

# **Planning and Development Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT**

**Bill No.:** HB-6832

AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF DOGS,

**Title:** CATS AND RABBITS IN PET SHOPS.

**Vote Date:** 3/12/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/3/2025

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Planning and Development Committee.

## **CO-SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Rep. Jason Doucette, 13<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep. Jonathan Jacobson, 148<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep. Michael "MJ" Shannon, 117<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep. Kate Farrar, 20<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep. Kerry S. Wood, 29<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep. Raghib Allie-Brennan, 2<sup>nd</sup> District.

Rep. Eilish Collins Main, 146<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep. Tom Delnicki, 14<sup>th</sup> District.

Sen. MD Rahman, 4<sup>th</sup> District.

Rep. Jane M. Garibay, 60<sup>th</sup> District.

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill aims to prevent breed discrimination, enhance animal welfare, and improve public safety. It prohibits breed-specific dog ordinances, strengthens cruelty prevention laws, regulates wild and domestic animal ownership, and bans the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet shops to combat unethical breeding practices. The goal is to promote responsible pet ownership and encourage adoption from shelters instead of supporting the mass breeding operations.

## RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Stephanie Harris, Senior Legislative Affairs Manager, Animal Legal Defense Fund](#): Supports this bill on the premise that breeders in the U.S. are regulated under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), enforced by the USDA. However, the AWA's standards are minimal, and many USDA-licensed breeders still operate substandard facilities with poor conditions for animals, such as overcrowding and limited human interaction. Despite violations, the USDA often fails to enforce meaningful penalties, like revoking licenses, and typically issues warnings or small fines. This chronic lack of enforcement has led to animal protection largely relying on outside organizations. Many Connecticut pet shops source puppies from large puppy mill brokers, contributing to the spread of genetic diseases and behavioral problems in these animals.

[Annie Hornish, CT Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the United States](#): Supports this bill due to animal welfare and consumer protection concerns, eight states and nearly 500 localities have banned the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops. Connecticut pet shops are known to import puppies from large, cruel puppy mills, especially from the Midwest. Many of these puppies suffer from health issues, leading to high veterinary bills and heartbreak for consumers. These puppies are often born in unsanitary conditions, separated from their mothers too early, and transported in stressful conditions, increasing their chances of illness. They are then placed in pet stores where they are handled by inexperienced staff and exposed to further health risks.

[Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association \(HSVMA\)](#): The HSVMA offered their support stating how dog breeding facilities do not see that the needs of their puppies are met sufficiently, and that the facilities fail to provide a decent quality of life for all the animals. Although the conditions in these mills vary widely in quality, puppy mills are typically operated with an emphasis on profits over animal welfare and the dogs often live in substandard conditions, housed for their entire reproductive lives in cages or runs, provided little to no positive human interaction or other forms of environmental enrichment, and minimal to no veterinary care.

[Chris Carty, Owner, Manchester Dog House](#): Opposes. The Dog House follows strict Department of Agriculture regulations, ensuring compliance through inspections and working only with USDA-licensed breeders. Their puppies receive regular veterinary care and exceed state requirements for welfare. He argues that this bill could create inconsistent regulations across towns, leading to confusion and potentially lower animal welfare standards. With 25 years of experience, they emphasize their ethical practices and warn that banning pet sales in Connecticut pet shops would push buyers toward unregulated sources, increasing the risk of scams, poor breeding conditions, and inadequate veterinary care.

[Stacey Ober, Government Relations Regional Manager, The American Kennel Club \(AKC\)](#): Opposes. The AKC argues that Connecticut already has strict pet store regulations ensuring consumer protections and pet health. They warn that banning pet retail sales could lead to increased imports of rescue animals with unknown health histories, raising public health risks. AKC also highlights the rise in online pet scams and the potential behavioral challenges of shelter animals. They believe consumers should have the freedom to choose pets from

various sources, including breeders, rescues, and regulated pet stores, rather than being limited by restrictive laws.

[Bryan Hurlburt, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Agriculture](#): Offered some general comments in response to this bill. Those being that Connecticut law requires pet shops to be licensed and regulated by the Department of Agriculture, ensuring compliance with health and zoning provisions (Section 22-344b of CT General Status). Pet shops must have animals examined by a licensed veterinarian before sale and at regular intervals. If an animal sold becomes ill or has a congenital defect within a certain period, the "pet shop lemon law" allows consumers to seek reimbursement for treatment or costs. While these protections apply to pets from pet shops, animals adopted from rescues or online organizations do not have the same legal safeguards.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

[Mary Jean Agostini](#): Supports this bill, as these pet shops are un-humane and uncontrolled.

[Constance Alexios](#): She strongly supports this bill. She emphasizes the need to shut down or heavily regulate "puppy mills" due to their harmful practices, prioritizing profit over animal welfare. She also urges action to protect animals, as they rely on people to advocate for their well-being.

[Aniyizhai Annamalai](#): Supports. She argues that local control is necessary due to failures by both the federal and state governments to address the issue of out-of-state breeders raising animals in poor, cruel conditions. She also views the practice of selling commercially bred animals in pet stores as outdated and socially unacceptable.

[Anonymous Anonymous](#): Supports CTVFA. The message highlights the inhumane conditions of large-scale breeding operations, such as puppy mills, where animals suffer from poor living conditions, lack of veterinary care, and genetic issues. It advocates for allowing municipalities to regulate the sale of animals in pet stores, which would help reduce impulse purchases, cut demand for cruel breeding practices, and promote pet adoption from shelters. The message points to over 400 localities and multiple states that have enacted similar laws, urging Connecticut to follow suit and empower local communities to make decisions that align with their values regarding animal welfare.

[Anonymous Anonymous](#): Supports. The message criticizes the retail sale of animals, arguing that it treats them as mere commodities and often leads to impulse purchases by uninformed individuals. Many animals are surrendered, abandoned, or re-homed due to owners' lack of understanding of their care needs. This constant turnover overwhelms shelters, which are already at capacity, and creates mental health challenges for rescue workers who face the emotional toll of caring for sick and injured animals. The writer stresses the importance of adoption from shelters, where qualified individuals can responsibly adopt animals in need.

[Beth Anonymous](#): Support. Beth shares the story of their cat, Fin, who was abandoned at a shelter after being deemed undesirable by a for-profit kitten mill. Fin suffers from numerous rare genetic issues likely caused by inbreeding, leading to over \$15,000 in vet bills. She highlights the burden that pet stores place on shelters, which are already overcrowded and

underfunded. She emphasizes the need to reduce breeding practices that result in animals like Fin and advocate for supporting a bill to prevent the sale of animals in pet stores, encouraging adoption instead. She requests support for the animals who can't speak for themselves.

[Chris Anonymous](#): Supports. The message argues that dogs and cats in mills are kept in cruel, unsanitary conditions and urges Connecticut to take a stand against animal cruelty. It advocates for giving municipalities the power to ban pet stores that source animals from commercial sellers or breeders who maintain abusive and hazardous conditions.

[Anonymously Anonymous](#): Supports. The writer, a lifelong animal rights advocate, expresses concern about the sale of pets in stores, particularly after visiting All Pets Club in Southington, CT. They were disturbed by the sickly and neglected animals, which they believe came from puppy mills. The writer opposes breeders and supports rescues in Connecticut, advocating for a ban on pet stores selling animals due to poor care and lack of experienced staff.

[Jessica Barnes](#): Supports. The writer, who works at a dog rescue in Stamford, CT, describes the severe neglect and abuse faced by puppies sourced from puppy mills, as well as the lifelong suffering of the breeding dogs. She highlights the deplorable conditions these animals endure, being forced to breed for profit. She strongly urges the passing of the bill to help combat this cruelty and protect dogs from these inhumane practices.

[Jo-Anne Basil](#): Supports. The proposal would allow local governments in Connecticut to decide whether to permit the sale of pets in commercial pet stores within their communities. It aligns with Connecticut's principle of local control and reduces the workload of the Department of Agriculture by shifting decision-making to local authorities. The bill reflects widespread support among residents to stop the sale of commercially bred pets, giving communities a voice in determining what is best for them. It is framed as a reasonable, non-radical approach consistent with the state's governance style.

[Marissa Beaulieu](#): Supports. She describes a severe animal crisis in Connecticut, where animals are being neglected, abused, abandoned, and mistreated, resembling conditions in a third-world country. She's a rescuer who personally handles the aftermath, including medical care, training, and finding homes for animals abandoned by owners. She does this at their own expense, without support from local authorities. She calls for a ban on puppy mills and the sale of animals to address the overflow of animals in homes and shelters.

[Carolyn Behre](#): Supports. She urges Connecticut legislators to stop allowing businesses that profit from puppy mills in the state. She attached a flyer from the Animal Legal Defense Fund, highlighting the cruelty to mother dogs and the potential health issues passed on to puppies, which leads to emotional and financial loss for buyers, often with no recourse. They stress that these dogs often end up abandoned in overcrowded shelters and emphasize the availability of responsible AKC breeders and rescue dogs in Connecticut.

[Debra Bologna](#): Supports. "I have witnessed puppy mill production in our state. We must stop it. No animal deserves to be forced to produce litter after litter until death. And live in subpar

conditions. This is pure cruelty. Stop this money-making venture, at a cost to many different breeds.”

[Dawn Boothe](#), [Karen Burke](#), [Corinne Collins](#), [Robin Fitzsimmons Meng](#), [Grant Manager](#) and [Nicole Bruck](#), [Director, Animals-R-Family](#): Supports. “The overwhelming majority of Connecticut pet shops, including the largest and most successful chains (PetSmart, PetCo) and thriving mom-and-pop shops, do NOT sell dogs, cats, and rabbits, but instead partner with animal rescues and shelters for adoption events. The sale of pet supplies and services is a more profitable business model.”

[Nick Cardillicchio](#): Supports. “As a volunteer with a Boxer rescue organization run by my wife, I have personally helped rehabilitate many dogs rescued from commercial breeding facilities. The conditions these animals arrive in tell a devastating story of systemic failure in our current regulatory framework. We regularly receive dogs from desperate pet store customers whose newly purchased puppies arrive with severe, untreated medical conditions - from persistent diarrhea and parasitic infections to untreated broken bones and trauma.”

[Elizabeth Chambers](#): Supports. Thirty-five states have either municipal or statewide bans on the sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits in pet stores, including New York. In contrast, Connecticut has no such bans, and even Iowa, a state known for puppy mills, has bans in two municipalities.

[Nancy Esposito](#), [Bridgeport Cat Rescue Inc](#): Supports. “There are so many stray cats needing homes in Bridgeport. Cats & kittens found outside and/or surrendered and/or humanely trapped are up for adoption through rescues like mine or through city shelters. These animals need homes. There are too many other cats in rescues & shelters needing homes or maybe put down due to lack of space.”

[Lynee Gomez](#) and [David Gorman](#): Supports. Pet stores that sell puppies have been linked to outbreaks of zoonotic diseases, leading to hospitalizations of both customers and staff.

The following individuals have submitted written testimony in support to what has been stated above:

[Amy Bellucci](#)

[Marta Bertsos](#)

[James Bias](#), [Executive Director, CT Humane Society](#)

[Lisa Bonaldi](#)

[Casey Bradshaw](#)

[Jason Brand](#)

[Mark Brault](#)

[Gwen George-Bruno](#)

[Jessica Bryant](#)

[Jill Burmahl](#)

[Robin Cannamela](#), [President, Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates](#)

[Laura Capellini](#)

[Lisa Caplan](#)

[Nora Carlson](#)  
[Patricia Cartolano](#)  
[Joshua Caskey](#)  
[Ian Cassell](#)  
[Nikki Catina](#)  
[Celeste Cobb](#)  
[Jaye Coderre](#)  
[Rodrigo ColladaDominguez](#)  
[Amanda Conlogue](#)  
[Rosemary Cotnoir](#)  
[Jan Cunningham](#)  
[Amaia De Arcos](#)  
[Nancy Decrisantis](#)  
[Valerie DeVito](#)  
[Margaret Devlin](#)  
[Ann Diamond](#)  
[Paul DiGianvittorio](#)  
[Nicholas DiNino](#)  
[Cynthia Dodd](#)  
[James Dolce](#)  
[Rosamund Downing](#)  
[Barbara Doyle](#)  
[Brittany Duarte](#)  
[Ashley Dwyer](#)  
[Aiden Coleman-Eckstrom](#)  
[Liz Ego](#)  
[Darcey Ellis](#)  
[Kerrie Espuga](#)  
[Gary Farkash](#)  
[Kathryn Farnsworth](#)  
[Lori DaSilva-Fiano](#)  
[Dianna Firestone](#)  
[John Finch](#)  
[Doreen Fleming](#)  
[Matthew Foley](#)  
[Meaghan Foley](#)  
[Mary Fox](#)  
[Liz Franzetti](#)  
[John Frascatore](#)  
[Carol Frattaroli](#)  
[Anastasia Freccia, \*Shelter Manager, Lucky Dog Refuge\*](#)  
[Rossana G](#)  
[Lori Gagne Pendleton](#)  
[Anne Gannon](#)  
[Fawn Garbonola](#)  
[Evan Gardner](#)  
[Rorie Gerschwer](#)  
[Gina Giannone](#)  
[Stephanie Gintont](#)

[Laurie Goodman](#)  
[Ellen Gottfried](#)  
[Sherry Grant](#)  
[Nancylee Griffin](#)  
[Kara Guerin](#)  
[Bridget Guzzardi](#)  
[John Halan](#)  
[Mark Halan](#)  
[Charles Hale](#)  
[Marion Hamilton](#)  
[Patrica Harmon](#)  
[Karen Hart](#)  
[Dr. Austen Hayes](#)  
[Michelle Hayes](#)  
[Diana Holcombe](#)  
[Sarah Hoxsie](#)  
[Sally Hubbard](#)  
[Joanne Huber](#)  
[Cynthia Humphreville](#)  
[Stephanie Itza](#)  
[Claire Jackson](#)  
[Jean Jerbert](#)  
[Blythe Churchill-Joell](#)  
[Kristen Jones](#)  
[Barbara Joy](#)  
[Edward Joy](#)  
[Jeffrey Jump](#)  
[Carla Karle](#)  
[Sue Kautz](#)  
[Craig Kennedy](#)  
[Suriya Khan](#)  
[Barbara Kil](#)  
[Jeanna King](#)  
[Susan King](#)  
[Melanie Kucko](#)  
[Kim Langer](#)  
[Natalie Langlois](#)  
[Sharron Laplante](#)  
[Karen Laski](#)  
[Gerolynn Laukevicz](#)  
[Susan Lennon](#)  
[Cathrine LeRose](#)  
[Heather Linder](#)  
[Susan Linker](#)  
[Elaine Loyd](#)  
[Maria Lovello](#)  
[Lenora Lovett](#)  
[Laura Lynch](#)  
[Hannah Machuga](#)

[Kathleen Magner](#)  
[Melissa Magnotta](#)  
[Robin Majlak](#)  
[Valerie Maloney](#)  
[Kate Marchwinski](#)  
[Kelly Marchwinski](#)  
[Maureen Marchwinski](#)  
[Janet Marineau](#)  
[Anne Mazzone](#)  
[Mary McCarthy](#)  
[Shirley McCarthy](#)  
[Alexa McCloughan](#)  
[Joan McCoy](#)  
[Jennifer McKeeman](#)  
[Michelle Mehan](#)  
[Kirstin Mende](#)  
[Mackenzie Merrick](#)  
[Len Messina](#)  
[Marty Miller](#)  
[Noreen Mola](#)  
[GianMarco Montanari](#)  
[Linnea Moore](#)  
[Danielle Morrison](#)  
[Debbie Mortimer](#)  
[Vicki Morton](#)  
[Mary Munrk](#)  
[Dorrie Nang](#)  
[Sara Nasshan](#)  
[Lisa Navarra](#)  
[Christine O'Neill](#)  
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[Sian Mimkoff](#)  
[Adam Noren](#)  
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[Valeria Ogle](#)  
[Jill Olejniczak](#)  
[Thomas Olson](#)  
[Jennifer Pantoliano](#)  
[Sandra Pappas](#)  
[Dr. Crystal Park](#)  
[Gail Peck](#)  
[Nancy Pelletier](#)  
[Ed Pennick](#)  
[Karen Perrone](#)  
[Carol Pierce](#)  
[Linda Pleva](#)  
[Mary Poczabut](#)  
[Aneta Podsiadlo](#)  
[Andrea Pozzuoli](#)



[S Prince](#)  
[Alasandra Primavera](#)  
[Laurie Cecarelli Prizzi](#)  
[Beverly Propen](#)  
[Patricia Austin-Puccio](#)  
[Elizabeth Quattrochi](#)  
[Marsha Rabe](#)  
[Terry Ramos](#)  
[Julia Regan](#)  
[Johanna Retalis](#)  
[Ali Rice](#)  
[Dorothy Rich](#)  
[Nicole Rivard](#)  
[Evelia Rivera](#)  
[Karina Roinestad](#)  
[Alexandra Romanova](#)  
[Betty Ronson](#)  
[Simona Rose](#)  
[Karl Rothman](#)  
[Heather Harrison-Rouilla](#)  
[Krista Rubino](#)  
[Wendy Ruggeri](#)  
[Kristen Rzasa](#)  
[Dr. G.S.](#)  
[Alison Schroeer](#)  
[Keith Schuman](#)  
[Michael Schwert](#)  
[Monica Schwert](#)  
[Julia Scott](#)  
[Ellen Seger](#)  
[Mary Sena](#)  
[Cynthia Sennewald](#)  
[Misha Shahzada](#)  
[Audrey Sharp](#)  
[Dianna Shattuck](#)  
[Katherine Shores](#)  
[Iolanda Silva](#)  
[Diane Smith](#)  
[Nicole Smith](#)  
[Daniela Soto](#)  
[Katherine Stapp](#)  
[Jessica Stauder](#)  
[Martina Steed](#)  
[Sarah Stempein](#)  
[Nancy Stimac](#)  
[Kathleen Sullivan](#)  
[Deb Stufkin](#)  
[Greg Swedberg](#)  
[Matt Tellez](#)

[Diane Therrien](#)  
[Thomas Tierney](#)  
[Janice Tirinzonie](#)  
[Mary Toepfer](#)  
[Sharon Torpey](#)  
[Christa Trip](#)  
[Diana Vidal-Tututi](#)  
[Traci Umbreit](#)  
[Benjamin Varone](#)  
[Christine Vaughn](#)  
[Petra Veneri](#)  
[Jamila Viandier](#)  
[Erika vincenti](#)  
[Jennifer Walker](#)  
[Jaimie Wallace](#)  
[Sally Walshe](#)  
[Sally Westcott](#)  
[Melissa Weyrick](#)  
[Carla White](#)  
[Janine Whitley](#)  
[Mandy Wieting](#)  
[Marlene Wilhelm](#)  
[Karen Williams](#)  
[Gina Wilson](#)  
[Nan Zyla-Wisensale](#)  
[Sandy Witowski](#)  
[Bonnie Wojtowicz](#)  
[Amy Wolff](#)  
[John Yoke](#)  
[Nicole Young](#)  
[William Zapata](#)  
[Dominick Zero](#)  
[Susy Zinicola](#)  
[Alison Zyla](#)  
[Mary Fox](#)  
[John Halan](#)  
[Mark Halan](#)  
[Carla Karle](#)  
[Janet Marineau](#)  
[Anne Mazzone](#)  
[Jill Olejniczak](#)  
[Lynn Cannamela](#)  
[Anonymous Anonymous](#)

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

[Jasmine Abbott](#): Opposes. Is an employee at a pet shop that treats these pets as family. She's worried that these animals won't go to a loving homes, as the way she has made them feel loved.

[Thomas Allison](#): Opposes. She argues that banning the sale of pets in stores won't solve the problem but instead shifts the market to unregulated underground sources. She highlighted that most puppies in the U.S. are obtained from places other than pet stores, and banning stores would harm both pets and jobs. She also points out that Connecticut pet stores are among the most regulated, ensuring high standards and consumer protection, unlike rescue organizations that lack similar regulations. She argues that banning pet stores could lead to more unregulated sales and advocate for Connecticut to set a higher standard, focusing on addressing the root causes of the issue rather than eliminating a regulated source.

[Megan Altieri](#): Opposes. She explains that Connecticut pet stores already have strict laws and regulations that they follow to source these animals. Lemon Law is provided to each one of these animals that get sold at the store, which backyard breeders and rescue organizations don't have. She lastly argues that banning the sale of these animals, will open for unregulated rescue organizations and create more purchases outside of the state.

[Anonymous Anonymous](#): Opposes. The message argues that purchasing animals from pet stores provides a sense of security, as these stores offer warranties and guarantees, and are regulated, which helps ensure the animals' origins. It suggests that shutting down pet stores could push people to unregulated breeders, increasing the risk of scams and leaving animals without a place to go. The author believes people should have the right to choose how and where they acquire pets.

[Anonymous Anonymous](#): The message opposes this bill but advocates strong support for specifically, Safari Stan's Pet Center in New Haven, CT. They highlight the store's exceptional customer service, knowledgeable staff, and the high level of care provided to animals. The writer appreciates the transparency and educational approach the store takes with potential pet owners. They argue that banning responsible pet stores like Safari Stan's would limit options for pet lovers and negatively impact both the animals and the employees. The writer opposes the bill, believing that ethical pet stores play an important role in the community and should not be penalized.

[Anonymous Anonymous](#): Opposes. The message expresses their concern that banning these sales would lead to more backyard breeders and put more dogs into shelters. These pet stores are good for matching up animals, to the people's personalities.

[Anonymously Anonymous](#): Opposes. The message describes a visit to a store in Stamford, where puppies were being posted for "adoption" but was rather for sale in deplorable conditions. The puppies were kept in dirty crates, some for over four months, with one even being over a year old. The writer was deeply upset by the sight of a particularly sad and depressed puppy. They were able to rescue the puppy but strongly advocate for banning the sale of animals in such inhumane conditions, describing the store as filthy, dark, and harmful to the animals' well-being.

[Angela Aquino](#): Opposes. "I myself am a pet owner who has bought animals from a pet shop and have had the best animals come from them."

[Emma Arsenault](#): Opposes. The writer, who has worked at a pet store for three years, emphasizes that the animals are well cared for, with clean enclosures and proper nutrition. She argues that the proposed bill would harm small businesses, take away jobs, and

encourage unregulated, illegal sales of animals. She also notes that under Connecticut law, pet stores cannot sell animals from uninspected breeders, and they warn that banning sales in stores would drive people to untrustworthy, unregulated breeders, leading to scams.

[Marianne Bimote](#): Opposes. She is a cashier at a local pet store who expresses joy in helping family's bond with their new pets. They take pride in sharing their knowledge of animal care and products, forming lasting relationships with customers. The writer is dedicated to upholding high standards and regulations to ensure the well-being of the pets and their new owners.

[Alisa Clements, Deputy Director, Pet Advocacy Network](#), and [Alyssa Hurley](#): Opposes. The Pet Advocacy Network represents the pet care industry, advocating for responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. She emphasizes that Connecticut already has some of the strictest pet store regulations, requiring USDA-licensed breeders, veterinary care, and transparent sourcing records. She argues this bill would create regulatory confusion, especially for businesses with multiple locations, making compliance difficult. The bill could harm small, family-owned pet stores, and they believe efforts should focus on supporting these businesses rather than imposing additional challenges.

The following individuals have submitted written testimony opposing the bill:

[Scott C](#)

[Darcie Cello](#)

[Linda Ciancimino](#)

[Diane Connelly](#)

[Madison Davey](#)

[Susan DeSilver](#)

[Dina Devine](#)

[June Di Marzo](#)

[Yvonne Ferraro](#)

[Jerry Ferreira](#)

[Faith Flemming](#)

[Jill Flemming](#)

[Gerald Flemming](#)

[Tara Flemming](#)

[Edmond Foucault](#)

[Patricia Fox](#)

[Linda Gilbert](#)

[Sai Govada](#)

[Dennis Hamilton](#)

[Victoria Hamilton](#)

[David Hartley](#)

[John Henkel](#)

[Margie Huoppi](#)

[Natalie Jacko](#)

[Julie Jussaume](#)

[Matthew Labozzetta](#)

[Susan Marucci](#)

[Amanda Mayo, Assistant Manager, Furever Pets](#)

[Martha McCormick](#)

[Janet McLaughlin, President, Yankee Pug Dog Club](#)

[Johanna Miller](#)

[Anupama Mohan](#)

[Yazlyn Molina](#)

[Samantha Montanaro](#)

[Erin Munroe](#)

[Jennifer Obydonnov](#)

[Peter Noel](#)

[Irene Ouellette](#)

[Lucy Ochocki](#)

[Tracey Ozendo](#)

[Heather Paquin](#)

[Dave Pavelka](#)

[Jerry Pleban, \*President, All Pets Club\*](#)

[Zedd R](#)

[Stephanie O'Reilly](#)

[Sydney Reinert](#)

[Jelissa Reyes](#)

[Sadie Robinson](#)

[Cody Robinson](#)

[Mark Samaam](#)

[Jesse Sarno](#)

[Tiera Scretchen](#)

[Terry Spears](#)

[Pamela Stedman](#)

[Blake Thorkelson](#)

[Sharon Torpey](#)

[John Vaught](#)

[Joseph Vernuccio](#)

[Anonymous Anonymous](#)

## **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

[Anonymous Anonymous](#): The message urges Connecticut legislators to address the growing issue of animal abuse, neglect, and abandonment, particularly concerning stray cats. It highlights the financial struggles of independent rescues and organizations in covering medical costs for saving animals. The author proposes reallocating funds from other areas,

like air quality, transportation, and the XL Center, to create an emergency medical fund for strays. The letter also suggests providing vouchers for spaying and neutering and considering birth control options for community cats, as they are multiplying rapidly. Additionally, it points out that animal control tends to prioritize dogs, leaving cats overlooked.

[Anonymous ANONYMOUS](#): The message condemns irresponsible breeding practices in which animals are bred solely for profit, often resulting in genetic issues, aggression, and poor health. It argues that these practices exploit animals without regard for their well-being. The author calls for an immediate ban on the sale of animals in pet stores, particularly those bred irresponsibly or sold by brokers, and advocates for a major overhaul of pet store practices, including addressing the sale of animals from the black market.

**Reported by: Austin Adil**

**Date: 3/25/2025**