



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



Fighting Puppy Mills: Main Points

Why should Stamford consider local action?

Because **CT's law became unenforceable** in 2017 when the USDA removed the names of breeders/brokers in its online database; neither the DoAg nor the public now have any reliable or easy way to access commercial breeder inspection reports, and thus no way to evaluate conditions.

Stamford would join over 300 localities across the nation that have already put a stop to the sale of cruelly bred puppy mill¹ dogs. Two states (CA and MD) have passed statewide bans. Here in CT, HB 5386 (2019) passed out of committee but died on the House calendar after it was loaded up with bear hunting amendments and accompanying threat of a filibuster – we had over 90 state representatives pledging support to pass language similar to Maryland's ban. Sales ban are also under consideration in PA, RI, MA, WA, OR, NY, and HI.

Are CT pet stores who sell commercially bred dogs dealing with puppy mills?

A review of CT Dept. of Agriculture importation records² for pet shop sales from Nov 2018 through Mar 2019 shows that **Connecticut pet stores who sell commercially bred dogs have recently imported dogs from some of the worst puppy mills in the country** (HSUS Horrible Hundred³). For a copy of the report, please go to http://bit.ly/known_traffickers_CTshops.



Most pet stores partner with rescues—they do not sell.

Most Connecticut pet shops – **over one hundred**, including the largest and most successful chains (PetSmart, Petco) and thriving mom-and-pop shops – do NOT sell dogs, but instead partner with animal rescues⁴ and shelters for adoption events. *The dozen or so CT stores that still sell dogs are outliers in their own industry!*

More than 70 pet stores in CT have taken the HSUS Puppy Friendly Pet Store Pledge to not sell dogs, including 5 in Stamford: Choice Pet Supply (High Ridge Rd), Fish Bowl Pets (Hope St), Natural Pet Supply (Hope St), Sport-N-Life Dist. (Glenbrook Rd), and Pet Valu (High Ridge Rd).

Responsible breeders never sell to pet shops, but rather directly to consumers.

A review of Codes of Ethics for the National Breed Clubs representing all 178 dog breeds recognized by the AKC found that 96% of National Breed Clubs include ethics statements that breeders should not sell to pet stores.

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¹ Puppy mills are large-scale commercial breeding operations (often housing between 50 to 1,000 breeding dogs) where profits are given a higher priority than the well-being of the dogs.

² The Humane Society of the United States reviewed Certificates of Origin from Connecticut's Department of Agriculture for the time period 11/1/2018 through 3/25/2019.

³ <https://www.humanesociety.org/horrible-hundred>

⁴ Typically, rescues who partner are known by their respective pet stores' communities and have the benefit of transparency afforded by being 501c3 organizations. Note: Anti-cruelty laws would apply for any rescue with poor animal welfare conditions. CT's anti-cruelty laws can be found at CGS 53-247 (a) (neglect) and CGS 53-147 (b) (malicious/intentional cruelty).