

**SUPPORT HB 5475, An Act Concerning Municipal Restrictions on Pet Shops sponsored by Representative Raghib Allie-Brennan and Co-sponsored by Representatives David Michel and Jason Doucette**

**PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY'S VOICE ON PET SHOPS SUPPORT HB 5475 ...STOP THE PUPPY MILL PIPELINE**

In summer 2019, the City of Stamford was prepared to pass a ban to stop the sale of inhumanely bred dogs, cats and rabbits by pet shops in the city; the city has one pet shop. Stamford was ready to join the over 300 municipalities throughout the country including towns in nearby New Jersey, New York and Massachusetts that have enacted local restrictions to sell these animals. Surprisingly CT's Department of Agriculture asserted they have control over the pet shops and not the local government. Rather than risk a costly legal fight with the State, Stamford withdrew its proposal.

Connecticut pet shops have a long history of sourcing dogs from puppy mills, cruel breeding facilities that prioritize profit over the well-being of the animals in their care. This broken system has created a puppy mill pipeline that delivers sick and anxious pets from out-of-state breeders and middlemen to unsuspecting Connecticut consumers. While a state wide ban might be preferred, legislation to **simply clarify that Connecticut municipalities have the authority to make their own rules governing pet shops stands a better chance of passing this session. With your support, retaining local decision making over a town's authority to protect its consumers can be a reality.**

**What you can do today:**

**Testify on Monday March 16, 2020:** The Planning and Development Committee will hold a public hearing on, March 16, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. in Room 1C of the LOB. Public speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 8:00 A.M. to 9:00 A.M. in the first floor Atrium of the LOB. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list

You can testify in person or email your statement to the committee [PDtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:PDtestimony@cga.ct.gov). if you email your statement be sure to give your name and contact information and copy your legislator so he/she knows this bill is important to you. Find your legislator here [https://www.ctvotesforanimals.org/contact\\_your\\_legislator](https://www.ctvotesforanimals.org/contact_your_legislator):

Testimony in your own words is the most powerful. But here are a couple of points you might want to make:

- I support HB 5475, a bill which merely clarifies that local governments have the authority to issue rules regarding pet stores in their local communities.
- The language is founded in the principle of local control.
- Getting clarity reduces potential costly legal challenges while bringing CT cities and towns in line with the hundreds of others nationwide that already enjoy this authority with pet shops in their local community.
- I oppose the inhumane breeding of dogs, cats and rabbits many of whom come from out of state puppy mills for purchase in one of CT's 14 pet stores.
- I want the decision about whether these animals are sold in my town to be a decision made by my community.
- My town shouldn't have to spend precious local tax dollars defending what is already in their authority.
- Please have the Planning and Development Committee favorably consider HB 5475.