered nonprofits to manage spay/neuter programs, and they're able, the money goes a lot further.

I just briefly would like to say in support of H.B., the amendment to H.B. 5027, I think it's an idea that, whose time has come. The puppy mill problem is really multidimensional. Senator Meyer, you mentioned your dog, Mo. The issue of puppy health is only one aspect of the problem and actually, from our perspective, a more marginal one.

The real problem is the endemic cruelty in these puppy mills. And pet stores purchase 99 percent of their dogs from puppy mills. And, you know, the problem there is not only the standards themselves, which are minimal, the USDA standards. A beagle was mentioned. I mean, if you can think of a beagle in a dishwasher, that's all the space that is required for a dog 24/7 in these mills.

And there are other problems. So even if a mill is doing everything appropriately, which they're not, it would still be cruelty that if you saw it in front of you at that moment you would call animal control. But because it's out of sight, it's out of mind. But the problem is, is they're not doing everything correctly.

And this is, you don't have to take my word for it. The office of the inspector general audited them. I provided those pictures in my testimony, some very disturbing stuff, I caution you. If you looked at these pictures, these, this is cruelty that's endemic to the industry, and the office of the inspector

general mentioned or noted that the USDA simply doesn't follow up with these puppy mills adequately.

So not only are the standards de minimis but the enforcement is very poor. And as you've noted, the state can't do anything really ultimately about these breeders, so you have to do something on our, we have to do something on our home turf.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Well, thank you, Debora. Are there any questions?

DEBORA BRESCH: I would also, could I just draw your attention to the fact that I, the pet shops in Connecticut purchase from these puppy mills. And I've noted, the details I provided on how these dogs were raised in these mills come directly from inspection reports on breeders that have sold to Connecticut pet stores.

So this is not, you know, this is not sort of a composite of what's happening in these mills. These are the conditions specifically at breeders that have sold and are continuing to sell to pet stores in Connecticut.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks, Debora.

DEBORA BRESCH: Sure.

SENATOR MEYER: Our next witness is Steve Alexander followed by Nancy Parker.

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

SENATOR MEYER: Good. Great idea. Great idea.

STEVE ALEXANDER: Hello. My name is Steve Alexander. I am from Wallingford,

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Connecticut. And the facts that people have given already about the three bills pertaining to animal rights I've outlined in written testimony, so I really don't need to go over that too much. But there's a couple of points that I wrote down as people were talking.

One is that 26 states do have certain levels of regulations regarding commercial breeders, but 24 of them still don't. And the conditions of those puppy mills, as people have indicated, are reprehensible. And I want to reiterate what somebody else said that these are pack animals, very social creatures.

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And my philosophy is that I'm a human being having a, I'm a spiritual being having a temporary human experience, and my love for dogs shows me that they've, they're spiritual beings having a temporary canine experience. I've had a couple of dogs save my life in many different ways.

And I heard people talking earlier about the enforcement problem, and that perked my ears up. I'm not sure exactly how that can be handled regarding the puppy mill bill. But one thing that came to mind was only allowing pet stores to buy from Connecticut breeders. I don't know how that would fly in the courts, but it would certainly enhance the private breeder industry in the state.

And I also support the other two bills, including the bill regarding tethering. And there are certain aspects of that bill that would enhance life for everybody in our communities in the state, one of those being that at 3:00 o'clock in the morning, I remember growing up, there was one dog that used to bark ceaselessly.

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SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Alexander. Are there any questions of this witness? Appreciate you coming. Our next witness is Nancy Parker.

NANCY PARKER: Hi. Good afternoon, Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin. I'm Nancy Parker. I live in Hartford. I've been doing animal advocacy and supporting animal rights for a dozen years now, and I want to speak in favor of three bills, House Bill Number 5844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS, H.B. 5836, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR THE VACCINATION, STERILIZATION, AND HEARTWORM TESTING OF DOGS AND CATS OWNED BY LOW-INCOME PERSONS OR ADOPTED FROM MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL SHELTERS, and H.B. 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

I remember a dozen years ago, 10 or 12 years ago, Julie Lewin working hard on tethering bills. And I have never actually seen, I mean, I can picture it, and I've heard many stories over the years, but if I saw that, I don't know what I would do. I'd probably call the animal control, but I think it's terribly inhumane to put an animal out there under those kind of conditions.

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And as far as the availability of funding for vaccination and sterilization and heartworm testing, I took my mentee to the Connecticut Humane Society about over a year ago, and I adopted a cat with her. And I know it cost me about, I had to pay about \$150. It's something that she couldn't have afforded. She really wanted a cat badly, and she's got

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two young children, and they wanted, they actually got a kitten.

But it's, a lot of people would make good animal owners, but they cannot afford those basic services, and they're not really aware of those vaccination, sterilization, heartworm testing that the animals need. I, I'm sorry, I, I actually, I recently adopted a cat from a shelter in May, back in May, and it told, several months later, he wasn't doing too well, and I took him to my vet.

I had been told when I adopted him he was three, but when I took him to the vet about three months later, I found out he was more like 12. He ended up costing me a, he had a very bad intestinal problem and ended up costing me about \$5,000 in two surgeries.

And I had already fallen in love with this kitty, and I was very willing, you know, I was willing and able to pay for the surgery, but I know that there are a lot of people who cannot, who could not afford it. And I don't know what would have happened to the cat, but luckily he's home with me.

So I would just very much like to speak in favor of these three bills. I've read many stories about the puppy mills, and I've read many stories in my H.S., Humane Society United States magazines and ASPCA magazines, and I know that it's detrimental. The puppies come in sick.

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SENATOR MEYER: Thank you for your advocacy, Nancy.

NANCY PARKER: Thank you very much.

SENATOR MEYER: Are there any questions by the Committee? Thanks again for staying in touch

with us. Okay. We're now going to turn to the House Bill 5027. We have several witnesses there, Judy Umstead followed by Cecilia Brothwell.

JUDY UMSTEAD: Thank you for allowing me to speak today. My name is Judy Umstead, and I'm here today actually to support all three bills, but in the interest of time, I'm going to talk about House Bill 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC MILLS, but more important the additional wording by Senator Hartley for the regulations to be established for the standard of care for rescues.

I am currently the animal control officer for the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury and the person they spoke about before. I also run a commercial boarding kennel and previously ran a very large dog rescue and have done rescue all my life.

Currently, I can be inspected at any time for the boarding kennel and the dog pound. The reason is that there are very strict guidelines for running both operations which I agree with. We're caring for dogs whether they're owned in the boarding kennel or strays picked up by animal control.

Both deserve to be treated with respect, which includes proper care, nutrition, temperature, cleanliness, and love. When I ran the dog rescue previously, I could only be inspected because it was housed in a boarding kennel, not because it was a rescue. Therefore, if someone were just a rescue, they had no guidelines in place to follow.

We have a big problem in this state of hundreds of dogs being transported into our

state monthly from mainly the southern states. They have too many dogs as strays, and many, unfortunately, are euthanized and not always in humane ways. While I agree that these poor dogs do not deserve to die, I question some of the practices of them being transported up here and their care when they arrive.

If one is to rescue a dog, I feel they should be placed in a better situation, not worse. As an animal control officer, I cannot just go and check on these transported dogs. I need to have a complaint. Such was the case in Bethlehem in November, as was spoken by Senator Hartley before.

I'm sure you remember the 63 dogs that I seized from a rescuer. Without going into too much detail since this is an ongoing case, this is a prime example of southern dogs being placed in an unheated barn in crowded, unsanitary conditions.

The only way I got onto the property was when I received a call about a dog that had escaped their enclosure and was running loose. I always respond to roaming dogs, and this was no different.

For one month, I tried to get the rescue to comply with what is right for the dogs, but after repeated verbal and written warnings, they did not comply, so I executed a search and seizure warrant signed by the judge.

To this day, I still have all 63 dogs in my care. One reason is that we do not have a law in place to regulate the rescues and their operations, which has made it very difficult in court. They seem to fall through the cracks. The majority, especially all the ones

here today, are wonderful, good-hearted people who want to do the right thing.

And just as we welcomed the law for training for animal control officers, these same people would welcome regulations, because they're already doing the right thing. There are others who have found this to be a very lucrative business which unfortunately changes how animals are treated. If you bring in 100 dogs to adopt or sell in one weekend for four to \$500 each, you're making 40 to \$50,000 tax free.

I'm not asking that these dogs not be shipped up here to save their lives. I'm asking that when they are that they be treated the way they deserve. None of them deserve to be freezing, sick, scared, or abused in any way. And this is also not an animal control versus a rescue issue, because I believe all, that what we all do is rescue. I urge you to support this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Judy. Questions or comments, Committee? Okay. Thank you.

JUDY UMSTEAD: Okay.

SENATOR MEYER: I think I misspoke. Our next witness is actually Dr. Bradley Davis followed by Cecelia Brothwell.

JUDY UMSTEAD: He spoke with Senator Hartley.

SENATOR MEYER: Oh, yeah, I'm sorry, he did. Okay. Good. So Cecilia Brothwell followed by Lauren Liesenfeld.

CECILIA BROTHWELL: Good afternoon. My name is Cecilia Brothwell. I live in Harwinton in Litchfield County. I am here to support

HB5027

H.B. 5027 with additional regulations to establish standards of care for rescues. I have no title, no credentials. I came here today to speak as an individual who has always adopted Connecticut shelter dogs.

I speak as an individual who was taught what animal rescue in Connecticut should be by Judy Umstead when she ran a rescue. At the shelter, I found out what dog rescue is, what work is involved in saving dogs. The dogs often arrived in shocking condition resigned to whatever fate next awaited them.

Their stays at Connecticut dog pounds prior to the shelter were often the first time in their lives that they had adequate food, access to unlimited water, warm beds, and people who raised their hands to pet, not strike. When they arrived at the shelter, they were nameless. They were given names, collars, dog toys, and endless affection.

Everything was done to try to rehabilitate them to turn them into adoptable dogs. They were allowed to run free in exercise pens. They were worked on socializing. They were given obedience lessons. I naively assumed that all shelters in the state operated in this manner.

I am angered by the recent case in Litchfield County where the 63 dogs were seized. People have spoken about the temperature in the barn, the dogs shivering as the wind blew through the barn walls, the dogs in crates too small for them necessitating them to curl up. The dogs were laying on urine-soaked paper, no access to water, no food visible, many with matted coats.

The most disturbing thing to me is that the individual who was charged with animal cruelty was charged in 2004 with 84 counts of animal cruelty while operating under a different rescue name. The charges were pled down. All it took was a change of name, a change of location, and several years later for the man to again make headlines for his alleged mistreatment of these poor dogs.

The judge in this case returned this, and I quote, returned, I quote, large breed dogs, and I again quote, they don't feel the cold as much as the smaller ones do. The shelter operator has filed an appeal, as he wants all of the dogs returned to him.

I have since been told that other rescues such as this abomination exist in Connecticut. Without passage of H.B. 5027, this practice will continue. Dogs that have been victimized and abused once will continue to be abused. Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Any questions or comments by the Committee? Yes, Senator.

SENATOR CHAPIN: Thank you. I just wanted to say I think have all the credentials you needed as a member of the public. That's very important to us, and you shouldn't discount that, so thank you.

CECILIA BROTHWELL: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Ms. Brothwell. Our next witness is Lauren Liesenfeld followed by Barbara Murdock and Tim Sheehan. Lauren Liesenfeld, not here. Barbara Murdock, is she here? Tim Sheehan is here.

TIMOTHY SHEEHAN: Good afternoon, Senator Meyer, Senator Chapin, Representative Gentile, and Members of the Committee. My name is Timothy Sheehan of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and I am speaking in support of House Bill 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

One of the reasons for my support of this bill is that I have been a recent victim of such a pet store. My abbreviated story is as follows. On 12/28/2012, I responded to online advertising posted at AllPetsClub.com for the sale of a Bloodhound puppy. I went to the business, which operates out of four locations in Connecticut, to view the puppy advertised.

I was introduced to the puppy by an employee of the store, told the employee I was interested in purchasing, and reviewed all the paperwork they presented related to the animal. No current medical issues were brought to my attention, and I had been assured by the employee the puppy was healthy.

I told the employee I wanted to purchase the puppy, and we completed the paperwork. After the transaction was completed, I took the puppy home. The next morning, the puppy was not breathing right, and it looked very sick. I rushed the puppy to the animal hospital in Shelton, Connecticut. The puppy was taken immediately for an emergency medical examination and put on oxygen.

I called the pet store from the hospital. I advised them that I was at the vet hospital with the puppy and that the animal is on oxygen and very sick. I asked the employee what they wanted me to do. I was told, do whatever you have to do, keep us informed, and not to worry, the puppy was under warranty.

After examination, I was informed by the vet hospital staff that the puppy had pneumonia, was very sick with a low oxygen blood count, and they had found a screw in the puppy's stomach on x-ray, that the puppy would need to have the screw removed, to stay in the oxygen tent and be treated for the pneumonia. The puppy stayed two nights at the vet hospital, and the vet bill totaled \$4,412.

They filled out the puppy's first veterinary visit checklist to validate the warranty, which was faxed to the pet store. After treatment, I took the puppy home, and by the next day, it again appeared to be having difficulty breathing.

I called All Pets Club again and was referred to the manager of the puppy department who told me to take the puppy to a veterinary hospital located in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, which is about an hour away from me, and that they would assume the cost of medical care. She also told me that she would speak to the owners of All Pets Club, and they would likely cover the cost of the initial veterinary care. Those costs were never covered.

I took the puppy to their vet hospital, and the puppy was assessed with pneumonia, anorectic, along with labored breathing, moderate nasal discharge, and increased blood pressure sounds. The puppy was given oxygen, fluid therapy, and supportive care.

All Pets Club balked at the cost for the animal's care and had the puppy transferred out of that hospital's care the next day to the care of another veterinary hospital for continued treatment.

The diagnostic testing provided at my cost showed the puppy had two bacterial infections present, E-Coli, and in a larger amount, a second bacteria, which I won't even attempt to pronounce, both resistant to the antibiotics described. I ended up having to make several phone calls between the vet hospitals to coordinate a workable treatment plan for the animal's care.

After continued medical treatment, the puppy was released to me. After exposure to the puppy, my other pet, a Terrier mix, developed kennel cough requiring a vet visit and treatment with antibiotics at a cost of \$85. I had the puppy reevaluated by my regular vet at a further additional cost.

On January 10th, I was contacted by All Pets Club and was offered a \$500 store credit along with a club membership in compensation for my thousands of dollars in accumulated vet bills. I asked to be reimbursed as required under the Pet Lemon Law and told the puppy manager the store credit was unacceptable. The manager hung up the phone without resolving the issue or making any arrangements with me for reimbursement of my vet bills.

On January 21st, the puppy was again taken to the veterinary hospital with difficulty breathing. After an emergency examination and chest radiographs, the puppy was found to have an ongoing case of pneumonia, which required another round of antibiotics and follow-up care.

I have incurred additional veterinary care bills of over \$676. Both animals are now completing antibiotic regimens and appear to be recovering pending further veterinary evaluation. The antibiotics given to the

puppy has long-term related, joint-related side effects but was needed due to the severity of the infection present.

As All Pets Club has refused to follow the Pet Lemon Law requirements to date, I have filed a complaint with the Connecticut States Attorney General's Office, Department of Agriculture, Animal Control Division, Federal Trade Commission, Better Business Bureau, and several animal rights organizations.

SENATOR MEYER: Mr. Sheen, I'm going to, I'm sorry, I'm going to have to ask you just to sum up, but tell us what happens at the end.

TIMOTHY SHEEHAN: I researched the breeder used by the pet store and found it was a large, the puppy was from a large-scale mill operation called Rockin H Kennel out of Coffeyville, Kansas. And I'm now deeper in debt and bartering with my vet to pay the ongoing bills.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Tough story. Questions or comments? Thanks. Dave Boomer. You're following a tough witness.

DAVID BOOMER: Mr. Chairman, Representative Gentile, Members of the Committee, I'm David Boomer with the Kowalski Group. We do represent PIJAC, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council. In regard to House Bill 5027, I would simply say I was here earlier in the day when you had a colloquy with Senator McKinney and with Representative Kupchick.

The bill just is not workable as drafted. I think it is ripe to be reviewed over the next couple months and possibly have something come up again next session. The issue of, well,

let's change the bill so it bans all puppies or rabbits or cats, I would say, frankly, I think that's a, that would be a radical departure from what the proposal is. That would be best done next session also.

Let's have a bill raised, and then we can have a public hearing. Everyone is properly noticed so that we can come here, and we'll argue against that approach. But you have our statement, and I've outlined in here the number of ways that PIJAC is recognized for working to make sure that pets that are sold meet standards.

The Federal Animal Welfare Act has a lot of the provisions that are listed in the bill and it actually more so as far as standards that pets, as far as their treatment. And only pets that are sold from breeders that are certified by the Department of Agriculture can come in here in Connecticut. So that would complete my testimony, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Thank you, Dave.

DAVID BOOMER: Okay.

SENATOR MEYER: All right. Our next witness is under a different bill. It's under the bill that requires kennels to display their license numbers, and we have one witness, and that's Robert Mickolyzck, Mickolyzck.

ROBERT MICKOLYZCK: Thank you, Senator and Commissioners and Environmental Committee for letting us give my speech here. This bill, I'm in favor of this bill, because it's all the Internet companies and businesses --

HB 5799

SENATOR MEYER: Do you want me to (inaudible)?



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MEMORANDUM on Behalf of the ASPCA's 22,000 Connecticut Supporters:

- **Requesting Amendment of HB 5027 to Prohibit the Sale of Commercially Bred Dogs and Cats in Pet Shops**
- **Urging Joint Favorable Report for HB 5844 to Prohibit the Tethering of Dogs Overnight and Under Harsh Weather Conditions Unless Certain Conditions are Met**

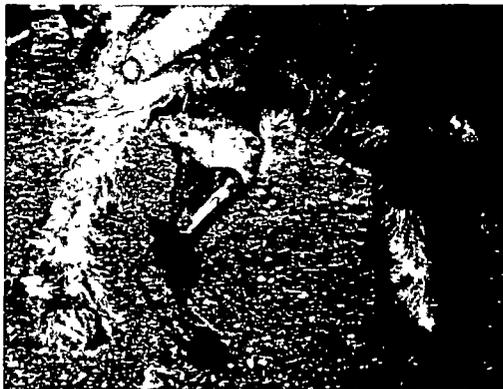
(1) HB 5027: Please amend to prohibit the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats in pet shops.

Because of the pervasive cruelty in the commercial dog breeding industry, municipalities across the country and internationally - most recently, city of 4 million people, Los Angeles (Nov. 2012) - are choosing to prohibit the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats in pet shops and instead require pet shops to source these animals from registered rescue organizations.

The ASPCA estimates that 99% of dogs sold in pet shops come from "puppy mills" - defined by the ASPCA as large-scale commercial breeding operations where profits are given a higher priority than the well-being of the dogs they produce.

For a variety of reasons, it is very difficult for most states harboring puppy mills to regulate them appropriately. Nor are puppy mills properly regulated under federal law. First, the federal regulations are wholly inadequate. Although any breeder with more than three breeding female dogs who sells puppies wholesale to brokers or pet stores must be licensed and inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), this requirement is unfortunately no guarantee of humane treatment for the breeding dogs. To the contrary, it is purely a certification that the entity is engaged in the practice of commercially breeding dogs for a profit. Dogs may be kept for their entire lives in cages that are only 6 inches longer than the dog in each direction (think, beagle in a household dishwasher) with wire floors that paws get cut on and openings that paws and feces fall through, stacked on top of each other, the dogs allowed to be bred at every heat cycle for their entire lives. Federal law fully sanctions such cruelty - treatment that most of us would likely call the authorities to investigate if it were to occur immediately in front of us.

In addition, according to the U S. Office of the Inspector General - which in 2010, audited USDA's inspection process - USDA enforcement of these minimal regulations is extremely poor. The photos in the Inspector General's report - a few of which are pasted below - are very disturbing images of such conditions as open wounds, tick and insect infestations, and fecal accumulation, that went largely unaddressed by USDA inspectors and reflect the USDA's inadequate response to pervasive inhumane conditions in commercial breeding facilities.



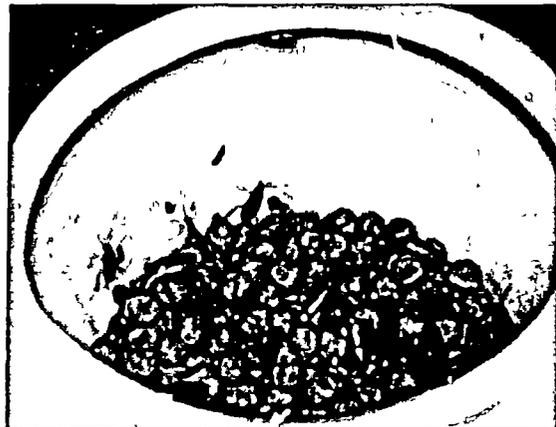
OK breeder, 83 adult dogs: Repeatedly cited for various violations including lack of adequate veterinary care for 3 dogs with hair loss over their entire bodies and raw, irritated spots on skin, but **USDA took no enforcement action. In subsequent incident, dog's flesh eaten down to bone due to untreated bite wound, and breeder admitted to USDA inspector that dog had been in this condition for at least 7 days. Inspector required dog to be taken to veterinarian, who immediately euthanized dog. However, USDA inspector did not recommend investigation of breeder's failure to provide veterinary care until observation of another serious violation in subsequent inspection, and breeder still not fined 11 months after inspector first observed dog.**



TX breeder: Dog had cloudy eyes covered with a heavy discharge, matted hair, and skin irritations. Inspector cited breeder for lack of adequate veterinary care and required breeder to take dog to a veterinarian for treatment. **Inspector did not designate this as a more serious direct violation (i.e., violation with high potential for adversely affecting dog's health).**



TX breeder: Dogs had drinking water that contained algae and feces. The water receptacle was also chewed and unclean. **The inspector verbally told the breeder to clean the water receptacle but did not cite these violations.**



Puppy broker allowed cockroach infestation in food receptacle. Inspector required broker to correct contaminated food within 5 days. However, by not designating this as a direct violation (i.e., violation with high potential for adversely affecting dog's health), inspector will not know if the correction occurred as she will not return for a re-inspection for a year.

Over the last several years, the Connecticut legislature has tried indirectly to address the puppy mill problem by requiring pet shops to identify breeders and brokers, clarifying pet shops' obligation to reimburse consumer for certain veterinary expenses under the Pet Lemon Law, and most recently, authorizing the state Department of Agriculture to fine pet shops for poor sanitation and inhumane treatment of animals. However, pet shops do not comply with these requirements and the state laws are not enforced - and, at the end of the day, Connecticut simply cannot undo the cruelty that is endemic to the puppy mill industry from which this state's 17 pet shops purchase their dogs.

In fact, in reviewing the USDA inspection reports for just three of the large breeders who were supplying to two Connecticut pet shops as of October 2012, one finds a parade of horrors, including:

- o exposed sharp points on which dogs can cut themselves (especially serious given the problem of delayed or absent veterinary care)
- o untreated illness/injury
- o significant fecal accumulation and dirty food receptacles
- o failure to provide water (in one case below, dogs had not been given water since the day before and then were given water only upon the USDA inspector's directive, at which time they drank incessantly for at least a minute)
- o poorly ventilated kennels, including excessively warm temperatures and ammonia-saturated air that caused the inspectors' noses to burn
- o cages that were too small for their occupants - bad enough by itself, but recall that the mother dogs remain in these cages 24/7 until "spent"
- o insect infestation
- o dogs without bedding
- o dogs living in almost total darkness.

A Connecticut dog owner would be prosecuted for such mistreatment of animals. Connecticut must stop facilitating this abuse elsewhere. And given that there are well over a hundred licensed pet shops in Connecticut, but only seventeen shops sell dogs, there is clearly another potential business model for these shops to follow. **Please don't support cruelty. Please amend HB 5027 to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops.**

(1) HB 5844: Please joint favorably report this bill to prohibit the tethering of dogs overnight and under harsh weather conditions unless certain conditions are met.

In 2003, Connecticut became the first state to attempt to regulate the practice of excessively chaining or confining a dog. Not only is dog chaining inhumane, but chained dogs are also a public safety hazard. Specifically, studies indicate that chaining is associated with dog aggression and biting.¹ In fact, according to one researcher, chained dogs were responsible for 25% (or 109) of U.S. dog bite fatalities from 1965-2008. Of these fatalities, 99 were children who wandered into the reach of a chained dog, and the other 10 were instances in which chained dogs broke free before attacking.²

¹ Gershman, K., Sacks, J., Wright, J., 1994. Which dogs bite: A case control study of risk factors. Pediatrics 93, 913-917.

² New Mexico Department of Public Safety, 2008. The Public Safety and Humane Implications of Persistently Tethering Domestic Dogs. See online at http://www.apnm.org/campaigns/chaining/Final_DPS_Tethering_Study.pdf

David Boomer

(48) P1811/12

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**TESTIMONY OF PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT**

HOUSE BILL 5027

March 15, 2013

Position: Qualified Opposition

As the world's largest trade association representing pet animal interests, the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer this esteemed committee our views on House Bill 5027. Representing the interests of all segments of the pet industry throughout the United States, PIJAC counts among its thousands of members various associations, organizations, corporations and individuals involved in the commercial pet trade. More specifically, we represent pet breeders, pet product manufacturers, distributors, retailers and pet owners in Connecticut who would be significantly impacted by the legislation before you today.

Let me emphasize that nobody cares more about healthy pets than does PIJAC. We have, for many years, provided a highly respected animal care certification program intended to ensure that employees are well trained in the care of the animals they sell; a program that is widely utilized not only by persons in the commercial pet trade but also shelters and humane societies throughout the country, and one that has even been adopted as a statutory standard. PIJAC has worked closely with the USDA on effective implementation of the Animal Welfare Act for pets since its inception over three decades ago, and has joined hands with state and local agencies to ensure adoption and enforcement of appropriate regulatory standards. Our association has long been recognized as the voice for a responsible pet trade, and routinely advocates for new statutory standards that are in the best interests of companion animals and the pet-owning public. We also continually seek to advance the voluntary implementation of superior standards in the care, handling and transport of companion animals.

PIJAC has had the privilege of testifying before this committee on many occasions relative to legislation impacting the pet industry and we are proud of our record of supporting sound standards for the pet industry that do not impose burdens so excessive as to unnecessarily put responsible members of the pet trade out of business.

In its support of standards for responsible providers of pets, however, PIJAC has sought to include all such providers. Targeting only a limited segment does a disservice to the pet animals not encompassed by the mandate and a disservice to the pet owning public, as well as creating an unnecessary and inappropriate competitive advantage for providers of pets who are exempted from the statutory or regulatory requirements. In the instant case, we would note that HB 5027 limits its application to pet shops alone. While they are by far the most heavily regulated of all providers of dogs and cats in the state, subject to licensure requirements and a statutory pet warranty that does not apply to other pet providers, pet shops supply only about 7% of all the puppies in the state of Connecticut. Thus, the limited reach of this bill would offer protection for only a small percentage of Connecticut's puppies. Even if effective in limiting dogs from substandard breeders, the bill would leave well over 90% of consumers with the risk of still going home with such a puppy.

We wish to emphasize that we have long sought restrictions on substandard breeders, and wholly support the concept behind this bill. PIJAC would caution, however, that as currently crafted the bill suffers from some weaknesses. We believe that the substantive standards referenced in this legislation are sound, and agree that quality breeders should observe such standards. But this measure includes no mechanism for determining when a breeder has fallen short of such standards. As such, it would be a nightmare for pet shops attempting to evaluate whether given breeders fall under the bill as well as for the state in attempting to enforce the ban against selling dogs from such breeders. To be effective, any legislation of this nature must include an objective basis for compliance.

PIJAC would reiterate also that, to be effective, a bill of this nature should cover much more than merely 7% of the puppies that Connecticut families take home. Indeed, when seeking to ensure that Connecticut's pet owners are getting healthy puppies, pet stores are not even the place we should start. The preeminent study on this question, conducted at Cornell University Veterinary School, found that no source provides healthier puppies on average than do pet stores¹. Because, as already noted, pet store puppies are subject to stricter statutory standards, and because these puppies enjoy a greater number of veterinary health examinations than do puppies from most other sources, it is not surprising that they typically enjoy good health.

That being said, PIJAC is not suggesting that pet stores be exempt from this legislation. Rather, we would respectfully urge the committee to expand coverage of the bill to cover the many other non-hobby providers of pets.

¹ "Source of Acquisition as a risk factor for disease and death in pups," Journal of American Veterinary Medicine, vol 204, No 12, June 15, 1994

Again, PIJAC strongly supports, in concept, legislation that will limit the incidence of puppies sold from substandard breeders. But, for the reasons stated, we do not believe HB 5027 as it is currently crafted will effectively do so. We would, therefore, request that the committee withhold action on the bill at this time pending an opportunity to address concerns. PIJAC would be pleased to work with the bill sponsor and members of this committee to produce a product that will more effectively accomplish this bill's intended purpose.

We thank the committee for your due consideration of our concerns.

Testimony Concerning HB 5027
Trish Black

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5027.

I am a registered voter in Milford.

Ban commercially-bred pets

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Trish Black
Black_t@subway.com

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee

I am a member of Ct Votes for Animals Thank you for accepting written testimony for my support of HB 5027:
Banning pet shops from selling commercially bred pets

It is cruel me unhealthy to breed puppies in small cages purely for profit There already millions of homeless
pets in the shelters and on the streets So please ban pet shops from selling commercially bred pets

Sally Westcott

298 Castlewood Dr

Bloomfield Ct 06002

sallywestcott@rocketmail.com

860 989-8320

Testimony in support of HB 5027

Environment Committee

Public hearing 3/15/2013

Dear Environment Committee

My name is Susan Printy, I am a tax payer who lives in Newtown Connecticut.
I am not able to attend the meeting on Friday so am sending a letter to ask that you ban pet shops from selling
commercially-bred pets We have rescued a bull dog from people who cannot afford to pay his medical bills
The way many of these dogs are bread and housed are unrealistic and inhumane Please support HB-5027

Thank You,
Susan Printy
135 Boggs Hill Rd
Newtown, Ct 06470

Testimony Concerning House Bill 5027
March 12, 2013

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5027, a ban on the sale of puppy mill dogs from pet shops.

I am a registered voter in Meriden, a volunteer and supporter of Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary and a member of Connecticut Votes for Animals.

The hearts of countless families are broken every day due to purchasing a puppy mill dog from a pet shop. Not only are their emotions drained, but in many cases, their finances as well. This is what results from purchasing a puppy from a pet store. A puppy mill is a commercial dog-breeding facility that focuses on increasing profit with little overhead cost. The health and welfare of the animals is not a priority. Puppy mills will breed a female dog every time she is in heat. For instance, a five-year-old dog could have given birth to 10 litters of puppies. In puppy mills, animals can spend most of their lives in cramped cages, with no room to play or exercise. Often times, the water and food provided for the puppies is contaminated, crawling with bugs. Puppies can even be malnourished. Puppies in mills are found with bleeding or swollen paws, feet falling through the wire cages, severe tooth decay, ear infections, dehydration and lesions on their eyes, which often lead to blindness. Almost all pet store animals come from puppy mills. At time of purchase, consumers are given incorrect lineage about the dog's health, breed and breeder. Every year, retail pet stores across America sell 500,000 dogs, while 5 to 7 million dogs enter shelters. Most puppy mills have no veterinary care, climate control or protection for the animals from weather (hot, cold, rain, or snow). With limited or no regulations or enforcement, puppy mills have no cleanup control. This means that dogs can be living in urine and feces for indefinite periods.

Without change, unknowing people will continue to purchase puppies from pet stores, thus perpetuating the puppy mill business.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Gina M. Hoag

Gina M. Hoag
158 Paddock Avenue, Condo 1302
Meriden 06450
203-235-8899
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Testimony Concerning Bill No. 5207**Heather Bradley****CT Coalition Against Puppy Mills**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

I am a registered voter in Guilford, Connecticut and the president of **CT Coalition Against Puppy Mills**, a statewide group that works to bring awareness of the connection between pet stores that sell puppies and the puppy mills that produce the dogs for sale. At least once a month, we hold peaceful protests in front of stores that knowingly buy and sell dogs from puppy mills. We also research and investigate the breeders who are importing dogs into our state for sale and the violations that they incur. Our intent is to get would-be consumers to understand that purchasing anything from a pet store that sells dogs, be it fish food or a puppy, lines the pockets of not just the pet store owners, but also those of the puppy mill operators. Even today as a fully wired society with any information available at the tap of a touchscreen or the click of a mouse, many people still don't know what a puppy mill is. We should *all* know, and we should *all* be outraged.

These mills, although USDA-inspected and approved, churn out puppies by the thousands with little to no care for the well-being of the puppies or their breeding parents. This results in animal cruelty. The breeder dogs, caged for life until they can no longer reproduce, are killed. Sometimes they are shot, and other times they are drowned or gassed- usually whatever method is most cost-effective. Due to overbreeding, lack of medical attention, conditions of the mills and the 18 wheelers they are transported across the country in, it is not uncommon for the puppies to be sick upon arrival at the pet stores. Often they have serious intestinal and bacterial infections and/or upper respiratory ailments. Sometimes it can be even more serious with dogs arriving with the highly contagious and deadly Parvo disease. We hear countless stories from people who have bought dogs from pet stores in Connecticut, only to discover a year or two down the road that their beloved pets have serious, sometimes life-threatening genetic disorders, most likely brought on by the irresponsible breeding practices at the mills. Last year legislation was passed requiring pet store owners in Connecticut to pay up to 500 dollars toward a sick dog's veterinary care. Unfortunately this often doesn't come close to covering the costs to treat the dog, and many people have reported that store owners still refuse to pay. In Connecticut, as part of the puppy lemon law, the pet store owner is required to take a sick dog back in exchange for a different, healthier dog. Besides the fact that most people fall quickly in love with a new puppy and don't want to part with it- be it sick or not, we must be outraged when we think about what will happen to the returned puppy.

Although many of the commonly-used mills have repeat violations, even a mill that has not received any can still legally treat dogs in a way that is clearly inhumane. For example, the standards set by the USDA allow for dogs to be caged *for life* in wire enclosures with only a minimum of six inches on the sides and tops of the enclosures. The dogs have just enough room to sit up and turn in their cages. Typically in mills, there are hundreds of adult dogs and hundreds more puppies who rely on two to three employees for their survival. This means they do not get exercise, clean cages and fresh food and water. Perhaps most significantly, they do not get human affection- something any dog owner knows is what man's best friend values most.

Time and again I read USDA reports citing mills for conditions that anyone with common sense would see as vile and inhumane. These violations are all too common, and generally warrant only a warning from the USDA inspectors. Following are just a few of the violations from several millers who are used by Connecticut pet stores.

During the inspection all primary enclosures located in the whelping building were occupied. In one enclosure the dealer had housed two females which were due to whelp. During the inspection the adults were found together with three dead puppies in various stages of dismemberment.

In the whelping building the bulk food bags are being stored in the storage room and in the hallway. On the floor surface of the food storage room there are still rodent droppings. (Conditions affect thirty-three adults and eighty puppies.)¹

A deer carcass was in the kennel with the Wheaton Terriers. The dogs had been eating on the meat and splintered bones. Road kill animals have no assurance they are not contaminated and wholesome for eating and should not be a food source for dogs.

Six of the small, long haired breeds of dogs had long matted and dirty hair. The hair was over the feet, dragging on the floor surface, becoming soiled in feces. Matting of the hair can cause skin irritation, be painful, as well as, if not groomed, cause serious health issues for the dogs.

All the water in the water buckets maintained outdoors was frozen solid. The dogs would lick the ice in the containers receiving no relief from their thirst. When the owner gave water to the dogs they drank excessively. Temperature on the day of this inspection was in the low 20s.²

Within the East Kennel, there are 3 enclosures, containing 4 dogs that have dirty water buckets containing dirty water. Failure to clean and sanitize water buckets and offer fresh water can lead to health hazards for the dogs. All water receptacles must be cleaned and sanitized at least once every two weeks

There is a build-up of feces on the floor of one primary enclosure on the West side on the "North Hog House." There is both old and fresh feces scattered throughout the entire enclosure. The buildup of feces is attracting flies to the enclosure. The flies are resting on the back wall and hovering around the piles of feces. There are two dogs in this enclosure.³

These reports should make our citizens and our legislators outraged, and know that the puppy mills should be outlawed. In the meantime, it would be a tremendous step forward for Connecticut to prohibit the sale of dogs obtained from substandard domestic animal mills. And by *substandard*, I mean USDA-licensed and approved. This would directly impact the mills and the amount of dogs they would be churning out, yet it would also sway pet store owners to take up a humane business model that promoted the welfare of dogs. If pet stores encouraged adoption and responsible breeding, they would benefit from thousands of like-minded people who only do business with these types of pet stores.

So in conclusion, if Connecticut leads the way and passes legislation prohibiting the sale of dogs from mills, it will be a boon for the pet store owners, the animal lovers who will begin to patronize their stores, as well as the overburdened regional and state animal shelters trying to place homeless dogs. Most importantly, we can stand proudly in Connecticut and let the rest of the country know we will not allow people to profit from others' misery. We will not stand idly by and allow animal cruelty for the sake of the almighty dollar. Until then we must be- and we will be-outraged.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Heather Elizabeth Bradley
144 North Fair Street
Guilford, CT 06437
(203) 927-0625
picklehicks@yahoo.com

1. USDA Inspection Report. Clear Springs Kennels operated by Sarah Young of Hardy, AK. November 15, 2011.
2. USDA Inspection Report. Breeding facility operated by Betty Porter of Cumberland, IA. February 11, 2010.
3. USDA Inspection Report. Breeding facility operated by Sue Shold of Albert City, IA. October 3, 2012.

Testimony Concerning HB5027
Jane Horton

I would like to thank the Ban The Sale of Commercially Bred Pets Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5027 Ban the Sale of Commercially Bred Pets.

I am a registered voter in Monroe, and I am a transporter with the Rescue Road Warriors, transporting puppy mill dogs to freedom.

Please stop the sale of commercially bred dogs or puppy mill dogs. Dogs are living beings that suffer horrible abuse confined to a cage with no vet care for life. All so someone can make money from the suffering of an animal. Do you know how many dogs are put to sleep in shelters every day? Thousands across the country. I have had the privilege of transporting puppy mill surrenders to rescues for over a year. It is heartbreaking to see a dog quivering with fear at the back of the crate because they don't know human love or how to be a dog. Please end this cruelty.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Jane Horton
22 Heather Rd.
Monroe, CT 06468
JHorton570@yahoo.com

Dear Committee members,

Please accept my written testimony in support of HB-5027 to ban the sale of puppy mill puppies in the state of CT.

Puppy mill puppies are all about profits to the owners of these business. It is well documented these animals are kept in unsanitary and unsafe conditions. The types of diseases these animals carry from state to state are a thread to not only healthy pets, but in some cases to humans. The puppies are not bread for disposition, health or by any standards acceptable to the health of a family pet.

Purchasing a puppy from a breeder who is registered and has a history of responsible breeding habits is no more costly than a puppy mill puppy. My daughter is a Veterinarian and it is well known in the Veterinarian industry that puppies sold in stores from these mill suffer through their entire lives from defects that are caused by puppy mill breeding and the cost of care is far more expensive than a puppy from a reputable breeder.

The only way to stop this inhumane and unhealthy practice is to ban the sale of these puppies in every state, so let's start with CT today.

--

Jennifer Buchanan
159 Seabright Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605
203-984-7422

Hi everyone. Thank you for this hearing. My name is Karen Laski. I live at 279 Fern St. in Manchester.

I'm here to support **HB 5844, the dog tethering bill, HB 5836 the Animal Population Control Program bill, and HB 5027, An Act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats from substandard domestic animal mills.**

I have been involved in Animal Welfare for over 40 years and I am currently on the Board of CT Votes for Animals.

Many years ago, I would drive by places where dogs were chained and check on them in the middle of the night to see if they were still there. I was so frustrated that I could never help them because no law prevented them from being chained day and night and in the sweltering heat and frigid cold. Several generations of dogs later we are here with a bill that could give some relief to dogs enduring this endless misery.

Dogs who are continually chained are frustrated, bored and many times driven to extreme anxiety and depression. They pace back and forth repetitively. Chained dogs are vulnerable to attacks by wild animals or cruel humans. They suffer from pressure sores, frostbite and heatstroke. They are constantly on edge and can never relax.

Along with the wide constituent support for this bill there are many positive aspects and benefits. Less people will be waking up in the middle of the night to the barking of a frustrated dog. Homeowner's security could be increased by the presence of a dog being inside at night. Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to intruders is an inside dog. Outside dogs become aggressive not protective. Regulations against chaining give Animal Control Officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting, since many fighting dogs are kept in chains.

According to world renowned dog training expert, Victoria Stilwell, many common behavioral problems could be avoided if owners understood how severe confinement can compromise natural behavior.

Dogs teach us love and patience. They improve our health and lift our spirits. Our best friends are suffering. Let's give them a break.

I urge you to support sending bill HB 5027, banning the sale of puppies in pet stores, to the floor of the House and Senate for a vote.

Please don't be fooled into thinking that only dog lovers or rescue groups care about this bill. There are a number of reasons to do discuss this, but rather than go into all of them here and now, please just consider this one point: Most puppies purchased at pet stores come from puppy mills. Many of these puppies pick up diseases in the puppy mill and those diseases are then transmitted to people. Young children, pregnant women, people in poor health or who have weakened immune systems are at higher risk to contract these diseases.

By voting against sending the bill to the floor you send a message to ALL of your constituents that you don't even think it's important to hear discussion on this. This can (and probably will) be perceived as you having a total disregard for the health of any person that comes in contact with a puppy mill dog.

Thank you.

**Sincerely,
Alexa Mullady**



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Page 1 of 1

March 15, 2013

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Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-0440

Re: **SUPPORT of HB 5027**, An act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats obtained from substandard domestic animal mills

Dear Co-Chair Meyer, Co-Chair Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Connecticut supporters of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), I submit this letter in support of a prohibition on the sale of dogs and cats in Connecticut's pet stores.

Nearly all puppies sold in pet stores come from puppy mills. A puppy mill is an inhumane, commercial dog-breeding facility in which the health of the dogs is disregarded in order to maintain a low overhead and maximize profits.

Stores that do sell puppies should be encouraged to help end pet overpopulation by stopping the sale of puppies and supporting their local shelters and pet adoption programs instead. In Connecticut, 45 pet stores have taken the "Puppy Friendly Pledge", an HSUS initiative that asks dog lovers everywhere to work with their local pet stores to encourage them to implement a "puppy friendly" policy by refusing to sell puppies in their store. Stores that already do not sell puppies can sign up to show that they are taking a stand against puppy mills and to make official their policy of not selling puppies.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Annie Hornish
Connecticut State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
Cell: (860) 966-5201 Email: ahornish@humanesociety.org

Celebrating Animals | Confronting Cruelty

**Testimony Concerning HB 5027: An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs and
Cats from Substandard Domestic Animal Mills**

Carrie Kline, MSW

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5027: An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs and Cats from Substandard Animal Mills.

I am a registered voter in Bridgeport, as well as a certified dog and cat groomer and animal advocate. I recently graduated from the University of Connecticut with my Master's degree in Social Work, concentrating in Community Organizing. It is my dream to combine my passion for advocacy and organizing on behalf of innocent creatures who cannot advocate for themselves.

I have always been involved in animal rescue and volunteering for local shelters using my grooming skills. Although I was aware of the atrocious abuse and neglect that dogs and cats face in animal mills, commonly referred to as puppy mills, it was not until two years ago when I came face-to-face with a puppy mill survivor that I fully understood the effects. Two years ago I adopted Tara, a five year old breeding dog rescued from a puppy mill. Tara was completely shut down, she shook and cowed away from people. She was terrified of the unknown, which in her world was basically everything. Everyday experiences and occurrences like grass, water, being on a leash and harness, and walking through a doorway were challenges that took Tara a long time to overcome. She also suffered physically. Tara was severely underweight when I adopted her and had to have most of her teeth pulled due to decay from neglect.

I am happy to report that Tara has flourished from being in a kind and loving environment. Once she began to trust that people were not going to hurt her she made strides in becoming a happy and playful dog. She still faces some challenges, like fearing loud noises and strangers, but she has learned to really enjoy life. She loves to go for walks, visiting the dog park, and playing with her favorite red rope toy.

Sadly, many dogs and cats who suffer from abuse and neglect at the hands of animal mills never get a chance at a forever home. They die from years of neglect, being forced to live in tiny wire cages, never having anyone to show them kindness or take them for medical care. They are bred continuously, having litter after litter taken away from them too soon. They are considered commodities to be used and discarded, instead of the living, breathing, and feeling beings that they are. Connecticut has the opportunity today to stand up for the rights of those dogs and cats that cannot stand up for themselves and put an end to the abuse that these animals endure, to put an end to the sale of dogs and cats from animal mills.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support HB 5027, a vital and compassionate piece of legislation that will help end the torture animal mill dogs and cats face.

Thank you,

Carrie Kline, MSW
345 Frenchtown Road
Bridgeport, Connecticut, 06606
203-260-2792

Testimony Concerning HB 5027

Charlene W. Rogers

Municipal Animal Control Officer

Farmington Police Department

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for this opportunity to express my strong support of HB 5027 to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats obtained from substandard domestic animal mills in Connecticut.

I am a registered voter in the Town of Burlington and also the Municipal Animal Control Officer with the Farmington Police Department. I was a Veterinary Technician for eighteen years prior.

During my twenty plus years of service I have witnessed dogs and cats that have been bought from substandard breeding mills. These mills confine the adult breeders and litters in confined and squalid cages without proper shelter. These animals, considered a commodity and not a living soul, are without adequate clean bedding, ventilation, water and food and are subjected to the elements without proper protection from the heat of summer and the brutal cold in winter.

The puppies and kittens that are not auctioned or sold are kept as new breeding animals and are bred at each heat cycle as if they were a production machine. These animals are treated inhumanely and discarded if they are unable to reproduce. I have witnessed partial amputations and splayed paws because of wire floors of purchased puppies.

House Bill 5027 will dramatically decrease needless suffering and neglect of dogs and cats that are forced to exist in deplorable and inhumane conditions.

House Bill 5027 will also prevent the naive public from spending hundreds and hundreds of dollars on the purchase and care of a sick family pet that most purchase because of pity and sympathy.

The substandard pet shops and pet dealers that offer these animals continue to exist because they profit from those with open hearts and arms.

Please support this legislation and thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of those without voices.

Thank you-

Charlene W. Rogers

860-675-2440 rogersc@farmington-ct.org

Environment Committee, Public Hearing: 3/15/13

Testimony from Gretchen LaBau, 67 Duncaster Road, Bloomfield, CT
Advisory Board Member, Our Companions Animal Rescue
Member, CT Votes for Animals

Thank you for your attention to my support of the following bills:

HB 5836, An Act Concerning the Availability of Funding for the Vaccination, Sterilization, and Heartworm Testing of Dogs and Cats Owned by Low Income Persons or Adopted from Municipal or Regional Shelters

HB 5844, An Act Concerning the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outdoors and the Tethering of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions

HB 5207 An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs or Cats From Substandard Domestic Animal Mills at Pet Shops. (HB5027)

In regard to HB 5836, it is time to modify the program so that it meets the current needs of our communities. By increasing the funding available for low-income people in the APCP program (Animal Population Control Program), the funds of the APCP program can be used for their intended purpose. The Department of Agriculture, in their annual reports, has recommended that these benefits be increased in the low-income program.

In regard to HB 5844, it is only humane to make sure that dogs are not subjected to harsh weather conditions and are brought in at night where they will be safe.

In regard to HB 5207, a ban on pets being sold in pet shops would insure that people who acquire pets (HB5027) either by adopting them from a shelter or from a reputable breeder. Pets sold in pet shops are bred in puppy mills under cruel conditions and contribute to the overpopulation of dogs, many of whom end up being euthanized.

I urge you to support these three important pieces of legislation. Thank you.

Testimony Concerning HB 5027
Jamila HadjSalem

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of **HB 5027:AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS OR CATS FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS AT PET SHOPS.**

I am a registered voter in Stafford Springs, CT.

Please support HB 5027. Dogs and cats bred from puppy mills and other mills are treated extremely poorly, and live in deplorable conditions their whole lives. They are used as reproductive organs to turn a profit. There is no standard of living for them, and as such, they suffer from inbreeding, diseases, and death.

Not only does it do harm to the animals, people who buy cats or dogs from pet shops (who got their animals from mills) end up with a companion who has more medical needs than a well-bred cat or dog. I personally know of a Bichon Frise who was born and raised in a puppy mill, sold to a family I've known for years, and suffered his whole life from poor health, due to the inbreeding going on at the puppy mill.

These animals suffer needlessly, selfishly and cruelly, just so the owners of mills can make money. Please help shut these terrible mills down, and pass HB 5027.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Jamila HadjSalem
12 Old Springfield Road
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Testimony Concerning HB 5027

**Jean Anderson DeVito
"Our Companions Animal Rescue" Volunteer**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5027 which would *prohibit the sale of dogs or cats from substandard domestic animal mills at pet shops.*

I am a registered voter in Southington, and a Volunteer with Our Companions Animal Rescue. As a person who loves and cares for animals, and also recognizes the need to respect and treat them humanely, it is my desire to speak up on their behalf. I believe it is a human responsibility to stop the breeding of cats and dogs in domestic animal mills. This is cruel and unnecessary on the part of those who operate these animal mills. Often these animals are so in-bred and/or raised in unhealthy conditions that they do not have their deserved start at a healthy life.

It is also my belief that pet stores who purchase these animals should be subject to large fines. If they did not handle the sale of domestic animals from these vendors to begin with, people would not purchase them at pet stores. With all the domestic animals available and needing good homes, which are currently in shelters in CT, there is no need for pet stores to sell them in the first place. Cruelty to animals must be prevented, and stopped where it currently exists. I believe HB 5027 will help toward achieving this goal.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Jean Anderson DeVito
38 Windsor Way
Southington, CT 06489-3838
(860) 266-0727
jeanarabbit@cox.net

Testimony Concerning HB5027
Lana Burchman
Our Companions

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5027.

I am a registered voter in Bloomfield, and I am a volunteer at Our Companions

I owned a Bichon-Frise that came from a pet shop puppy mill. It was heartbreaking, and I had enormous expenses due to the genetic abnormalities in the dog. I had no way of knowing in advance of purchase that the dog would become chronically ill. I then spent thousands of dollars on three major surgeries, special foods and other needs. In the end I had to put the dog down because a fourth surgery would not have been possible. The dog suffered from bladder stones and constantly urinated blood and was in chronic pain. It was a heart break for me and my two young children who grew up with Ms. Pippin to see her become very ill and gone from their lives. If these puppy mills were forced to close it would put an end to these sad and needless experiences.

I am asking consideration to make that happen.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Lana Burchman
288 Castlewood Drive
Bloomfield, CT. 06002
860-308-2583
lanaburchman@yahoo.com



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Steven K. Reviczky
Commissioner



Testimony presented to the Environment Committee of
The Connecticut General Assembly
By the Connecticut Department of Agriculture
March 15, 2013

**H. B. 5027 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED
FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS**

Chairmen Meyer and Gentile, Vice Chairs Maynard and Albis, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

Currently, Connecticut state law (22-354b) requires that, "no pet shop licensee shall purchase a dog or cat for resale from a breeder or other person, firm or corporation located outside of this state that is not in possession of a current license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture and any applicable state agency."

The vast majority, if not all, puppies offered for sale by pet shops in Connecticut are purchased from suppliers outside of Connecticut and consequently, the Department must rely upon United States Department of Agriculture inspections to insure that breeders and suppliers are meeting federal regulations. It would not be possible for the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to determine that suppliers of Connecticut's pet shops were complying with the requirements set forth in H. B. 5027 without an on-site visit and inspection.

While the Department shares the concerns of the bill's proponents with respect to the treatment of companion animals we are concerned that the obstacles associated with out of state inspections are insurmountable at this time.



State of Connecticut
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 STATE CAPITOL
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE AUDEN GROGINS
 ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
 ROOM 4029
 HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

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 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony of State Representative Auden Grogins in support of HB 5027 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

Environment Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Dear Representative Gentile, Senator Myer and distinguished members of the Environment Committee, for the record, my name is State Representative Auden Grogins and I represent the 129th district in Bridgeport.

I am here to speak in favor of HB 5027, An Act Prohibiting The Sale of Dogs and Cats obtained from Substandard Domestic Animal Mills.

I strongly support this legislation which would prohibit the sale of these animals originating from puppy and cat mills which treat animals inhumanely, by failing to provide them with even the most basic necessities, including proper shelter, clean water and daily exercise.

It has been well-publicized in our country that these animals endure endless suffering while living their life in squalid wire cages.

These domestic animal mills breed dogs and cats that are very sick, have untreated medical conditions and suffer from physical disabilities.

I recently read about a woman who rescued a small three legged poodle from one of these substandard puppy mills. This poor dog spent 8 years of its life in a small wire cage. He had never walked on the ground or had been given exercise. As a result, this dog lost one of its legs from an infection.

We should never condone and patronize this kind of animal cruelty by allowing the sale of dogs or cats from this inhumane industry.

For these reasons I both support and urge you to pass this important legislation

Respectfully Submitted,

State Representative Auden Grogins

Environment Committee, Public Hearing: 3/15/13

Testimony from Susan B. Linker, 7 Sunset Lane, Bloomfield, CT
 CEO, Our Companions Animal Rescue
 CT Votes for Animals volunteer

Dear members of the Environment Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT** of the following bills:

- **HB 5836**, An Act Concerning the Availability of Funding for the Vaccination, Sterilization, and Heartworm Testing of Dogs and Cats Owned by Low Income Persons or Adopted from Municipal or Regional Shelters.
- **HB 5844**, An Act Concerning the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outdoors and the Tethering of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions
- **HB 5207** An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs or Cats From Substandard Domestic Animal Mills at Pet Shops. (HB5027)

First with respect to **HB 5836**, while Connecticut's Animal Population Control Program (APCP) has made tremendous contributions to our states spay/neuter efforts during its 19 years of existence, it is long overdue to modify the program to meet the current needs of our community. **HB 5836** will expand the sterilization benefits for low-income individuals. The Department of Agriculture has expressly recommended in their annual reports that these benefits need to be increased in the low-income program, and by doing so, it will allow the funds in the APCP program to be used for the intended purpose. In the past, over a million dollars have been swept out of the APCP account and redirected elsewhere because there was such a extreme surplus in this program. This was not the intended use of the funds and **HB 5836** will ensure that the funds are being used for the purpose for which they were intended.

The modest expansions in benefits we are proposing should be easily absorbed by the APCP account. Yet they will result in even more significant reductions in homeless pets in CT, and in return, reduce the burden on our municipal and regional shelter system.

As you know the animal protection community has been working over the years to improve the conditions for dogs who live their lives chained. **HB 5844** would provide obvious, reasonable and clearly defined protections for chained dogs. It will prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and require that chained dogs never be left outside in severe weather conditions without shelter strong enough to protect them from the elements.

HB 5207 would create a ban on pets being sold in pet shops. It's a fact and certainly no secret that puppies (HB5027) sold from pet shops come from puppy mills. These mills are without question unspeakably cruel dog breeding factories. No reputable breeder would ever breed animals for the purpose of reselling them at pet shops.

The inhumane practices of puppy mills, combined with the fact that 3 to 4 million homeless dogs and cats are euthanized in U.S. shelters each year, speaks to the need to ban the sale of pets in pet shops. This would allow people rescue homeless pets, and if they choose to purchase a dog, they may go directly to a breeder so they can see first-hand the conditions of the animals.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony and I urge you to support these three important pieces of legislation.

J DAVIS
Companion Animal
& Hospital
Brad Davis, DVM 203-263-8866

March 14, 2013

To the CT Environmental Committee:

As a veterinarian practicing in the State of Connecticut for 30 years, I have been involved in the treatment of thousands of newly acquired pets. Being part of their care is a privilege I still cherish. However treating obviously sick, weak, or poorly bred young animals acquired from less than responsible providers, whether a "puppy mill" or poorly run rescue agency has been a constant source of heartache for the new families incurring unanticipated expenses and often undeserved emotional distress. I am writing and will be testifying in support of HB 5027-AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS (with additional language) PRESCRIBING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO SET 'STANDARDS FOR THE CARE OF IMPORTED HOMELESS ANIMALS WHEN KEPT IN SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS IN ONE LOCATION' (The exact language of this bill yet to be finalized but that is my interpretation of its intent).

I was recently involved in a legal action pertaining to the confiscation of 65 dogs in my home town of Bethlehem. They were being kept in what was considered inadequate and inhumane conditions by both myself and the enforcement professionals involved. The utter heartache I felt as I entered a very cold dark barn to see all these dogs kept in small cages meant for temporary transport with totally inadequate heat sources, no water in their cages, and small pieces of newspaper to protect them from the cold ground will not soon be forgotten. The relief the small dogs in particular felt as they climbed inside my coat to be carried to the waiting warm vans could not be missed, and the good natured trust they still held in their captors was heartwarming but incredibly frustrating. The disappointment I felt in the fact that these creatures had weathered much adversity and traveled long distances to be subjected now to this neglect spoke of profound failure at many levels.

As the process went on and I was called to testify in the civil hearings designed to confiscate these dogs and find them proper homes, the inadequacy of the existing regulations as they pertained to imported "rescued" dogs kept in significant numbers became readily apparent.

While regulations setting minimum humane standards exist for pet stores, pounds, and commercial kennels, and are clear, there is no similar set of standards for these collections of "rescued" dogs languishing in their transport cages. As the circumstances in this case warranted criminal charges and some of those standards were applied, the difficulty the judge had in disposing this case was evident, basically due to the lack of applicable and specific standards of care. To this day 65 dogs are barred from finding their "forever homes" as they remain in municipal pounds waiting months for a resolution of this case.

I want to be clear. Finding homes for animals otherwise destined for death in shelters outside this state is a noble cause which I have supported financially and professionally my entire career. My parents were involved in the rescue of homeless and abused animals my entire childhood, and my mother often was called upon to convince a negligent owner to give up their pet when legal means proved inadequate. She was fearless in these cases and always won.

We need to give the professionals we have entrusted with protecting the voiceless better tools to do their job. Guidelines must be constructed to enable enforcement of reasonable standards so that these rescued animals lives improve as the advance along the road to a home, and not prolong or worsen the suffering they are forced to endure. They must also be protected from the unscrupulous individuals who seek to profit from their hardship endured, under the moral authority of those principled rescuers who do amazing work, often at great personal sacrifice. It is in their spirit I thank and commend your work here and Senator Hartley her interest in making a difference.

The relationship man and dogs share is like no other in nature. This species has helped us feed our families, protect our homes and provided loyal non-judgmental companionship like no other. We have selectively bred them to be like this but we share a common bond deeper than any breeding program could produce. We owe them a warm place to rest, food and water, and freedom from pain and suffering to the very best of our ability. To do less is to diminish our very humanity.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION,

W. Bradley Davis, DVM

RE: Testimony Concerning HB 5027

15 March 2013

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

I am a registered voter in New Milford, and I provide a foster home for Bonnie Blue Rescue dogs that have been rescued from puppy mills and shelters along the east coast of the United States.

The National Mill Dog Rescue was established in February 2007, in honor of a forgiving little Italian Greyhound named Lily. NMDR's Founder and Executive Director rescued Lily from a dog auction in Missouri. Prior to that day, Lily had spent the first seven years of her life as a commercial breeding dog, a puppy mill mom.

During her years as a breeding dog, Lily spent all of her days confined to a small, cold wire cage in a dark, foul-smelling barn. Never was she removed from her cage for exercise or socialization. In her dreary confines, Lily was forced to produce one litter after another with no respite. Like all commercial breeding dogs, she was a veritable breeding machine whose worth was measured in only one way - her ability to produce puppies.

By seven years of age, Lily was worn out. Commonplace in the industry, she had received little to no veterinary care throughout her life, the result of which, for her, was terribly disturbing. Due to years of no dental care<http://milldogrescue.org/About_Us.html>, poor quality food, rabbit bottle watering and no appropriate chew toys, the roof of Lily's mouth and lower jaw, had rotted away. Her chest was riddled with mammary tumors and she was absolutely terrified of people.

After her rescue, Lily spent the remainder of her life as a beloved member of her new family where she received medical care, warmth and companionship. In time, Lily found courage and her disfigured little body educated countless people about the horrors of the puppy mill industry. Lily died, at home, peacefully, in the arms of her loving dad with her family gathered around, in May 2008, fifteen months after she was rescued.

This is not a rare incident, but rather, the norm for dogs and cats living in puppy mills across the United States. There are over two-hundred-eighty five organizations across CT that take in lost/homeless animals. Many of the animals that show up in these shelters started their lives in puppy mills. Many of these shelters are at maximum capacity and are forced to euthanize the animals that they house.

According to the ASPCA, approximately five to seven million companion animals enter animal shelters nationwide each year. Of those, approximately three to four million are euthanized, which equates to approximately sixty percent of dogs and seventy percent of cats). Twenty five percent of the dogs found in shelters are considered purebred or designer breeds.

As of 2012, PetsAdvisor has determined that there are more than 4,000 commercial breeding facilities that are licensed to operate in the United States. There are many more that operate without a license. Retail pet stores sell over half a million puppies each year, of which most are brought in from these

puppy mills. Only twenty-six states have laws that regulate commercial kennels, and that regulation is minimal at best.

It is impossible to determine how many stray dogs and cats live in the United States; however the estimate for cats is close to seventy million. The average number of litters that an adult cat will produce each year is one to two, with the average number of kittens being four to six per litter. The average number of litters that a fertile dog will have in a year is one to two, with the average litter being between four and six. The majority of shelters in CT mandate that companion animals are spayed or neutered prior to adoption. This greatly reduces the number of homeless animals in the state.

Many jurisdictions (i.e. Los Angeles and San Diego) have created ordinances to prevent the commercial sale of companion animals in pet stores. It is time for CT to set a precedent and take a stand for the voiceless. We need to stand up to the owners of the puppy mills and tell them that, under no circumstances, will we allow the abuse to continue. So long as we allow the commercial sale of dogs and cats, the abuse will never end and the overpopulation problem that exists will never be brought under control.

[cid:688814a9-3b65-4a34-9d2c-15a5aae2d310]

Picture of Lily after her rescue from a puppy mill

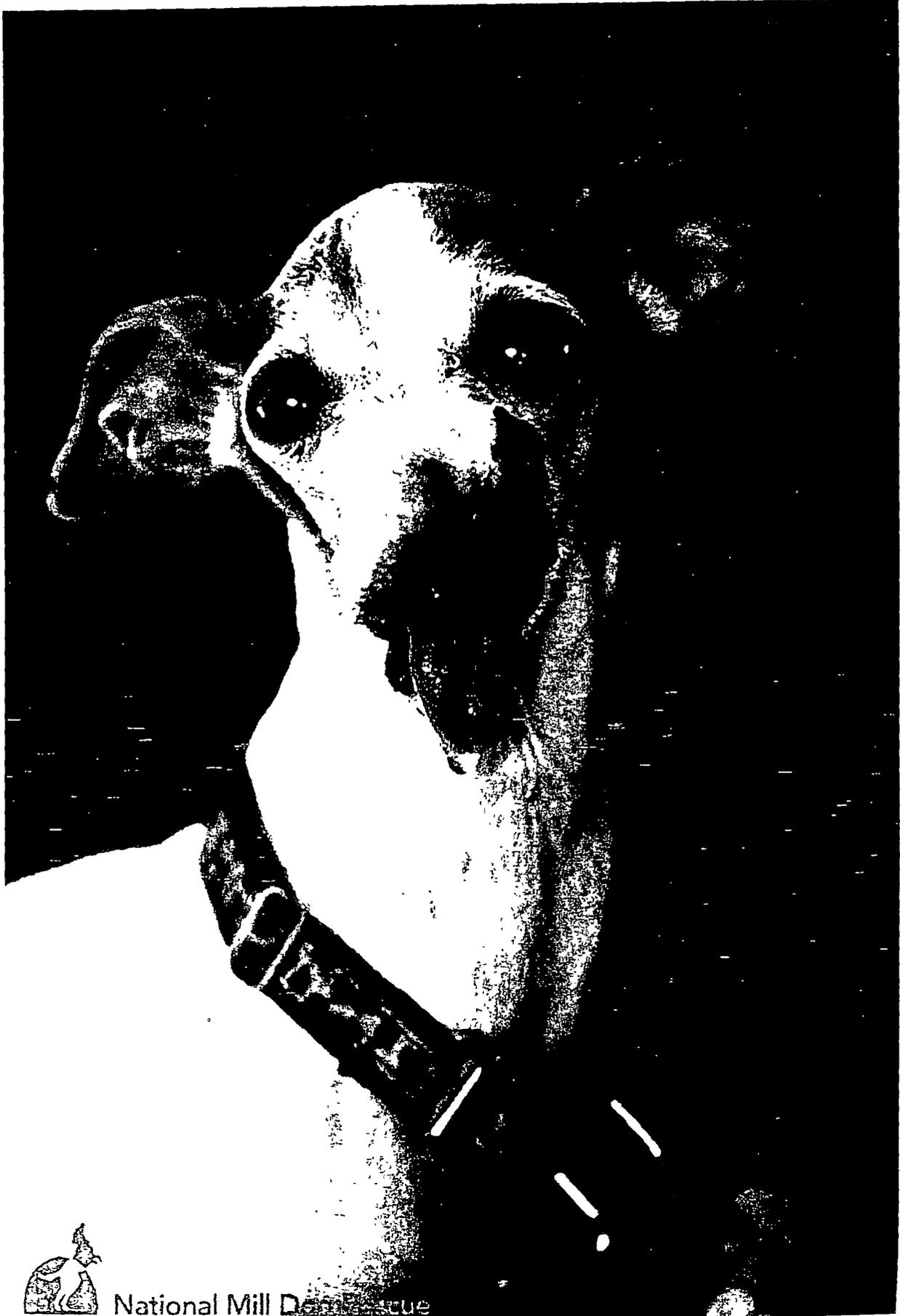
I implore you to pass this legislation and confirm that the State of CT will not sit back and allow our animals to become victims of puppy mills and their blatant disregard for the life and care of those animals. Please don't allow Lily's life, and the lives of so many others, to be in vain.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Respectfully,
Christina Marie Colla

Christina Marie Colla
Quinnipiac University School of Law
JD Candidate, 2014
Bonnie Blue Rescue Foster

25 Mountain View Avenue
New Milford, Connecticut 06776
Cell: (203) 837-7725
Email: christina.colla@quinnipiac.edu <<mailto:christina.colla@quinnipiac.edu>>





State of Connecticut

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL**

REPRESENTATIVE BRENDA L. KUPCHICK
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
HOUSING COMMITTEE
PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Testimony

**In support of H.B. 5027 An Act Prohibiting The Sale of Dogs and Cats
Obtained From Substandard Domestic Animal Mills**

**Environment Committee
March 15, 2013**

Senator Meyer, Senator Chapin, Representative Gentile, Representative Shabin, and members of the committee. I am here to testify today on HB 5027 -

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM
SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS. I introduced this bill with Senator McKinney last session and again this session.

Most people would say I'm a strong advocate for animal welfare, a big supporter of animal rescue, and a strong advocate for shelter pets.

However, even someone like me, can get caught up in purchasing a pet store puppy. Nearly 20 years ago, when my mixed breed dog I adopted from the humane society was approaching 15, my then 9 year old son wanted a puppy.

I asked him what kind of puppy he'd like. He wasn't sure, so we went to the library, took out some books, and did some research. This was before the age of the internet and before I got involved with rescues. I thought we would go to a pet store and look at the breeds to get an idea; big mistake.

The entire ride there I repeated to my son, we are ONLY looking, we aren't buying a puppy from a pet store because they're from puppy mills.

I thought we'd just look at the puppies, decide which breed he liked, then contact a local breeder or breed rescue. We went to the store, and my son asked to play with the Beagle puppy. As soon as they handed him that floppy eared puppy, it was over.

He fell in love with her immediately and everything I said about us not getting a puppy from a pet store went out the window. Realizing I couldn't convince him this wasn't the puppy for us, I asked detailed questions about where she came from. They said she was from a reputable breeder and could produce her papers and they never sold puppies from puppy mills.

I knew I wasn't being told the truth but I couldn't get my son to let go of that Beagle puppy with as tears began to form in his eyes.

I bought a puppy at a pet store. And not surprisingly, we got what we paid for.

Don't misunderstand, Copper was a cute little puppy who we loved dearly, but she ended up costing us over 16,000 during her 12 years. While she was healthy the first year we had her, she developed strange illnesses soon after and over most of her life. Illnesses that perplexed our vets. Illnesses that were costly and caused a lot of heart break for my family over the years. Compared to my 17 year old dog from the humane society, who only needed annual immunizations over her entire life.

My point is, there are a lot of people who simply aren't aware of the genetic defects and health issues that come from inhumane standards puppy mills practice.

As legislators, we are informed about puppy mills, but many of our residents are not and hand over a lot of money to play a game of roulette.

The language that's written currently for this bill really won't do enough.

The manpower involved in checking to see if a breeder is substandard is difficult. The USDA simply can't keep up with the inspections to protect the breeding dogs, their puppies or the unsuspecting public that purchases them.

Our own Department of Agriculture doesn't have the manpower to track people who file complaints, or those who are so frustrated taking care of a sick puppy; they don't bother or simply give up trying to hold the seller accountable.

Our intent is to stop puppy mill puppies from being sold in the state of Connecticut, but we are concerned about the pushback from the pet store lobby.

I realized that I shouldn't be worried about any lobby that wants to protect a inhumane practice. Currently, there are only 18 pet stores that sell puppies in Connecticut compared to the hundreds of stores operating in our state that don't sell puppies.

Connecticut is a progressive state and I believe we are ready to say we won't participate in this inhumane industry. I believe Connecticut is ready to ban this inhumane practice now.

I'm hopeful the committee will review the language Los Angeles passed in 2012 and use that language for Connecticut.

I thank the committee and am available for any questions.

Rep. Brenda Kupchick
132nd district
Fairfield & Southport
Sent from my iPad

182309

ORDINANCE NO. _____

An ordinance adding a new Section 53.73 to Article 3, Chapter 5 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to prohibit the sale of commercially bred dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores, retail businesses or other commercial establishments in the City of Los Angeles.

WHEREAS, the sale of commercially bred dogs, cats and rabbits contributes to the proliferation of homeless or unwanted animals that end up in public animal shelters; and

WHEREAS, prohibiting the sale of commercially bred dogs, cats and rabbits in pet stores, retail businesses or other commercial establishments may lower the City's shelter animal euthanasia rate and lead to a greater adoption rate of shelter animals.

NOW THEREFORE,

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. A new Section 53.73 is added to Article 3 of Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to read as follows:

**SEC. 53.73. SALE OF COMMERCIALY BRED DOGS, CATS AND RABBITS IN
PET STORES – PROHIBITION.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell any live dog, cat or rabbit in any pet store, retail business or other commercial establishment located in the City of Los Angeles, unless the dog, cat or rabbit was obtained from an animal shelter or a humane society located in the City of Los Angeles, or a non-profit rescue and humane organization registered with the Department of Animal Services. For purposes of this Section, a rescue and humane organization is defined as a California non-profit corporation that is exempt from taxation under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (3), participates in early age spay/neuter of animals, complies with State and local laws regarding the humane treatment of animals, and whose mission and practice is, in whole or in significant part, the rescue and placement of dogs, cats or rabbits.

A violation of this Section may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor. A violation of this Section also may be enforced by means of an administrative citation and penalty in the amount of \$250 for the first violation, \$500 for the second violation and \$1,000 for the third violation.

The ordinance will become operative six months after its effective date, and expire on June 30, 2016, unless extended by ordinance.

Sec. 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was introduced at the meeting of the Council of the City of Los Angeles OCT 24 2012, and was passed at its meeting of OCT 31 2012.

JUNE LAGMAY, City Clerk

By [Signature] Deputy

Approved NOV 09 2012

[Signature] Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH, City Attorney

By [Signature]
DOV S. LESEL
Assistant City Attorney

Date 9/10/12

File No. CF 11-0754

**Environment Committee
Public Hearing: 3/15/13**

Testimony Concerning HB 5027

An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs and Cats Obtained from Substandard Domestic Animal Mills.

**Amy Harrell
President, Connecticut Votes for Animals
amy.cva@gmail.com
Vernon, CT resident**

Some of the most egregious animal cruelty offenders can be found inside the puppy mill industry, which supplies CT pet stores with animals. The living conditions and extreme lack of care for these breeder dogs are truly unspeakable, and they translate into unhealthy, sick animals coming into our state. The purchasing families often find debilitating heartbreak and financial expense with puppy mill dogs.

There are other, far better options for families who like to have a puppy. Rescue organizations and shelters nearly always have puppies who are looking for homes. For those who desire a specific breed, there are responsible breeders within Connecticut, who take the time to ensure their animals are placed in the right homes and that the new owners are well-informed of the specific needs of each breed.

I fully support a complete prohibition on the sale of commercially-bred dogs, cats, and rabbits in Connecticut's 18 pet stores.

Thank you for your support of this bill.

45
PT 8ⁱⁿ 1

BETHLEHEM ANIMAL CONTROL

36 MAIN STREET SOUTH

BETHLEHEM, CT 06751

My name is Judy Umstead and I am here today to support HB 5027-an act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats obtained from substandard domestic animal mills. I am asking for regulations to be established for standard of care for rescues. I am currently the animal control officer for the towns of Bethlehem and Woodbury. I also run a commercial boarding kennel and previously ran a very large dog rescue. Currently, I can be inspected at any time by state animal control, for the boarding kennel and the dog pound. The reason is that there are very strict guidelines for running both operations which I agree with. We are caring for dogs whether they are owned in the boarding kennel or strays picked up by animal control. Both deserve to be treated with respect which includes proper care, nutrition, temperature, cleanliness, and love. When I ran the dog rescue I could only be inspected because it was housed in a boarding kennel, not because it was a rescue. Therefore, if someone were just a rescue, they have no guidelines in place to follow. We all know that just like in anything else there are good and not so good.

We have a problem in this state of hundreds of dogs being transported into our state monthly from mainly the Southern states. They have too many dogs as strays and many unfortunately are euthanized and not always in humane ways. While I agree that these poor dogs do not deserve to die I question some of the practices of them being transported up here and their care when they arrive. If one is to rescue a dog I feel they should be placed in a better situation not worse. As an animal control officer I cannot just go in to check on these transported dogs-I need a complaint. Such was the case in Bethlehem in November. Some of you may remember the 63 dogs seized by myself and state police from a rescuer. Without going into much detail since this is an ongoing case this is a prime example of Southern dogs being placed in an unheated barn in crowded unsanitary conditions. The only way I got onto the property was when I received a call about a dog that has escaped their enclosure and was running loose. I always respond to roaming dogs and this was no different. For one month I tried to get the rescue to comply with what is right for the dogs, but after repeated verbal and written warnings they did not comply, so I executed a search and seizure warrant signed by a judge. To this day I still have all 63 dogs in my care. One reason is that we do not have a law in place to regulate rescues and their operations which has made it difficult in court. They seem to fall thru the cracks. The majority are wonderful good hearted people who truly want to do the right thing. Just as we welcomed training for animal control officers, these people would welcome regulations because they are already doing the right thing and anyone could walk into their facility at any time without an issue. There are others who have found this to be a very lucrative business which unfortunately changes how animals are treated. If you bring in 100 dogs to adopt or sell in one weekend for \$400-\$500 each, you make \$40,000-\$50,000 tax free. I'm not asking that these dogs not be shipped up here to save their lives I am asking that when they are that they be treated the way they deserve. None of them deserve to be freezing, sick, scared, or abused in any way. This is also NOT an animal control vs rescue issue because I believe what we all do is rescue. I urge you to support this bill. Thank you.

(46) P18 LZ

My name is Cecilia Brothwell from Harwinton, CT. I am here today to support HB 5027. Several years ago I had the good fortune to meet a woman who was Director of a local shelter and was invited to become part of the group of volunteers. Volunteering I got to see what dog rescue is and to find out the work involved in caring and rehabilitating rescue dogs. The dogs often arrived nameless with shocking stories of abuse and neglect attached to them. Their brief stay at a Connecticut dog pound was often the first time most had had a full bowl of food, access to water daily, warm bed indoors, and humans who raised their hands to pet, not strike. When the dogs arrived at the rescue their new life continued with time spent in the exercise pens, grooming, people to train and socialize them so that they had the best possible life at the rescue and the best possible chance at adoption. Potential adopters were screened, the dogs delivered often by the shelter director to the new home.

I assumed all shelters in Connecticut operated in this manner and was shocked and saddened when the local newspapers began reporting on an individual who operated a shelter and had had 62 dogs seized for animal cruelty. Over the next month the conditions that the dogs were kept in became public knowledge. Dogs forced to curl up in cages too small for them to move, dogs laying on urine soaked newspaper, denied water, matted coats. The most shocking was that the dogs were kept in an unheated barn with wind blowing thru the barn walls. The recorded temperature on the day of their seizure was 30 degrees. Dogs were shivering in visible distress.

The media reported that in 2004 the same individual was arrested operating under a different shelter name for 84 counts of animal cruelty. These charges were plea bargained down and he was free to continue his shelter practices.

The judge in the current case ruled to allow the "large breed dogs" to be returned to the shelter owner as and I quote "they don't feel the cold as much as the smaller dogs". The owner has filed an appeal and will return to court seeking the return of all of "his" dogs. Without passage of legislation setting down laws for how dogs are housed and treated in rescues this man and others who profit from the misery they inflict on dogs will continue.

Others much more knowledgeable about dog rescue practices in Connecticut are speaking today as the voice of the dogs who do not deserve the fate of falling into the hands of unethical rescue operators. I ask that you listen to what they have to say.

Thank you.

Cecelia Brothwell
Harwinton CT

47
P 18/18

Mr. Chairman (or madam chair) and members of the committee. My name is Timothy Sheehan of Bridgeport CT and I am speaking in support of HB 5027 An act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats obtained from substandard domestic animal mills.

One of the reasons for my support of this bill is that I have been a recent victim of such a pet store.

My abbreviated story is as follows;

On 12/28/2012 I responded to online advertising posted at ALLPETSCLUB.COM for the sale of a bloodhound puppy.

I went to the business which operates out of four locations in Ct to view the puppy advertised. I was introduced to the puppy by an employee of the store, told the employee I was interested in purchasing, and reviewed all the paperwork they presented related to the animal.

No current medical issues were brought to my attention and I had been assured by the employee that the puppy was healthy. I told the employee I wanted to purchase the puppy, and we completed the paperwork. After the transaction was completed, I took the puppy home.

The next morning the puppy was not breathing right, and it looked very sick. I then rushed the puppy to an animal hospital in Shelton CT.

The puppy was taken immediately for an emergency medical examination and put on oxygen. I called the pet store from the hospital. I advised them I was at the vet hospital with the puppy and that the animal is on oxygen and very sick. I asked the employee what they wanted me to do. I was told "do whatever you have to do, keep us informed", and "not to worry that the puppy was under warranty".

After examination I was informed by the Vet Hospital staff that the puppy had pneumonia, was very sick, with a low oxygen blood count, and that they had found a screw in the puppy's stomach on x ray. That the puppy would need to have the screw removed, to stay in an oxygen tent, and be treated for the pneumonia. The puppy stayed two nights at the vet hospital and the vet bill totaled \$ 4,412.32 (four thousand four hundred twelve dollars and thirty two cents.) They filled out the Puppy's First Veterinarian Visit checklist to validate the warranty which was faxed to the pet store.

After treatment I took the puppy home, and by the next day, it again appeared to have difficulty breathing. I called All Pets Club again and was referred to the manager of the puppy department who told me to take the puppy to their veterinary hospital located in Rocky Hill CT and that they would assume the cost of medical care. She also told me she would speak to the owners of All Pets Club and they would likely cover the cost of the initial veterinary care. Those costs were never covered. I took the puppy to their vet hospital and the puppy was assessed with Pneumonia, Anorectic, along with labored breathing, moderate nasal discharge, and Increased BP sounds. The puppy was given Oxygen, fluid therapy, and supportive care. All pets club balked at the cost for the animals care and had the puppy transferred out of that hospital's care the next day to the care of another veterinary hospital for continued treatment. The diagnostic testing performed at my cost showed the puppy had two bacterial infections present E-Coli, and in a larger amount, a second bacteria, which I won't even attempt to pronounce, both resistant to the antibiotics described. I ended up having to make several calls between the vet hospitals to coordinate a workable treatment plan for the animals care.

After continued medical treatment the puppy was released to me. After exposure to the puppy my other pet, a Terrier mix, developed kennel cough, requiring a vet visit and treatment with antibiotics at a cost of \$85 00. I had the puppy re evaluated by my regular vet at further additional cost

On January 10th I was then contacted by All Pets Club and was offered a five hundred dollar store credit along with a club membership in compensation for my thousands of dollars in accumulated vet bills. I asked to be reimbursed as required under the Pet Lemon Law, and told the puppy store manager the store credit was unacceptable. The manager hung up the phone

without resolving the issue or making any arrangements with me for reimbursement of my vet bills.

On January 21st the puppy was again taken to a veterinary hospital with difficulty breathing . After an Emergency examination and chest radiographs the puppy was found to have a ongoing case of pneumonia, which required another round of antibiotics and follow up care.

I have incurred additional veterinary care bills of over six hundred seventy six dollars. Both animals are now completing their antibiotic regiments and appear to be recovering pending further veterinary evaluation. The antibiotic given to the puppy has long term joint related side effects but was needed due to the severity of the infection present.

As All Pets Club has refused to follow the pet lemon law requirements to date have I filed a complaint with the Ct States Attorney General's Office, Department of Agriculture, Animal Control Division, Federal Trade Commission, Better Business Bureau, and several animal rights organizations. I have also notified my credit card company to dispute the charge . To date I have received no compensation from All Pets Club for my accumulated veterinary bills totaling well over five thousand dollars, and keep from going deeper into debt, am now bartering professional services with my vet to pay for the puppies ongoing care.

When I researched the breeder used by this pet store I found the puppy was from a large scale mill operation called the Rockin H Kennel out of Coffeyville Kansas.

My detailed Statement of Complaint against All Pets Club and all documentation is available upon request.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Statement of Complaint Against All Pets Club

Dated 01/16/2013 Time 1253Hrs

I, Timothy P Sheehan, of 590 Huntington TnPk Bridgeport Ct am a new customer of All Pets Club, Southington Ct.

On 12/28/2012 at approximately 9:00 AM I responded to online advertising posted at WWW.ALLPETSCLUB.COM for the sale of a bloodhound puppy.

The puppy was a liver and tan colored bloodhound date of birth 10/08/12 puppy ID number SMHSB50 Animal USDA # 48-A-1959 Microchip # 00071FAF6B. The breeders name is Michelle Houck of Coffeyville KS. The business had advertised the puppys name as "Boo".

My wife and I re named the puppy "Sofie" after purchase.

On 12/26/2012 I went to the business All Pets Club located at 405 Queen St Southington CT to view the puppy advertised.

I was introduced to the puppy by an employee of the store Emma (last name unknown), liked the puppy after a brief visit with it, told Emma I was interested in purchasing the puppy, and asked if I could see any paperwork related to the animal.

I was shown The puppy's medical records, and certificate of pedigree. I asked if there was any problems or issues with the puppy I should know about. I was told the puppy had an umbilical scar from a presumptive hernia repair, and that the operation performed was not unusual for puppies. As I was not going to be showing the animal at dog shows this did not concern me except as a medical issue. She also told me the puppy had a identification chip in her. No other medical issues were brought to my attention. The medical records for the puppy showed a checkup had taken place on 12/24.

I told Emma I wanted to purchase the puppy, she then gave the puppy a bath, and we went up to the front to complete the paperwork. I was told if I joined the "club" I would receive a discount on the purchase, and I did so. I asked if the puppy had a favorite toy I could take with me, and was sold a few new toys instead, along with some food, and wee wee pads.

After the bath, and while the paperwork was being completed the puppy was laying pretty quiet, appeared to be breathing a little heavy, had a little dried nasal discharge visible, but otherwise appeared OK. I believed the puppy had just been excited by the bath and visit. I was not concerned as I had been assured by Emma that the puppy was healthy.

I was given along with the other paperwork an All pets Club Puppy Warranty, copy of the Connecticut Puppy Lemon Law and a Puppy's First Veterinarian Visit checklist to validate the warranty. Emma went over the warranty and the sale was completed by credit card at 10:04 AM, and I took the puppy home.

The next morning 12/29/2013, my wife Lisa Sheehan told me something was wrong with the puppy, it was not breathing right, and that it looked very sick. I looked at the puppy and immediately got concerned with the animals appearance and breathing. Although I am not in the veterinary field I am a State of Connecticut certified Emergency Medical Responder (certificate Number 980919) and trained to evaluate emergency medical issues.

As there was an active storm warning and significant amount of snow starting to fall, the business All Pets Club was located far away, and as our regular vet Kathleen Fearon of Home Veterinary Care in Trumbull's office was closed, my wife and I rushed the puppy to VCA Shoreline Veterinary Hospital in Shelton CT.

The front office staff took a quick look at the puppy, called out a "triage", and the puppy was

taken immediately for an emergency medical examination and put on oxygen.

I called All pets club at 1336 hours from the pet hospital using my cell phone (203 224-0226) and asked for Emma. I was told she was not there and spoke with employee Lina (last name unknown). I told her I was at the Shoreline vet hospital with the bloodhound puppy and that the animal is on oxygen and very sick. I asked her what she wanted me to do. She told me "do whatever you have to do , and keep us informed", and "not to worry that the puppy was under warranty".

After examination I was informed by the Vet Hospital Staff that the bloodhound puppy had pneumonia, was very sick, with a low oxygen blood count, and that they had found what appears to be a screw in the dogs stomach on x ray. They told me if they did not remove the foreign object, the object might not pass through the dog's intestines without causing internal injury and infection. That the screw could be removed now from the stomach using an endoscopic retrieval instrument and a tracheal wash, and that the puppy would need to stay in an oxygen tent and treated for the pneumonia. The puppy stayed two nights at shoreline vet hospital and the vet bill totaled \$ 4,412.32 (four thousand four hundred twelve dollars and thirty two cents.) They filled out the Puppy's First Veterinarian Visit checklist to validate the warranty which was faxed to All Pets Club.

After treatment I took the puppy home, and by the next day, it again appeared to have difficulty breathing. I called All Pets Club again and was referred to the manager of the puppy department Corine DeFrancesco who told me to take the puppy to their veterinary hospital , The Animal Emergency Hospital of Central CT located in Rocky Hill CT and that All Pets Club would assume the cost of medical care. She also told me she would speak to the owners of All Pets Club and they would likely cover the cost of the initial veterinary care but that she did not think they would cover the cost of the surgery to remove the screw. That she would contact me at the end of the week to discuss the reimbursement for my vet costs. I took the puppy to their vet hospital and the puppy was assessed with Pneumonia, Anorectic, along with labored breathing, moderate mucopurulent nasal discharge, and Increased BP sounds. The puppy was given Oxygen, fluid therapy, and supportive care. While waiting in a treatment room I overheard a vet or staff person talking about the bloodhound puppy "Sofie" to All Pets Club stating the treatment would be a couple of thousand dollars and the staff member saying to another staff member that "All Pets thought it would be more like five hundred".

I refused to sign any payment responsibility for treatment and was told by the vet hospital staff that the payment was being covered by All Pets Club.

The next day I called the Animal hospital and was told All Pets was having the puppy transferred out of their care, and to the care of another vet, Lawrence Brooks of Powder Ridge Veterinary hospital for continued treatment. The testing performed at my cost through VCA Shoreline Hospital by Antech Diagnostics showed the puppy "Sofie" had two bacterial infections present E-Coli and in a larger amount Psychrobacto-Phenylpyruvicus both resistant to the initial prescription drug used for treatment ,Azithromycin. When I called Powder Ridge Vet Hospital to check on Sofie I was told they were awaiting the final test results from Shoreline Vet. I had to make several calls to ensure the documents were sent and received between the parties.

Following continued treatment I spoke to Dr. Brooks and he outlined the treatment provided as Gentocin Injection once a day for three days, Continued IV fluids for 1.5 days, and that they had nebulized the puppy with sterile H2O+ gentocin four times

After treatment the puppy was released to me. After exposure to the puppy during the course of the visits home my other pet "Roxie" a female Terrier mix DOB 08/15/2008 developed kennel cough and had to be treated with Doxycycline 100 Mg requiring a vet visit on January 4th 2013 to Home Veterinary Services at a cost of \$85.00. At no time was Roxie exposed to any other animals infectious or otherwise.

During the same vet visit I had the puppy "Sofie" re evaluated by my regular vet Dr Fearon of

Home Veterinary Services at an additional cost.

On January 10th at 10:33 AM I was then contacted by Corine DeFrancesco of All Pets Club, offered a five hundred dollar store credit along with a lifetime club membership "valued at one hundred and ninety nine dollars" in compensation for my thousands of dollars in accumulated vet bills. I told her The pet lemon law does not say anything about a store credit but states the licensee shall reimburse documented vet costs up to five hundred dollars. I asked to be reimbursed and told her a store credit was unacceptable. We argued about the reimbursement, Corine told me I was getting upset, that she was going to hang up on me, and she then hung up the phone without resolving the issue or making any arrangements with me for reimbursement of my vet bills. To my knowledge the puppy's ID chip has not been activated as promised. Both animals are now completing their antibiotic regimen and appear to be recovering, pending further evaluation. The antibiotic Genocin given to the puppy has joint related side effects as a risk of use but was needed due to the infection present.

As All Pets Club has refused to follow the pet lemon law requirements to date I filed a complaint with the Ct States Attorney General's Office, Department of Agriculture, Animal Control Division, Federal Trade Commission, Better Business Bureau, and several animal rights organizations. I have also notified my credit card company to dispute the charge based on the fact that I was sold defective property and have not been reimbursed for expenses related to bringing the merchandise to new resalable condition.

I have all the documentation, breeding papers, warranties, and voicemails from the store staff as well as medical records from the four veterinary offices and the diagnostic testing agency.

To date I have received no compensation from All Pets Club for my accumulated veterinary bills nor have they recontacted me to resolve the issue.

On 01/21/2013 "Sofie" the bloodhound was again taken to Shoreline Veterinary Hospital with difficulty breathing. After an Emergency examination and chest radiographs she was found to still have a case of pneumonia and incurred additional veterinary care bills over six hundred seventy six dollars, and requires another round of antibiotics and follow up care.



Testimony for HB 5027 USDA inspection photo of a live dog at puppy mill in Oklahoma 2007 who endured this injury for a week before he was euthanized.

When I visited pet stores in CT after the "pet lemon law" passed, I saw that most dogs came through Hunte Corporation which is the largest wholesale dealer of puppies in the U.S. They are the middleman between puppy mills and pet stores and broker almost 100,000 dogs annually.

Puppy mills keep anywhere from 10-1000 dogs. Females are often put on rape racks and have little time to recover before they are bred again. Mothers and fathers are kept in cages and have to stand on grates for ease of occasional cleaning. Cages are often stacked on each other in warehouses or stacked outside where dogs are exposed to extreme weather conditions. Puppy mill dogs do not get to experience, love, treats, exercise or even basic grooming. Repetitive behavior is common due to severe stress, pressure sores, illness and injury. Parents of puppy mill dogs are used over and over again and often euthanized after their breeding days are over.

Offspring of puppy mill dogs often carry genetic abnormalities such as epilepsy, heart disease, kidney disease, musculoskeletal disorders, endocrine disorders, blood disorders, deafness, eye problems, respiratory disorders. Puppies often leave mills with giardia, parvo, distemper, upper respiratory infections, kennel cough, pneumonia, mange, fleas, ticks, intestinal parasites, heartworm and chronic diarrhea.

If CT passes HB 5027, local breeders will increase their business, shelter dogs will get homes and less disease will enter Connecticut.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 8
2352 - 2684**

2013

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P17/10

Hi everyone. Thank you for this hearing. My name is Karen Laski. I live at 279 Fern St. in Manchester.

I'm here to support HB 5844, the dog tethering bill, HB 5836 the Animal Population Control Program bill, and HB 5027, An Act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats from substandard domestic animal mills.

I have been involved in Animal Welfare for over 40 years and I am currently on the Board of CT Votes for Animals.

Many years ago, I would drive by places where dogs were chained and check on them in the middle of the night to see if they were still there. I was so frustrated that I could never help them because no law prevented them from being chained day and night and in the sweltering heat and frigid cold. Several generations of dogs later we are here with a bill that could give some relief to dogs enduring this endless misery.

Dogs who are continually chained are frustrated, bored and many times driven to extreme anxiety and depression. They pace back and forth repetitively. Chained dogs are vulnerable to attacks by wild animals or cruel humans. They suffer from pressure sores, frostbite and heatstroke. They are constantly on edge and can never relax.

Along with the wide constituent support for this bill there are many positive aspects and benefits. Less people will be waking up in the middle of the night to the barking of a frustrated dog. Homeowner's security could be increased by the presence of a dog being inside at night. Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to intruders is an inside dog. Outside dogs become aggressive not protective. Regulations against chaining give Animal Control Officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting, since many fighting dogs are kept in chains.

According to world renowned dog training expert, Victoria Stilwell, many common behavioral problems could be avoided if owners understood how severe confinement can compromise natural behavior.

Dogs teach us love and patience. They improve our health and lift our spirits. Our best friends are suffering. Let's give them a break.