

Support for HB 2804

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Prevent Puppies and Kittens from Being Sold in Pet Stores

I understand that this bill will not interfere with dog breeding by people who love certain breeds, want to maintain working-dog and specialty breeds, want to improve the breed and/or want show both dogs and cats. It is also clear that pet stores can be successful by selling pet supplies and hosting rescues and shelters for dog and cat adoptions. There is also no shortage of cats and dogs on a national scale.

So, I just want to say that this bill needs to be passed to stop the puppy mills that cause parent dogs to have such truly awful lives. I am a Red Rover volunteer. RedRover is an organization which, among other things works with law enforcement, such as sheriff departments, after they have investigated animal cruelty situations and find they need to go into a facility, arrest the owners and take the animals as evidence. RedRover Volunteers, under staff supervision, set up and maintain the temporary animal shelter for as long as the law requires. The cases include (but are not limited to) activities such as dog fighting, hoarding and puppy mills. I have been on a few RedRover deployments including ones that deal with dogs taken from puppy mills. The most recent example is in Stevens County in Washington last September.

The breeding dogs in such breeding facilities have a lot of untreated medical conditions. Skin is raw and there are bald patches or the fur is so matted with filth combined with urine make it so hard that it can't be brushed, eyes frequently have obvious things wrong with them that cause them to be cloudy or "gummed-up." The teeth are in horrible condition and I have seen ones literally fall out because the gums are in such bad shape. The dogs frequently can't walk properly, likely because of the ridiculously tiny cages they have to live in. There are dogs with terrible tumors and I couldn't believe how a dog could possibly have puppies like they do. Many dogs are often terrified and it is obvious they have not had loving interactions with humans. I really can't tell you how awful the conditions of the dogs are and the one good way it appears that it can be prevented is through stopping the demand from pet shops. When I look at the pitiful breeding dogs, I feel that it is so unjust humans cause this misery for money. People rely on dogs for valuable services too numerous to list here but they include law enforcement, search and rescue, military bomb searches, guide dogs for the blind, service dogs for a multitude of needs not to mention just being great company for a lot of people. To allow such intelligent animals have a life of pure hell and misery is just not right and to stop sales of puppy mill dogs would be a good start.