

Task Force 2013 – “Ways to improve the puppy industry and ensure healthy animals in Connecticut”

My name is Jill Bregy. I am a Connecticut resident. I have been actively involved in the world of dogs since 1966. I am an active AKC Judge, was National Education Chair of my Breed Club for 3 years, running educational seminars around the country for judges and members.

Frankly, I believe that it is very difficult to pass effective and enforceable legislation in any state without the benefit of input of those who are responsible dog owners and breeders. These few people are those who are members of Kennel Clubs and who actively run programs to educate the public. The Task Force should include representatives from Connecticut –AKC member – Kennel Clubs.

I have served on a number of Boards and as President of All- Breed Clubs, single breed Clubs and was also one of the founding members of the Colonial Dog Breeds Group which was formed in 1969 to protect and educate the public before they bought or bred a dog. We literally educated the public on why NOT to breed their dogs, to where to go to buy a dog – whether from a private breeder or shelter, etc. and whether they should own a dog, at all, and if so, what the basic responsibilities are to dog ownership. This program, for the most part, put “puppy mill purveyors” in the area out of business.

Educating people before they buy or breed and dogs, is basically, going back to the idea of the Colonial Dog Breeds Group, outlined briefly above. I would suggest a link, (*Looking for a puppy in Connecticut*) on a state web site giving those who link in, the names of representatives from area clubs to contact for more education and information. There should also be a link to a list of shelters. This will be the most effective way to ensure healthy animals in Connecticut and to protect the welfare of dogs.

As I write this, I realize that there could also be a link by the state of vaccination protocol – we list this on our own “breed specific” sites.

In the early 70’s, I spoke to the then Committee on the Environment on the importance of passing a law on the intra and inter-state sale of puppies under the age of 8 weeks, - which passed – and which has done a great deal to protect dogs in this State.

One final note: I understand Massachusetts has passed a law preventing the trucking in and sale from the back of 18 wheelers of dogs being imported from the South. Such sales are taking place in Connecticut in the parking lots of dog supply companies under the premise of “rescue”. I hope this task force will address this issue.

October 16, 2013