

Legan Rose

From: Eileen Barkatt <eileen.barkatt@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 9:48 AM
To: Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (District 17); Rep. Bryan Posthumus (District 90); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); jamiagreene@house.mi.gov; Legan Rose
Subject: Please support HB4838

Based on below please submit a card voicing my support of HB 4838 in today's Government Operations Committee meeting.

Eileen Barkatt
Clarkston

Good morning Committee Members,

I hope this email finds you well. I am a resident of Clarkston and a lifelong Michigander.

I am writing this morning to urge you to support House Bill 4838 which seeks to ban retail sales of dogs, cats and rabbits in Michigan.

I believe this legislation is crucial for several reasons:

- **Addressing Lack of Oversight:**

- Many retail pet businesses operate with minimal oversight, allowing inhumane practices to go unchecked.
- Retailers are not mandated to microchip, spay, or neuter animals, resulting in increased strays and overpopulation.
- These businesses often are not required to report when an animal dies, leading to neglect and mistreatment.
 - For example, Petland of Novi has been cited for allowing animals to die in their care due to lack of treatment for medical issues as recently as 2023 (source: Humane Society)

- **Improving Consumer Protection:**

- Many pets sold in retail stores suffer from undetected congenital conditions or other health issues that result in high veterinary costs for unsuspecting buyers.
- Retail pet stores often use predatory lending practices allowing consumers to take home a dog for a small fraction of total price but with high double digit interest rates
- Adoption from shelters often includes spaying/neutering, vaccinations, and health checks, providing more transparency and assurance to pet owners.

- **Preventing Impulse Purchases:**

- **Curbing Inhumane Breeding Practices:**

- Retail sales often source animals from puppy mills and large-scale breeding operations.
- These establishments frequently prioritize profit over animal welfare.

- **Supporting Ethical Breeding Practices:**

- A ban on retail sales will shift demand towards responsible breeders who prioritize the health and well-being of animals.
- Responsible breeders typically ensure animals are well-cared for and
- Reduces the likelihood of pets being abandoned or surrendered due to lack of preparation.
- Ensures that pet ownership is a well-considered, lifelong commitment

- **Decreasing Shelter Overcrowding:**

- Pet stores contribute to overpopulation by supplying a constant influx of animals without addressing the existing surplus in shelters.
- Encouraging adoption helps manage the shelter population and reduces the number of animals euthanized due to lack of space.
- maintain higher standards of health and genetic quality.

- **Aligning with Proven Successes:**

- California, New York, Colorado, Main, Maryland, Illinois, Washington and Oregon already have bans or heavy restrictions on sales of pets in retail establishments
- Said jurisdictions with similar bans have seen positive results, including lower rates of animal abandonment and better overall animal health.
- Data from these regions show a correlation between retail bans and decreased shelter intake rates.

I am part of a group which has been pushing for such a ban in Berkley, Michigan where a retail pet store opened in early 2023. The store owner has a documented history of sourcing from puppy mills and selling sick dogs among other unethical business practices. There have been challenges in passing such an ordinance in a municipality where a retail pet store already exists and the end result was an ordinance which bans future retail locations but allows the current one to continue operations. HB 4838 would ensure this cannot happen in any other municipalities.

I thank you for your time and encourage your support for this bill which can move Michigan into the future and away from outdated practices of animal neglect, abuse and cruelty.

Best regards,
Eileen Barkatt
Clarkston

Legan Rose

From: Molly Magnotte <magnottefam@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 10:41 AM
To: Legan Rose
Cc: Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (District 17); Rep. Bryan Posthumus (District 90); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Jaime Greene (District 65)
Subject: House Bill 4838

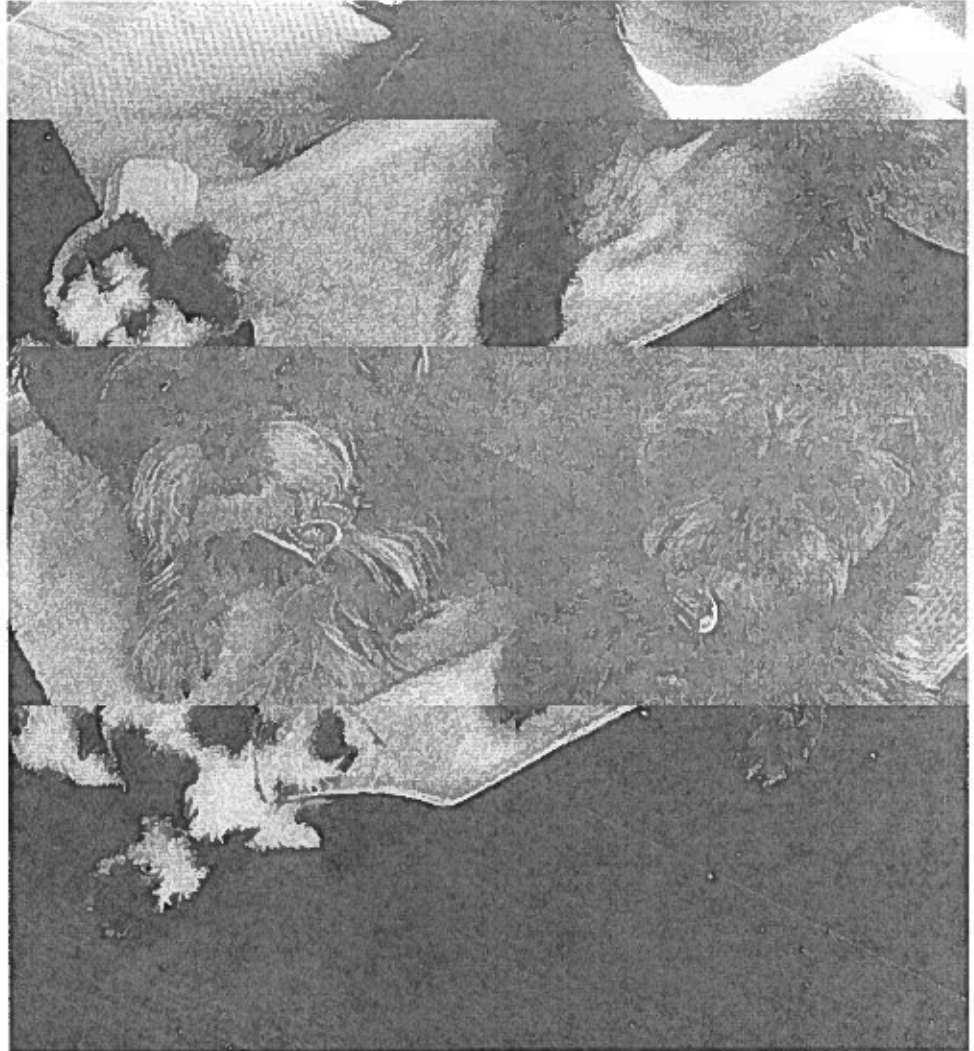
Dear Ms. Rose and members of the committee,

My name is Molly Magnotte and I live in Clinton Township. I'm writing to ask that you please submit a card voicing my support of House Bill 4838 in today's Government Operations Committee meeting. I care about the animals in our state and do not support their abuse in puppy mills. I hope that Michigan follows the example of other states and takes the important step to prohibit this cruel industry.

Thank you,

Molly Magnotte
(586) 719-6339

Attached is a photo of my two rescue pups cared for by an amazing reputable rescue group before



being adopted by our family.

Legan Rose

From: Lisa Phillips <gracierose08@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 12:56 PM
To: Legan Rose; Rep. Tullio Liberati (District 2); Rep. Laurie Pohutsky (District 17); Rep. Bryan Posthumus (District 90); Rep. Mike McFall (District 8); Rep. Jaime Greene (District 65)
Subject: Please Support the Humane Pet Store Bill (HB 4838)



Dear Fellow Citizens and Legislators,

I personally adopted a dog who had been used as a stud dog in a factory farm. Georgie, the little beige dog in the photo, was deaf from non-treatment of ear infections. Although he was estimated to be around 5 years old when I adopted him, he had apparently spent his entire life in a cage and had almost no normal motor skills or cognitive development.

He was afraid to walk on almost any surface other than cement. When I first adopted him, for weeks, when I took him outside, he stood frozen in place because he did not understand grass, or walks, or how to chase a ball. He had never climbed stairs, and indeed never learned to navigate them well. For 10 years, I carried a 25lb dog up and down the stairs in my house every morning and evening, because he was never able to develop the motor skills to successfully navigate them, from spending years caged.

He was terrified of people, having had little to no contact with them - but he loved my other dog, and she taught him how to be a more normal, happy dog.

I worked for a veterinary clinic for 5 years, so I can tell you first-hand the horrors of factory farm breeders, not just from my personal experience with one dog. I saw many dogs and cats, from rescue groups and loving animal adopters, animals who had diseases and behavioral challenges stemming from the cruelty and irresponsibility of the factory farm owners who had profited from them.

Dogs and cats raised in factory farm settings in inhumane conditions suffer terribly, both medically and psychologically. These animals display lifelong consequences from the horrific way they are treated. **Your support of this act (HB 4838)**

is not just for the animals themselves - it supports the health of our communities and the health of our values in how we treat each other.

Thank you for your hard work in making Michigan a safer, healthier, place to live.

Michigan
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