

Your Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Date

Senator _____
Address

Dear Senator:

S.1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005, has been introduced and would greatly expand the scope of the Animal Welfare act. For the first time, retail sales of dogs and cats by breeders of those animals would be covered. I am opposed to the proposed bill for the following reasons:

- The use of numbers to determine whether a kennel should be licensed is not valid criteria. A breeder can have 12 litters of year of healthy, tested dogs raised in a clean environment (licensing now required under proposed AWA changes), and another one can have 1 litter a year (no licensing required) that are substandard, sick, raised in filth and sold at the local flea market.
- The requirement of USDA licensing will severely impact cat fanciers at the hobby breeding level, if it does not destroy their breeding programs completely.
- The legislation would require some dog fanciers to cut back breeding to stay under the limit for USDA licensing and avoid having to build a kennel. In many areas having a USDA license would automatically make you a commercial kennel, requiring you to get a conditional use permit which can be vetoed by your neighbors and meet setback requirements that might require 20 acres or more.
- Rescue organizations will be in all probability eliminated as they will never be able to comply with USDA regulations which are written to cover commercial-scale breeding facilities. Even the smallest of rescue organizations sell 25 dogs/cats in one year.
- The bill will attempt to regulate sales through the internet. The internet has become a valuable tool to connect both breeders and rescue organizations with the public. The internet provides valuable information to assist potential buyers with needed criteria for selecting and purchasing a cat/dog. It is not the duty of the government to inspect the homes of private citizens or rescue organizations and license them prior to use of the internet for sales.
- PAWS will change the historic separation of commercial breeding facilities and enter the private sector. This will only lead to more regulation in the future as animal rights activists continue to hammer at the government to control the breeding of pets and the eventual elimination of pets altogether.

Very truly yours,