

# CONNECTICUT PUPPY MILL LAW FACTS



In the 2009 Legislative Session, ASPCA®, CT Votes for Animals and Westport Coalition Against Puppy Mills worked tirelessly to hold pet shops accountable for the animals they sell.

- **ACO ACCESS TO RABIES RECORDS** Authorizes Animal Control Officers to require veterinarians to provide rabies vaccination records for dogs or cats who have bitten.
- **“PET LEMON LAW”** Provides for the compensation of consumers should a dog or cat purchased from a pet store become ill:
  - **RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF CONSUMERS Illness:** Consumers have 20 days (previously 15) from the day of sale to submit a letter to a pet shop from a veterinarian of the consumer’s choosing stating that the animal is ill from a condition existing at the time of sale or has died from such illness. **Congenital defect:** Consumers have 6 months from the day of sale to submit a letter to a pet shop from a veterinarian of the consumer’s choosing stating that the animal has a congenital defect that adversely affects or will adversely affect the animal’s health or has died as a result of such defect. **Note:** Consumers seeking a replacement animal or full refund must return the original animal unless deceased. Consumers seeking only reimbursement of veterinary expenses need not return the animal.
- **DUTIES OF PET SHOPS Replacement/refund:** Pet shops shall, at the option of the consumer, (1) replace a dog or cat or (2) refund in full the purchase price of such dog or cat. **Veterinary expenses:** Pet shops shall reimburse the costs of veterinary care up to \$500 (previously \$200) for any illness or congenital defect whether or not the consumer returns the animal for a replacement/refund.
- **INCENTIVIZING FELINE SPAY/NEUTER** Pet shops are exempt from the “Pet Lemon Law” with respect to cats who are spayed/neutered prior to sale.
- **PENALTY** (1) Up to \$500 per animal pursuant to a civil action instituted by the State Attorney General upon complaint of the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. (2) Potential private right of action by consumer.
- **IDENTIFICATION AND REGULATION OF DOG BREEDERS/ DEALERS** Provides for the education of consumers regarding the origins of dogs sold in pet shops, and regulation of out-of state entities:
  - **CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN** Pet shops must provide the purchaser of a dog with a “certificate of origin” stating the name and address of both the breeder and dealer and must also file the certificate with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture no later than two days after such sale. Further, pet shops must conspicuously post this identifying information no more than ten feet from the location where the dog is displayed for sale.
  - **OUT-OF-STATE BREEDERS/DEALERS** Out-of-state breeders and dealers that sell dogs to Connecticut pet shops must be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and any applicable state agency.
  - **PENALTY** Up to \$100 and/or up to 30 days imprisonment per violation, per day.