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PET AMIMAL WELFARE STATUTE OF 2005 (PAWS)

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH, NUTRITION, AND GENERAL LEGISLATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED NINTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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PET ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTE OF 2005 (PAWS)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2005

UNITED STATES SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH, NUTRITION, AND GENERAL LEGISLATION, OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY,
Washington, DC

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:31 p.m., in Room SD–G–50, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Rick Santorum (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Senator Santorum.

STATEMENT OF HON. RICK SANTORUM, A U.S. SENATOR FROM PENNSYLVANIA, CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH, NUTRITION, AND GENERAL LEGISLATION, OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

Senator SANTORUM. I will hit that a little harder next time.

Thank you all for being here. Let me welcome everybody to this hearing and thank all of you in attendance and particularly our witnesses for being here. The committee will come to order, and we just want to again thank everyone.

Over the past several years, since the original piece of legislation that was focused on revising the Animal Welfare Act to deal with changes in the buying and selling of animals, of dogs and cats in particular. It came to the farm bill and was stripped out of conference. I have been working with a variety of different groups, many of whom are represented here today, to try to get at a serious problem that exists that we will hear described in more detail today.

This has been a work in progress, and if there is one message that I want to leave with people who are here today is that it continues to be a work in progress. One of the reasons I wanted to hold this hearing is because we have seen, I even noticed in the paper today, in the Roll Call today, there is an effort out there on the Internet and other places to put out misconceptions about what this legislation does, and it is important to get on the record not only what this legislation does but those who are in support of this legislation, what our intent is, so we can continue to work together to work on the problems that we confront.

And those problems are serious. They are as a result of the changing economic situation with respect to the selling of dogs and cats and in particular with the advent of the Internet, the advent of sales from overseas into this country, the direct marketing of

those animals by Internet businesses and others. It is important for us to make sure that animals are treated humanely and that we, in fact, have proper consumer protections. These are animals that are in most cases, not in all, but in most cases are going to be in the homes and interacting with people, and we want to make sure that these animals are, in fact, healthy and, in fact, what people are paying for and not something that is going to cause not only an economic harm for people but, as we all know, those of us who are dog owners and cat owners, emotional harm to individuals.

I strongly believe that this legislation is important. I also strongly believe that we can arrive at a bill that will bring people together who in many cases have not worked together on issues because of the important problem that we are facing. And again, I want to reiterate, I want to thank all of the groups that are here today, our first panel and our second panel.

Working very closely with us, we have been able to make some major changes just in the last several months since we put forth the PAWS legislation that has gotten so much attention, we have worked with the pet stores who I know are represented here today—that is PIJAC as well as the AKC and other organizations who have expressed concern about various provisions of this legislation, the Veterinary Medical Association, all have expressed concern, have come to my office, and we have worked to try to sort through those. We will have a discussion about some of those, but candidly, we may not even discuss and bring up some of them, because they are issues that are now resolved.

My hope is that as a result of this hearing and the discussions that we have had leading up to this hearing that I can put out a discussion draft in the coming weeks so we can get further feedback and input from the public, those who are interested to make sure that we are all headed in the right direction, which is a good piece of consumer protection legislation as well as a strong animal welfare piece at the same time.

With that, I just, again, want to reiterate that it is my intention to work together to have all the responsible groups represented here today and others to be on the same page to make sure that this legislation is adopted. I have no intention, and I know, and I will ask, I have no intention of putting folks like me who have a dog and have bred a dog under Federal Government control, I have no intention of, and I think the people here have no intention of making sure that folks are hobby breeders or show breeders or fanciers or the like who do not breed lots of dogs and have lots of litters as defined in the bill; we are very clear about that, that we are talking about folks who are in large, in a sense, if you will, of production of dogs and cats for sale.

These are the folks that we are looking at. These are the folks who are, in many cases, already covered under the Animal Welfare Act. We want to make sure that that act, which was written a long time ago with terms that no longer apply has a modern interpretation and one that we will have consensus on.

So I again appreciate—I cannot tell you how much work has gone into it by the organizations represented here today to find common ground. We will continue to search for that common

ground, and I am hopeful that we will have a strong piece of legislation that deals with the problems that we confront.

Senator SANTORUM. With that, let me introduce our first panel. We have Ron Menaker, who is the chairman of the American Kennel Club. He is with us today; Dr. Henry Childers, who is the president of the American Veterinary Medical Association; Mr. John Hoffman, who is a dog fancier; and Mr. Michael Maddox, who is the legislative director of PIJAC, which is the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council.

Let me go first to you, Mr. Menaker, and Mr. Menaker is the Chairman of the Board of the American Kennel Club. He is from New York, and I want to in particular thank you for the various meetings that we have had over the past few months and the amount of time and effort that you and the AKC have spent in making sure that this legislation will have the kind of broad support that is needed to address the problems that we have and be able to be successfully passed here in the United States Senate and signed into law.

Mr. MENAKER.

STATEMENT OF RON MENAKER, CHAIRMAN, AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

Mr. MENAKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am the Chairman of Board of the American Kennel Club. The AKC is the largest and only significant not-for-profit dog registry and sanctioning body for competitive dog events in the United States. We register nearly 1 million pure-bred dogs and over 400,000 litters of pure-bred puppies every year.

Almost 17,000 competitive dog events are held nationally each year under AKC rules attracting more than 2.5 million entries. I cite these statistics to emphasize the importance of the sport of pure-bred dogs. Selling puppies is a business for some, but for many Americans who breed and raise pure-bred dogs it is a hobby, a family sport and a labor of love.

The AKC was founded in this spirit 121 years ago, and this passion is still alive today. The AKC, however, also provides registration services to all dog breeders who meet our standards, including mandatory inspections of high volume breeders, dog identification and recordkeeping, care and condition standards for dogs and kennels, and DNA testing to check parentage of litters. This year, we are on target to conduct approximately 5,000 kennel inspections.

The AKC encourages puppy buyers to buy from responsible resources. We believe the vast majority of high volume breeders as well as smaller breeding establishments do a conscientious job of breeding and raising quality puppies and care passionately about their animals. However, we also know from our first-hand experience in the field that in spite of our efforts and the efforts of the USDA, there are still significant problems that need to be addressed for the sake of both the dogs and the pet-buying public.

Some of these are deficiencies in the Animal Welfare Act and some result from changes in the marketplace and marketing techniques for dogs that have occurred in the 30 years since the act was extended to dog dealers. That is why we are pleased that you

have focused your attention and the attention of Congress on the need to strengthen the act.

We are pleased to be working with you in this effort. As you know, we did not support your previous legislation intended to address the problems of so-called puppy mills, because we felt that Federal regulation of practices for breeding and socialization of puppies was the wrong approach. However, PAWS takes a different approach. It gives the USDA access to source records of persons who acquire dogs for resale, provides a more efficient time frame for dealing with violators who have been suspended, and gives the USDA authority to close down egregious violators.

These are essential tools for the USDA to effectively enforce the Act. We do not expect the USDA to have to use these tools often, but the fact that the USDA has these tools will create an incentive for persons to obtain licenses and quickly correct violations. We also know from the AKC's own experience that the time has come to bring under regulation high volume breeders and brokers who sell at retail or who import puppies in volume for resale. However, it is also essential that we maintain the sport and hobby of purebred dog breeding and exhibiting as it is today, a sport regulated by our own rigorous compliance requirements.

PAWS should focus the Federal Government's regulatory resources on realistic targets and goals. We appreciate the dealer provisions of PAWS as you have clarified them. We especially appreciate the addition of the provision that will exempt retailers based on kennel inspection standards of not-for-profit organizations certified by the Secretary of Agriculture. This will focus enforcement on the high volume retail breeders and importers whom it is appropriate to regulate without imposing Federal regulation on hobby and show breeders.

Mr. Chairman, we thank you for your hard work and leadership on this important issue. We thank you for your flexibility and openness to new approaches. We look forward to continuing to work with you to develop and secure legislation that will be good for all of our beloved dogs.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Menaker can be found in the appendix on page 107.]

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you very much, Mr. Menaker.

Dr. Childers, thank you for being here.

STATEMENT OF HENRY CHILDERS, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Mr. CHILDERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the subcommittee for giving the American Veterinary Medical Association the opportunity to speak in support of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute. I am Dr. Henry Childers, President of the AVMA and a companion animal practitioner from Rhode Island. The AVMA represents 73,000 veterinarians. Fifty-five percent of us are companion animal practitioners who commit our expertise and energy to ensuring the wellbeing of the nation's pets.

Unfortunately, veterinarians are regularly confronted with pets that suffer the ill effects of irresponsible breeding and inappropriate transport over long distances. Animal suffering compounds

human suffering when heartache and financial burdens are thrust upon pet owners who have purchased these unfortunate animals.

Large scale puppy and kitten dealers who escape regulation under the current Animal Welfare Act are a significant source of these problems. Overbreeding, inbreeding, inadequate veterinary care, poor quality food and shelter, overcrowding, poor socialization and stress due to prolonged transport are the hallmarks of these operations. These operations escape regulation because they sell directly to the public, either from their facilities or by way of the Internet, and are therefore classified as retail pet stores.

Retail pet stores are not required to be licensed under the Animal Welfare Act. As veterinarians, we see the shortened life expectancies and the years of impaired function that the affected pets must endure. Sometimes, when our most valued efforts cannot resolve the problem, families must be forced to make yet another difficult decision, euthanasia.

The burdens created by irresponsible breeders who escape regulation are not limited to those affecting the pet and its family. When owners can no longer care for their pets and cannot bear the idea of euthanasia, they often surrender their pets to animal shelters. Whether these animal shelters are publicly supported or privately supported, the cost of caring for these animals is now borne by the community.

The high volume breeders and importers that this statute will affect have profit as their only goal. They do not care if the animals they deliver are healthy. They do not care what effect this will have on the purchasers or the shelters. To date, they have been excepted from the law. The AVMA believes this must be corrected. Congress has the power to do that. Passing the Pet Animal Welfare Statute will provide USDA with the tools it needs to bring these high volume breeders and importers under a mandate that requires a viable health plan for their animals and holds them accountable when their efforts do not meet the standards.

The AVMA has a strong professional and public education presence. Veterinarians possess up-to-date and scientifically rigorous information about animal health care and welfare which they pass along to their clients on a daily basis. These clients include breeders, pet owners, and an increasing number of prospective pet owners who are seeking the advice of a veterinarian.

Ensuring pet welfare is at the heart of what we do. Ensuring the welfare of the American public is at the heart of what you do. Together, we can help ensure that America's pet owners and pets are afforded the protection they deserve. The Pet Animal Welfare Statute is an important step in the right direction. While we have included comments in our written testimony that we urge the subcommittee to consider, the AVMA appreciates the opportunity to publicly express our support for this legislation.

I thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Childers can be found in the appendix on page 80.]

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you very much Dr. Childers.

Mr. HOFFMAN.

STATEMENT OF JOHN E. HOFFMAN, DOG FANCIER AND LAWYER

Mr. HOFFMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SANTORUM. If you can pull the microphone up so people—thank you.

Mr. HOFFMAN. I am a business litigation lawyer, the owner of three miniature schnauzers, and an occasional dog breeder and exhibitor. I own dogs for the same reason most people do. They are wonderful companions. Over the years, I have provided pro bono legal services to dog clubs and rescue organizations. A year ago, the French Bulldog Rescue Network asked me to help Willa Bagwell, the humane officer for Lake Elsinore, California. An importer there was selling sick and dying puppies from Eastern Europe. Many buyers were incurring huge veterinary fees within a week after buying the puppies. Some puppies were dying despite the veterinarians' best efforts.

After months of work, we were able to have the bankruptcy court bar the importer from buying and selling puppies while she pays off her creditors but only because she foolishly filed for bankruptcy. If she had not done so, she would probably still be in business.

When I began investigating the scope of the commercial puppy importing business, I found dozens of kennels advertising imported Bulldog and French Bulldog puppies on their own Websites and also on Websites containing classified ads for puppies. Some importers sell through newspaper ads. Some sell through pet shops. Some do not disclose before sale that they are selling imported puppies. Most of them began as domestic breeders. Many continue to breed domestically as well as importing. It just depends which costs less.

Exporters abroad gather puppies from breeders in rural areas, ship them by truck or rail to the capital cities, from where they are shipped by air to the U.S. and then by car or truck to the importer's place of business. Many puppies die en route. Many more die shortly after arrival. Dead puppies are just a cost of business, acceptable so long as the cost of importing remains less than the cost of breeding puppies here.

Imported puppies are not cheap. Many are sold for $1,800 and up, as shown by the enlarged ad to my right for Sasha and Whitney. Puppies of many breeds are being imported. We also have an enlargement of one page of the many pages on the Europuppy Website showing different breeds for sale.

Based on the number of puppies the Lake Elsinore importer was selling, the number of importers selling over the Internet and the number of puppies arriving monthly through the Los Angeles Airport, it is clear that at least 10,000 puppies a year are being into the U.S. and probably many more than that.

Unfortunately, State and local regulation is not enforced. Local prosecutors are busy. Enforcement of animal protection laws tends to be a low priority, particularly when most of the injured buyers live outside of the jurisdiction, as is commonly the case with Internet sellers. Thus, humane officers can rarely persuade State and local prosecutors to act. That is true whether the offenses involve imported or domestically bred puppies.

Federal law at present is no more helpful. The Animal Welfare Act does not cover puppy importers who sell at retail, such as through the Internet or newspaper ads. Other Federal laws that are applicable to imported puppies are not being enforced. The Frenchie Tails ad to my right is an example. It openly advertises seven-week-old imported puppies for sale, even though Federal law prohibits shipment of puppies younger than eight weeks old and prohibits sale of imported puppies younger than four months.

If enacted, PAWS would bring under inspection and regulation all puppy importers who import more than 25 puppies per year for resale, regardless of how they sell their puppies, and thus go a long way toward ending the abuses that are now occurring.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the subcommittee, and staff members for your hard work on this important issue. Please feel free to call upon me if I can be of any assistance in that regard.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hoffman can be found in the appendix on page 93.]

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you, Mr. Hoffman.

Mr. MADDOX.

STATEMENT OF MICHAEL MADDOX, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mr. MADDOX. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer you our views. The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council is the largest pet trade association in the world, representing every segment of the pet industry. PIJAC works to ensure that members of the commercial trade observe high standards in the care of pet animals. We have been involved with the Animal Welfare Act for more than three decades and have worked tirelessly with APHIS to maximize effective administration of the act.

We believe proper enforcement of AWA standards brings about mutual benefit for the pet industry, the pet-owning public and the animals themselves. We have witnessed first hand these benefits over the years and are intent on taking whatever efforts we may to perpetuate the good work of USDA.

Congress has historically recognized the need for a functional regulatory framework that targets those persons in the pet trade escaping public and regulatory oversight. From its inception, the AWA has explicitly exempted retailers that are subject to broad public exposure and are frequently regulated at the State and local level. PIJAC joins with you, Mr. Chairman in acknowledging that the rationale for exempting pet stores is as valid today as it has always been. In fact, as this subcommittee considers bringing under the act potentially thousands of additional licensees that will vie for APHIS' regulatory and inspection resources, it is important that we do not overburden the agency with a mandate for persons that are not in need of Federal regulation.

We would like to raise, Mr. Chairman, some concerns we have with the introduced bill, recognizing that amendments may be addressing these concerns. As noted by your other witnesses today, advocates of PAWS point to large scale breeding operations and Internet sales of dogs as recent trends escaping oversight. This bill would regulate individuals but would also have the effect of cap-

turing the very pet stores intended to be subject to the AWA's pet store exemption. Other provisions would go so far as to mandate licensure of persons who sell even a single pet animal.

PAWS' deletion of the longstanding de minimis exemption for noncommercial breeders would mean every person selling even a single animal other than a dog or cat has to be licensed. PIJAC feels certain that the Congress does not wish to subject a 10-year-old child to Federal licensure for selling a couple baby hamsters.

We also note that a dollar does not buy what it did in 1970, Mr. Chairman. This de minimis exemption established 30 years ago and yet to be amended should be retained in the Act with a revised statutory dollar amount representing inflation over that time span. One significant objective of this legislation is to ensure regulation of those who import dogs for resale in the U.S. However, in regulating retailers, this provision would not distinguish between those who import and sell dogs themselves, such as those selling over the Internet, and bona fide pet stores who buy puppies from a Class B-licensed dealer.

The new retail pet store definition is meant to ensure regulation of persons not viewed as traditional pet stores. Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, it contains exclusions that would encompass the very businesses to which the pet store exemption is meant to apply; for example, the provision excluding animals bred for sale to the public is aimed at those who breed and sell dogs and cats directly to the public, not pet stores who happen to carry hamsters, gerbils, or guinea pigs not deliberately bred by the pet store.

The exclusion for hunting, breeding, and security dogs is meant to ensure commercial breeders do not escape regulation but as crafted in the original legislation would have the effect of regulating pet stores. This turns the clause on its head. Finally, the exclusion for wild animals relies on a term that encompasses many common, domesticated pet animals normally sold at pet stores. The exclusion would have the anomalous result of extending licensure to the very pet stores specifically intended for exemption.

This brings us to the source record provision, Mr. Chairman. The language would require keeping information that pet dealers have no authority to obtain in the first place. A more effective provision would require keeping USDA license numbers, thereby allowing USDA to target unlicensed dealers. Two additional enforcement provisions that will substantially aid APHIS are found in Sections 4 and 5. The temporary suspension period extension clause gives USDA authority in less frequent but more urgent cases. Of even greater importance, the provision creating authority to enjoin unlicensed dealers who are ignoring their obligation to meet legal standards.

The injunctive authority under PAWS would add a powerful enforcement tool to permit the agency to go after people who are often the most egregious violators. PIJAC endorses these provisions unchanged and feels they would go far in facilitating USDA's effective enforcement of the act.

We must acknowledge as you have already noted, Mr. Chairman, that recent efforts with your staff and proponents of PAWS have yielded suggested amendments that would address concerns that we have raised here today. We are optimistic that such amend-

ments can correct the unintended consequences that would result in compromising USDA enforcement efforts while preserving important sections of this bill that promote more effective enforcement.

We appreciate your willingness to consider the pet industry's concerns, Mr. Chairman, and thank the subcommittee for entertaining our comments today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Maddox can be found in the appendix on page 104.]

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you very much, Mr. Maddox. I appreciate it.

We have two votes that started at 2:45, and so, since it is almost 3:00, and we have 15 minute votes, that means I have to run. And there will be back to back votes, so I will be back hopefully in the next 15 or so minutes, and we will resume with questions for this panel, and I apologize for the interruption.

We are recessed. Thank you.

[Recess.]

Senator SANTORUM. The meeting will come to order. Again, let me apologize to all of you for the vagaries of the United States Senate and having to do such mundane things as cast votes on important amendments to the defense authorization bill, but I appreciate your willingness to be patient.

Let me start out. There are a lot of misconceptions, I would say, misconceptions about what this bill is all about, and I just want to run through a few of them with this panel. We will run through a few more with the second panel. First is just maybe Mr. Menaker, you can give me a sense with your membership, what percentage of your membership would be affected by the PAWS legislation, would apply the Animal Welfare Act to what percentage of your membership roughly?

Mr. MENAKER. As it stands today, Senator, I would say less than 4 percent.

Senator SANTORUM. Less than 4 percent. So 96 percent of your members would not be affected at all.

Mr. MENAKER. No differently than they are today.

Senator SANTORUM. No differently than they are today. But we have heard testimony that this act, you believe, panelists would believe, would cover more people, more people would be subject to the Animal Welfare Act as a result of this bill. You would admit that.

Mr. MENAKER. Absolutely, because with the care and conditions and inspections that we conduct annually, we are forced when there is noncompliance to suspend and move people out of the AKC registry. The problem is they take off to the nonregulated registries and continue to function as normal.

Senator SANTORUM. Another question was raised about the amount of enforcement dollars that APHIS would have, the USDA would have to deal with the additional entities that would be governed by the Animal Welfare Act. You mentioned something in your testimony that we are working toward resolution, and that is the idea of having an organization such as yourselves, the AKC, provide a certification for standards that would be at least as rigorous as the Animal Welfare Act or in exceedence of the Animal

Welfare Act. Could you give me a sense of how that would work or what your suggestion is?

Mr. MENAKER. Senator, what I have said is that we believe that our AKC inspections today exceed the USDA inspections. We inspect for records and identification purposes. We inspect for, you know, looking at IDs via tattoos, microchips, collar tags. We do DNA for parentage. Our care and conditions look for cleanliness, parasite infestation, safety of the materials the breeder uses, and the adequacy of the shelters.

What I am saying is that when an individual is inspected, a kennel, by the American Kennel Club, if they meet these rigorous requirements, then the proposal we spoke of would be to basically allow an exemption so that the dollars could be spent inspecting those facilities and those kennels who today are not inspected at all and are under no regulation whatsoever.

Senator SANTORUM. Does any other panelist have a comment about that suggestion? No?

Mr. MADDOX. I would only say, Mr. Chairman, that as noted, PIJAC has worked closely with USDA for many years to enhance enforcement of the Act, and we certainly, while this act seeks to capture people that you feel need to be regulated, we certainly would not want to see the ability of USDA to regulate all licensees compromised in any way. So certainly, anything that you would do to further the inspection capabilities would be a positive step.

Senator SANTORUM. Targeting the resources to where the problem is the most severe.

Mr. MADDOX. Yes, sir.

Senator SANTORUM. Some other things have been brought up, if anyone would like to comment, someone suggested that the PAWS legislation would have a negative impact on sportsmen. Does anybody want to make a comment on that, whether you see that as a real threat to the sportsmen.

Mr. Menaker?

Mr. MENAKER. I personally do not see that as a threat. I think that most of what I have read is absolutely unfounded. I believe that individuals have misunderstood what the legislation is intended to do.

We at the American Kennel Club are proud of the fact that we have had standards in place for the past 10 years, actually beyond that when it comes to records, for the past 40 years for records, and we do not see a problem having standards put in place that are equivalent to the standards we already use. Unfortunately, given the standards we have put in place, we have had to suspend over 2,000 people in the last five years, which has caused a reduction in our registrations of about 25 percent.

However, we are proud to say that we believe those people should not be part of the American Kennel Club's process, because their care and conditions and standards are absolutely inappropriate. The problem is that they move out to the other 23 registries that have no regulation at all, so they beat the system by moving out.

Senator SANTORUM. Other comment?

Mr. HOFFMAN. I concur with Mr. Menaker. Anybody who is breeding 25 or more dogs or six or more litters, whichever is great-

er, has crossed the threshold from a pure hobby into a business and ought to be subject to the kind of regulation most businesses are. All the Act requires is inspection and compliance with decent treatment standards. That is not too much to ask of anybody who is in business.

Senator SANTORUM. Another concern that I have read and seen on the Internet and other places is that this legislation would bring commercial regulatory standards into the home, that USDA would do that. Anybody have any fear of that or concern that something like that would be required under this act?

Mr. MENAKER. Well, I certainly do not, speaking on behalf of the American Kennel Club. As I say, we do it today. We have been doing it today. Nothing changes, and I believe it is appropriate. Anything we do in life, we have certain standards. We have to set standards. We abide by those standards, and we penalize or take action. The attempt is to try to change behavior and to improve the care and conditions for the animals. The attempt is nothing more than that. If the individual complies, there is no reason why the individual cannot continue to participate. Like everything else in life, if the individual does not comply, they should not be allowed to continue to do business in a manner that is not appropriate.

Senator SANTORUM. Another point I have heard is that state laws are sufficient. Any comment on whether there needs to be any regulation on the Federal level with respect to this as opposed to just allowing state laws to take effect? I think, Mr. Hoffman, you commented on that.

Mr. HOFFMAN. Yes, I do. The problem is that where the sales are outside the local jurisdiction, there is very little incentive for a prosecutor with limited resources to devote time to them. He is going to spend his time on matters that affect his local constituents.

Furthermore, animal cases tend to be low priority with most prosecutorial agencies. You generally see better enforcement in the large cities where the animal control agency is a municipal agency as opposed to a private organization like an SPCA, because they have more influence with the prosecutors; also, in a large city, you will often have a particular deputy charged with enforcing the animal control laws. He will have some experience and is not starting from scratch.

But when you get outside of the large cities to a smaller place like Lake Elsinore, for instance, and having done work for other rescues around the country, I am aware it is pretty well uniform, it is very difficult to get someone to spend a day or two reading up on animal laws and prosecuting these things when they have murders, robberies, and all the other things that affect their people more directly.

Senator SANTORUM. You have laid out in your testimony, Mr. Hoffman, some violations of the laws in these Internet sales. Are you aware of any work being done by APHIS or USDA under the Animal Welfare Act to deal with the problem that you have seen?

Mr. HOFFMAN. USDA does prohibit transport of dogs younger than eight weeks, and the burden of that initially falls on the carriers. But they are dependent on the paperwork. They cannot tell how old the animals are. And yet, as you have seen from one of

the ads, someone is advertising seven week old puppies imported from Europe. Obviously, those puppies were transported at less than eight weeks of age.

There are also CDC regulations which prohibit sale of puppies less than 30 days after vaccination for rabies at a minimum age of three months in most States, four months in others, which means that they cannot be sold at less than four months or five months of age. There is absolutely zero enforcement. The CDC has told me they have no funds for enforcement, and all of these importers are advertising younger dogs.

There is not much demand for four and five month old puppies, so the puppies are sold as soon as they arrive. For the CDC, it is a fairly low priority, because the puppies are suffering generally from diseases which are not transmissible to humans, and the CDC's concern is mostly with human infection.

Part of PAWS will allow the USDA to enforce regulations of other Federal agencies. I think this would go a long way towards helping with that situation, because the USDA would probably be more motivated to enforce the confinement regulations than is the CDC.

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you.

Mr. Maddox, you mentioned some concerns you had. You also mentioned that we have been working and trying to address those. I guess my question to you is that given where that discussion is, do you believe that we have adequately addressed the concerns that you have with the original draft with the modifications that have been discussed with you?

Mr. MADDOX. Mr. Chairman, I am not certain precisely where we have ended up with negotiations, so I want to offer that caveat. But I do believe that based on what we have discussed and what we have offered in response to that that it does appear that you may be addressing pretty much all of PIJAC's concerns, in which case, obviously, we would no longer oppose the bill in any regard.

Senator SANTORUM. I guess you say that you would no longer oppose the bill, are there any provisions of the bill that you would support, any ones that you would—

Mr. MADDOX. Mr. Chairman, as we noted, we absolutely support the enforcement provisions with regard to the extension of the suspension period and with regard to the injunctive authority of USDA. We believe this will substantially aid the agency in their enforcement efforts, and we wholeheartedly support those provisions of the bill.

The one bill with regard to the so-called threshold at which you distinguish between commercial and hobby activity is a provision, Mr. Chairman, that we really are not taking a position on. We do recognize, and I think everybody recognizes, that there is some type of activity that is hobby or noncommercial in nature, and obviously, there is a great deal of activity that is commercial in nature. Where you draw that distinction is something that we have not stepped in on, primarily because it would not directly affect the commercial pet industry. We are already regulated in that regard.

Our people are already licensed, and it would not expand our licensure by this bill. But certainly, by the same token, we are not opposing that measure. We simply do not feel that it directly im-

pacts our industry, and therefore, we are taking a neutral stance on that particular provision, Mr. Chairman.

Senator SANTORUM. Do you feel that your industry has been affected or harmed by this change in the industry with respect to sales of animals?

Mr. MADDOX. Well, Mr. Chairman, we certainly, as noted, we endorse effective enforcement of the act. We believe that is in the best interests of the public, of the pets, and of the commercial pet industry. We believe that those persons who fail to meet requirements of law should not be in the industry, and we are pleased to see them either brought up to standards or put out of business.

I do not know, and I do not think anybody knows, the degree to which the import and Internet sale of dogs is occurring. So I cannot address, you know, I cannot address the degree to which that might be affected the pet trade. But certainly, as I said, persons who should be licensed and should be observing Federal standards but are not, we want them either brought up to snuff or put out of business.

Senator SANTORUM. Does anybody have any further comments before I dismiss you?

Thank you all very much for coming, and if the second panel could now take your seats, I would appreciate it. While that panel is getting situated, I just want to enter into the record a statement by Senator Stabenow and Senator Durbin and other information that we have received prior to this hearing to be made a part of the record

[The prepared statements of Senators Stabenow and Durbin can be found in the appendix on page 26.]

Senator SANTORUM. With that, let me thank our second panel of witnesses. We have Mr. Wayne Pacelle, who is the President and CEO of the Humane Society of the United States; Ms. Sara Amundson, who is the legislative director of the Doris Day Animal League; and Ms. Norma Worley, Director of the Animal Welfare Program at the Maine Department of Agriculture. Let me thank all of you for coming and with your patience in testifying here.

Mr. Pacelle, I want to thank you in particular for all the work that you have done over the years in working with this and your willingness to sit down and work through as we have just seen with the prior panel a lot of issues and a lot of sometimes very prickly issues. And dealing with the cooperation that we have had from you has been outstanding, so I appreciate that.

Mr. PACELLE.

STATEMENT OF WAYNE PACELLE, PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PACELLE. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. As you said, I am Wayne Pacelle, President of the Humane Society of the United States. We are headquartered in Washington, DC We have 9.4 million members and constituents, including more than 300,000 in Pennsylvania, and this is not a quid pro quo, but we are grateful to you for all of your leadership throughout your career in public service.

This has not been a fleeting concern of yours. I remember standing with you more than a decade ago on this very subject of commercial dog breeding operations, and I appreciate that you have stuck with it to such a degree and also in a very bipartisan way, attracting Senator Durbin also in the efforts that you have made to secure funding. There is one thing to have authorizing legislation. There is another matter to see that the existing laws are properly implemented, and your leadership with that of Senator Levin and others in securing adequate funding, an 81 percent increase in funding for the Animal Welfare Act over the last five years, has really tremendously helped not just the dogs and the cats but all of the other animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act as well as the Horse Protection Act, which is another major law that you have helped to seek funding for.

And frankly, I must admit also, and I would like it to be reflected in the record, your other efforts to amend the Animal Welfare Act regarding Section 26 regarding animal fighting and combating the barbaric practices of dog fighting and cock fighting; so we are deeply grateful to you for all of your efforts and in particular this effort here.

As you know, the Animal Welfare Act was established in 1966, so next year will be the 40th year of enforcement to protect animals on a nationwide scale dealing with regulated industries that by their nature deal with interstate commerce. And that is really the issue here. We work very aggressively at the State level on these issues, and many of the issues are State issues, and we welcome our cooperation, collaboration, with State agencies and also local agencies.

But some industries are of a national or international scope that require Federal intervention, involvement, regulatory oversight, and that is precisely the case with the pet trade and the dog and cat trade. And essentially what we have here is I think a very modest bill, a bill that fundamentally deals with the question of fairness. You have a regulated community that is covered because they are selling at a volume that has triggered enforcement by the USDA, and they are selling at wholesale.

Because of the Internet, we have a circumstance which the Animal Welfare Act authors in 1966 and subsequent amendment authors, 1985, could not have anticipated the advent of the Internet and could not have anticipated the very brisk sales that now exist. If you Google various breeds of dogs and ask puppies for sale, you will see any manner of large scale breeders who are selling direct through the Internet to the public. These people are not covered under the standards of the law.

So the folks who are selling to pet stores are covered and are supposed to comply with some of the most basic provisions of care, feeding, water, shelter, and the like, yet you have now a growing and large class of individuals who are selling direct through the Internet who are not covered. So it is unfair to the existing regulated community. It is unfair to consumers, who have no safeguards but the conscience of some of those people, and some of them, we have seen time and time again do not have much conscience in this regard in terms of animal welfare and finally in

terms of the animal's welfare itself, we believe that this public policy is well justified on that basis alone.

And I will say that this is not just a theoretical concern about the Internet. It is not an anticipatory concern in the sense that we think this may be a problem. This is a problem here and now. And my colleague at the Doris Day Animal League I know is going to show some imagery and go into some details, but in our written testimony, Mr. Chairman, we have a litany of cases of people selling animals through the Internet, one just a little more than a week ago on October 28; 151 dachshunds and springer spaniels and one cat were found, many described as skin and bones at the home of a retail dealer in Vero Beach, Florida.

In 2004 in Macomb, Missouri, a case involving an Internet dealer, 147 live dogs and four dead dogs, all with severely matted fur were found in dilapidated wire cages covered in feces, many with eye ailments, hair loss, deafness, blindness and tumors; a litany of these cases which more than justify this change in the law to cover people who are escaping oversight when the Congress has essentially said in its past lawmaking that if you are dealing at this scale in terms of sales, you should be covered.

And in terms of the cruelty statutes at the State level, we work very hard, Mr. Chairman, on this issue, and now, 42 States have felony level penalties for certain acts of cruelty. But we do not want it to progress to a state where animals are in a terrible condition before we act. The very purpose of the Animal Welfare Act is to try to maintain standards so we do not degenerate to a circumstance where you have to have an intervention and a cruelty case, and I think that the cruelty laws are critical but in no way address what we are talking about here.

And I would also mention that States and private agencies like the Humane Society of the United States, local humane societies, bear the cost when these cases degenerate to this level. This is not a puppy mill case, per se, but we are now in Arkansas dealing with 500 dogs in a hoarder case, and it is going to cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars to deal with these 500 animals, hundreds of thousands; dealt with by our society, our members giving money to us to help animals that did not anticipate this terrible case of cruelty.

So if you have a regulatory program that is keeping tabs on people, that is holding them to standards, you prevent these sorts of cataclysmic circumstances from occurring.

I will also just mention in closing, Mr. Chairman, that in your legislation, you are not adding welfare standards. You are simply logically applying the existing standards to people who should be covered and who the Congress frankly would have covered if they had known about the advent of the Internet when these provisions were originally enacted. Concerns about rescue, breed rescue groups being covered are really a tremendous stretch on the part of critics of the legislation. They would not be covered. But we would support clarifying language to make sure that these people are assured it is not our intent; we know in discussing with your staff these matters that it is not their intent nor your intent to cover them.

In a broad sense, let me just thank you again for your leadership on this issue. Animals really live at our mercy. They require our merciful actions and our kind actions in order to get through each day and each week and each month, because we domesticated them. We have created a dependency, and we have a responsibility to care for them and to protect them, and the Federal Government has an important role, and that role should not be shirked, and we appreciate your stepping up.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pacelle can be found in the appendix on page 110.]

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you, Mr. Pacelle. We appreciate it.

Ms. AMUNDSON.

STATEMENT OF SARA AMUNDSON, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR, DORIS DAY ANIMAL LEAGUE

Ms. AMUNDSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It is truly my pleasure to be here today in support of PAWS. We are greatly appreciative of your incessant efforts to not only ensure that there is appropriate protection for animals under the Animal Welfare Act but also to ensure that USDA has the resources necessary to implement those needs.

I would also like to thank your colleague, Senator Durbin, for his leadership role in this area, and I must note that the staff members have been particularly helpful in ensuring that this broad coalition actually comes together today in support of your bill.

Mr. Pacelle spoke to age of the Animal Welfare Act, and specifically the amendments in 1970 and 1976 went to the heart of what it is we are speaking about today. Those amendments were there to ensure that breeders who were selling through brokers to pet stores were actually licensed, regulated, and inspected under the Animal Welfare Act. And let us be direct about it: it made perfect sense at that time that those were the targeted large, commercial breeders who were actually coming under the auspices of the Animal Welfare Act.

Unfortunately, times have changed. Times have changed because what we are seeing is those individuals who would like to purchase a puppy are finding it more and more difficult to actually go to a breeder's property and take a look at the conditions the puppy is kept in to ensure those animals are raised with some minimum standards of care. That is the thrust of the retail pet store exemption and so the need for PAWS.

In 1989, the Doris Day Animal League was introduced to this issue by a gentleman in Pennsylvania who purchased a dog out of the back of a trade magazine. Unfortunately, the dog was purchased from a breeder in the State of Oklahoma, was transported on a commercial airliner in the cargo hold, and by the time the dog reached the consumer in the State of Pennsylvania, it was so ill that in effect, it died shortly thereafter.

USDA refused to investigate the situation, because, of course, this was a retail sales issue. And from their perspective, the Animal Welfare Act did not to regulate those individuals.

Times have changed. Today, we can access any search engine on the Internet, simply type in a few words, and immediately, we have access to just reams of information. In fact, just yesterday, I typed

in "Maltese puppies for sale" into the Google search engine, and here is what we are looking at: just a handful of the Websites that are available for selling these puppies online. I wound up with 500,000 hits with that terminology alone.

And unfortunately, as consumers become more and more comfortable with actually purchasing items over the Internet, it has grown from purchasing televisions to living, breathing puppies. In a recent article we noted in "The New York Times", the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association stated that 200,000 American households purchased puppies online just last year, and obviously, this is a money making venture, because these puppies are selling for between $500 and $5,000.

For the past several years, the Doris Day Animal League has been tracking these direct sales cruelty and neglect cases, and Mr. Pacelle certainly alluded to the cost to society and the animals in these cases. You will see a couple of posters here that demonstrate some of what we have seen. In early 2004, 230 dogs were seized from a breeder in Tennessee. This breeder was selling directly to the public, so of course, fell through the cracks and was not licensed, regulated, or inspected.

It is estimated that the county spent $100,000 on ensuring that the seizure took place, the animals were provided appropriate veterinary care, and then, the resolution of the case was reached, and those animals were adopted out in cases where they could be.

A vet testified at that trial that some of the female dogs could barely stand, had large tumors; three of them were completely blind and over the age of 13 years, and yet, those females were still being bred. If this dealer had been under the jurisdiction of the Animal Welfare Act, most of those issues would have been egregious violations of the Act. Instead, as Mr. Pacelle said, it fell to the States and the locality to actually prosecute the breeder. The other photo there depicts conditions in a particularly egregious case in the State of Kansas.

Some breeders are using this loophole in the Act to avoid regulation altogether, including one in Michigan, who had her license revoked by USDA in 1992 because she was selling through pet stores. Now, she is selling direct to the public, and there is a second case of a number of cruelty charges that have been filed against her. I think it is important to note that most of these cruelty or neglect cases are demonstrating seizures of 100 to 200 to 450 dogs and puppies. These are clearly large-scale, commercial breeders.

Chairman Santorum, just a cautionary note: while we are generally appreciative of the ability that we have all had to rack through some extremely difficult language and reach the point that we are at today, and we certainly recognize that USDA has limited resources, I think it is important to note that there is no other area of the Animal Welfare Act that currently exists where there is a third party certification program for actually inspecting kennels. And in fact, USDA, under the Horse Protection Act, has done an analysis of what has transpired with that program and certification for third-party inspections, and it clearly shows that USDA inspectors are citing far more violations under the Horse Protection Act than those independent third party inspectors.

We strongly support the language and the threshold in this bill and certainly see that USDA has been afforded some wonderful additional tools for the cases that they are looking at, and we would like to see that the language remain the same in those areas.

It has been a pleasure to work with you, and we are looking forward to passing $. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Amundson can be found in the appendix on page 29.]

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you, Ms. Amundson.

Ms. WORLEY.

STATEMENT OF NORMA WORLEY, DIRECTOR, ANIMAL WELFARE PROGRAM, MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Ms. WORLEY. Thank you, Senator.

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you.

Ms. WORLEY. It is a pleasure to be here today in support of this legislation. As you mentioned earlier, I am the director of the Animal Welfare Program from the great State of Maine, and I am definitely speaking in support of this legislation.

I have been in my current position for two and a half years, but prior to retiring to Maine in 2001, I spent 21 years as an animal cruelty investigator in Southern California. During my tenure both in Maine and California, I have investigated hundreds if not thousands of animal cruelty cases, including many dealing with breeding kennels.

As you are aware, animal welfare issues, in addition to being difficult, are usually emotionally charged. It can be extremely controversial. It is characterized by complaints from the public demanding that the animals they believe are being abused or neglected be removed immediately, regardless of what the law allows us to do or even the rights of the owner. The media may also compromise these investigations because, as the editors put it, everyone likes a good animal story. All this eventually results in lengthy debates in both State and Federal legislatures analyzing and reanalyzing if our animal cruelty laws, if they even exist, are sufficient.

There are thousands of breeding kennels across the country that do everything in their power to protect their animals and obey the law. I am sure that you have heard from some of these breeders regarding this legislation. It is important that these law abiding kennel owners know that they have nothing to fear from this proposed statute, and there is no slippery slope or hidden agenda. Unfortunately for every one of these lawful and ethical kennel owners, there are many if not more who see animals simply as a commodity and a way to make a quick buck.

The PAWS statute before you today identifies and seeks to correct several loopholes in current Federal law that allows no protection for dogs and cats sold directly to the public by large scale breeders. This legislation will mandate protection be applied for these animals regardless of what State the breeder lives in.

The State of Maine and its domestic animals are fortunate that we have some of the strongest laws in the United States, thus protecting them from unscrupulous breeding kennel owners. This is

not to say that we have no such breeders, because we do. Of the 800-plus animal cruelty complaints that we have received this year, just alone or alone the State of Maine Animal Welfare Program, we have spent hundreds of hours on three investigations involving a pet shop and two breeding kennels.

The end result was 250-plus dogs removed from these two kennels, and fortunately, these are the lucky ones, as they were adopted into loving, forever homes and have been spayed and neutered to help stop this cycle of abuse. Unfortunately, the pet store just moved to another State whose laws are not as effective.

Even with these effective kennel laws, not a week goes by without the Animal Welfare Program receiving a heartbreaking complaint from a new owner who has purchased a pup or kitten than a less than honest breeder. To even complicate things more, we now have a new twist in marketing for these dishonest breeders. As with all new avenues of commerce, the Internet is the latest tool to sell dogs and cats.

Unfortunately, the Internet can reach out all over the world and is difficult to track without cooperation of the user. There is nothing more frustrating to us than to receive a complaint from a new owner that may live 3,000 miles away who is heartbroken over the pup or kitten they have just received. The usual scenario is these complainants are surfing the Net, looking for a particular breed and fall in love with a picture of what they think is their ideal pet. Some are looking for show caliber dogs; some just like the particular breed and want a pet, and then, there is the smaller minority who are even seeking to start their own breeding kennel.

But going back to the dilemma of the new owner, usually, the story entails how they purchased this dog over the Internet and are eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new addition to their family. However, in most cases, it is anything but a happy event when the animal arrives. These young pups, sometimes as young as five and six weeks old, are shipped to the new owner by air in a small crate held in the cargo area of the plane for trips that can be up to 12 to 15 hours in length.

Upon arrival, they are usually sick. Some may have genetic disorders from poor breeding or are just a horrible example of the breed. The new owner tries to contact the breeder by email or letter, only to be told, if they get an answer at all, their choice is to either return the animal to the breeder, which means reshipping back across the United States to be treated by the breeder's veterinarian or basically tough luck, no compensation.

The breeder usually has in their contract that includes no refunds for the purchase price or any compensation for veterinarian bills that the new owner may acquire. At this point, the new owner is totally confused, angry, frustrated, but in most cases now has fallen in love with this poor creature, which is what the unscrupulous dealer hoped would happen.

Now, the owner is faced with the horrendous choice of spending perhaps thousands of dollars at their vet with the hope that the dog recovers or to return this poor critter to an uncaring breeder and an unknown fate. As you would suspect, most decide to keep the animal, even though it is not what they wanted, is not healthy,

and they may be saddled with outstanding bills for the rest of the animal's life.

The positive side is these animals are the lucky ones, as they will spend their lives in forever homes. Unfortunately, others will be sent back, where they will be nursed back to an appearance of good health, only to be sold again in an attempt to recoup the dealer's losses or immediately euthanized.

So who is the real victim in these cases? Many will say it is the purchaser. They were taken advantage of. Others will scoff and say buyer beware; they got what they deserved for not doing the research. Others will say this is simply a civil matter, and this is what the courts are for. But keep in mind that courts are charged with settling disputes based on paper trails and not live animals.

I come before you today to say the real victims in these cases are the puppies and kittens who are taken too young from their mothers; that are not socialized; many times are ill or genetically inferior; and then shipped in cargo holds of airplanes, sometimes enduring trips in length; and now are unwanted. It is beyond my realm of understanding how anyone could stand by and allow this to happen.

The victims of these horrendous acts must be protected the same as domestic animals who are sold to commercial facilities. The closing of these loopholes must be addressed now in order to protect the voiceless victims in States where they have little or no protection. Again, I thank you for this bill, and I hope the Members of the committee will vote in support of it.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Worley can be found in the appendix on page 123.]

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you, Ms. Worley. Appreciate it.

I just want to review a few things that have been brought up, again, by those who have expressed opposition to 1139. First, just reading some of the newspaper ads from today's paper, it says that one claims is PAWS would dramatically change the Animal Welfare Act. Does the PAWS legislation change the Animal Welfare Act other than who the Animal Welfare Act covers?

Mr. PACELLE. It really does not meaningfully change the Act except to make it more fairly applied to individuals who are sidestepping the regulatory scheme that exists and that many people are operating under just fine. You know, it is not as if—

Senator SANTORUM. So there are no new requirements under the Act as far as animal welfare kinds of provisions.

Mr. PACELLE. No, there are no breeding restrictions. There is no socialization requirement. There are none of the things that have been long discussed, but they are not in this legislation.

Senator SANTORUM. Some of you have commented on, and last panel did, about the changes in the industry. One of the claims here is that less than half of a percent of all dogs who are acquired via the Internet or the like. Do you have any numbers or any sense of, number one, where we are with respect to that and if there is any trend with that regard as far as Internet sales and sales of dogs from overseas?

Ms. AMUNDSON. Well, Chairman Santorum, I would be hard pressed to come up with some sort of final number. However, I will say that a major trade association, which clearly tracks trends with

pets has stated just last year 200,000 puppies were purchased over the Internet. I do think it is important to note that while the Internet is perhaps the most available vehicle for these direct sales, clearly, it is taking place through ads in trade magazines, local newspapers, and a variety of other mechanisms, too.

Mr. PACELLE. I would say, Mr. Chairman, that I would love to see some documentation for that figure. It sounds made up, and it sounds like it is just a convenient number thrown out there to minimize the value and importance of the legislation. It is a growing industry. You know, we, as Sara indicated, Google these sites; they would not exist in the number that they are but for the economic activity.

Senator SANTORUM. Another comment here is that the PAWS legislation would Federalize the breeding of home-raised pets. Do you intend to Federalize the breeding of pets, people who have, like me, who have a dog who had a litter? Do you want to Federalize folks who have a dog that has a littler of puppies?

Ms. AMUNDSON. Mr. Chairman, I simply cannot fathom how that could be accomplished. For obvious reasons, the Animal Welfare Act is an interstate commerce vehicle, which is why it is the Federal Animal Welfare Act. And certainly, in any written information that the Doris Day Animal League has provided over the years we have looked at this issue, we have never supported the concept of having USDA inspectors in the living rooms of individuals who may breed an occasional litter. In fact, it flies in the face of Congressional intent under the Animal Welfare Act, which clearly states that this Act is geared toward commercial ventures and not to occasional breeding of companion animals.

Mr. PACELLE. I think that, you know, your legislation clarifies it more than existing law does, that these people would not be covered?

Senator SANTORUM. Could you explain that, why it actually takes a step in the direction of clarification?

Mr. PACELLE. It does, because you have essentially set a new standard, a higher threshold, six litters per year, 25 dogs, for sale purposes in interstate commerce in order to trigger the enforcement activity of the USDA.

Senator SANTORUM. So if you are a hobby breeder that has three females, and you breed them once a year, you are not going to be connected with this.

Mr. PACELLE. You are not covered, and AKC, which is the main industry group, the one that has been around for 100 years, has said that the vast, vast majority, 96 percent plus, of its people do not come under the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act now and that we would not be adding new ones at this—if this legislation were approved. The law now is a different standard, a lower standard, so I think people should feel better about your legislation.

Senator SANTORUM. Another question was raised about sportsmen and whether they would be treated differently under this act than prior acts, than the current Act, I should say.

Ms. AMUNDSON. I would certainly have to concur with the response that was provided with the first panel. And again, I will remind individuals in this room that hunting, breeding security dogs are already covered under the definition of dealer in the Animal

Welfare Act. This does not create a new sort of mechanism for ensuring that those individuals are regulated.

Ms. WORLEY. I think it is important to bring up that the State of Maine is very much a sportsmen's, hunting State. I did have some conversations with a couple of sportsmen's group who had expressed, you know, interest that this was new legislation that was going to affect them. But when I reminded them that in the State of Maine that if you sell more than 16 puppies, you have to be licensed, and basically, they said oh. So they understand, too, that some States are more stringent, and this will not affect them. But at that point, they said okay, we can support it.

Mr. PACELLE. And let us point out that, you know, we are not talking about coming into your home and ripping apart your drawers and looking under your bed. We are talking about basic animal welfare standards. No one should be afraid if they are caring for their animals. If their animals are fed and watered, and they have shelter, there is no problem. This is just basic, you know, the Government is not coming in and pulling apart people's homes here.

Ms. WORLEY. I would just like to add that having been an investigator animal cruelty for over 25 years and now in Maine that I do not care what goes on in the living room, but if they are breeding dogs, I do, and I would like to get into their kennels. That is all I am interested in.

Senator SANTORUM. Mr. Pacelle, you mentioned the issue of animal rescue. That seems to be another constant I would say misinterpretation that somehow or another, that this bill will adversely affect animal rescue organizations. Can you comment on that directly?

Mr. PACELLE. I find that a very, you know, fanciful argument. These people are not engaged in commercial sale of animals for profit. These are rescue groups who are providing assistance to animals in need, and they are not engaging in commercial transactions. They are not covered under the existing law now. They are not selling large numbers of animals. And I think most importantly, they are not breeding the animals. I mean, this is a breeding trigger in many respects, and the breed rescue groups are not engaging in large-scale breeding of animals.

Senator SANTORUM. So it is not your intent that the PAWS cover these organizations.

Mr. PACELLE. No, and, as I said, you know, if you want to clarify the language—we think that as exists, it is fine, but if, you know, you and some of the other backers of the legislation like AKC want to see this tailored to really underscore that, we would not object.

Ms. AMUNDSON. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I would say it would be defeatist on our part to in any way, shape, or form have this bill construed as covering rescue organizations or rescue individuals. For obvious reasons, coming from the animal welfare community, these are the very individuals who are providing a significant service in these cruelty cases where you have got these large seizures of dogs.

So whether we need to work toward a savings clause or something along those lines that will provide some further demarcation, I would say there is nothing in the current language that should be construed as encompassing rescue groups.

Senator SANTORUM. Thank you.

We have another vote scheduled here in five minutes, so I am going to thank you all very much for your testimony. I appreciate, again, all of you on both panels for the cooperation, and as I said at the very beginning, this is a work in progress. We hope to have a discussion draft with amendments that have been talked about in the last two panels available to the public in the next couple of weeks, and we will use that as a further point of discussion to try to get, as I said before, a broad consensus to move something forward to the benefit of pets and pet owners.

Thank you very much. We are adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:09 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

NOVEMBER 8, 2005

Statement of United States Senator Debbie Stabenow
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Hearing on
Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS) of 2005

Mr. Chairman, One of my constituents from Kalamazoo, Michigan, Cindy Cooke, asked to be allowed to testify at today's hearing.

Ms. Cooke is the Legislative Specialist for the United Kennel Club based in Kalamazoo and she is well-known breeder of American Kennel Club-registered Scottish Terriers.

She is also the author of *The New Scottish Terrier*.

Unfortunately, you already had two full panels for the hearing and were not able to accommodate Ms. Cooke.

Senator Santorum, you were very kind to offer to include Ms. Cooke's testimony in the record of today's hearing.

It is important to me that my constituents' voices are heard in the Senate, so thank you.

I ask unanimous consent that Ms. Cooke's testimony be included at this point.

There are 111 United Kennel Clubs and 164 American Kennel Clubs in Michigan for a total of 275 Clubs.

I don't know that this is the highest number of Clubs in the country, but it is certainly significant.

I appreciate the opportunity you have given them to express their views and hope their concerns will be addressed.

I am also a dog-lover. Dogs have been a part of my family since childhood.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today.

Thank you.

MR. DURBIN. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for holding a hearing on this bill. I am pleased to be your lead cosponsor on this legislation.

The Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS) would strengthen the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) to address a problem that is little known to many animal-loving Americans. It is a problem that should concern the tens of millions of Americans who own and provide loving homes to pets. The issue I'm discussing is the mistreatment of puppies at the hands of commercial dealers.

Though we often refer to our dogs as "man's best friend" and many of us think of our dogs as members of the family, large, commercial puppy breeders, or puppy mills, are not sufficiently inspected or regulated by the federal government due to weak laws and insufficient funding. Clearly, this issue deserves our attention in light of the thousands of puppies provided to pet stores and pet owners by large, commercial dealers every year.

PAWS corrects this lack of oversight by requiring that any commercial breeder who sells seven or more litters of dogs or cats directly to the public in a year must be licensed by the USDA. The statute also allows the USDA to obtain the identity of breeders, a measure that would help the USDA to address inhumane treatment. PAWS extends the suspension period for facilities with AWA violations from 21 days to 60 days and provides the USDA with direct authority to seek injunctions.

Pet owners who love their animals, as well as commercial breeders who adhere to a high standard in the treatment of their animals, should embrace this measure. If we strengthen the regulations that govern the practices of commercial puppy breeders, unscrupulous breeders who subject animals under their care to cruel treatment will be inspected more frequently and punished for violating the Animal Welfare Act. This will limit their ability to profit from practices such as housing their puppies in filthy wire cages stacked one on top of another, neglecting to provide loving contact to their animals, and breeding their dogs to exhaustion. Pet owners and all of us who love animals will have greater assurance that puppies will have been raised in caring, sanitary environments. Good breeders will be rewarded for their high standards when they are distinguished from bad breeders who tarnish the reputation of the industry.

For these reasons, PAWS has been endorsed by a variety of national groups that approach this issue from different perspectives. The Humane Society of the United States, the American Kennel Club, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Doris Day Animal League, and the Animal Welfare Institute have all expressed support for PAWS.

I believe that this bill will help to fill the gaps in the current law and will encourage stronger enforcement by the USDA to crack down on chronic violators. The bill will improve the treatment of these vulnerable animals, protect consumers from unknowingly purchasing pets from abusive dealers, and improve the reputation of commercial dealers.

I thank the Chairman again for his work on behalf of this bill and hope that the committee will approve it and send it to the full Senate for further consideration.

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Testimony
of
Sara Amundson
Legislative Director,
Doris Day Animal League
Before the Senate Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
In support of S. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute
November 8, 2005

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify in support of S. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute. The Doris Day Animal League is grateful for your leadership, with Senator Richard Durbin, on this bill of importance to millions of Americans. We are particularly pleased to see the long overdue language in your bill to clarify what constitutes a "retail pet store" under the Animal Welfare Act. And we appreciate the efforts of the humane community, veterinarians, breeders and government to address the significant problems associated with large, commercial breeding facilities selling puppies and kittens directly to the public.

From Skimming the Classified Ads to Surfing the Internet: How Technology has Changed the Face of Selling Animals Directly to the Public

Congressional intent for the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) amendments as passed in 1970 and 1976, was to ensure that breeders selling puppies and kittens through brokers to pet stores were appropriately licensed, regulated and inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The rationale for limiting the scope of the AWA was that a consumer who chose to purchase a puppy directly from a breeder could clearly see the housing and care provided to the animals. Consumers could visit the breeders' kennels to ascertain for themselves the humane treatment of the dogs.

However, technology has obfuscated the original intent of those amendments to the Act. In 1989, the Doris Day Animal League received contact from a man in Pennsylvania who had purchased a hunting dog through a classified ad in the back of a trade magazine. The breeder lived in Oklahoma and shipped the animal in cargo on a commercial airline to Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, the animal was very sick and died shortly after arriving in the state. USDA refused to investigate because the dog was sold at retail, and was classified as a "hunting, breeding or security dog", and the agency did not license those breeders.

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Today in 2005, we can access any search engine on the Internet, type in the name of a specific breed of dog and find literally hundreds, if not thousands, of websites devoted to selling those puppies directly to the consumer. A puppy bred in Missouri may be listed for sale on a website bearing an address in Pennsylvania and sold to a consumer in Colorado. The interstate commerce opportunities afforded through the Internet have so significantly changed the retail puppy business that it is imperative these breeders who are selling directly to the public be required to obtain a USDA license, abide by the agency's minimal regulations and be inspected. Because this Internet technology ensures the ultimate consumer never sees their puppy prior to the purchase and therefore simply cannot assess the care and living standards provided by the breeder, we need a federal law to appropriately regulate this burgeoning interstate commerce to protect puppies and the people who love them.

Just as consumers purchase hundreds of thousands of televisions over the Internet each year, so too do they purchase living, breathing puppies. In a recent article in *The New York Times*, The American Pet Product Manufacturers Association stated that 200,000 American households bought puppies online last year. These puppies, advertised on the Internet, may be sold for between $500 and $5,000. For high-volume, commercial breeders, Internet sales are a convenient, inexpensive way to mass market puppies across state lines.

The Increased Number of Direct Sales Animal Cruelty Cases: A Case for Federal Regulation

Large Commercial Operations, Repeat Offenders:

Late in 2004, Barbara and Robert Woodley of Sanford, North Carolina were charged with cruelty, abuse and neglect of as many as 400 dogs kept on their property. They also kept birds. Initially, 200 dogs were seized and provided veterinary assistance. None of the dogs had been vaccinated for rabies since 2002. Ultimately, about 250 more dogs were seized. Veterinarians discovered open wounds and sores, blindness, internal parasites, tooth decay and skin scalding due to ammonia exposure, caused by urine and feces. Veterinary costs for the initial group of dogs had reached $100,000 by April 2005.

Judge Andy Corbett found Barbara and Robert Woodley guilty of all charges of animal cruelty, sentenced them to 45 days in jail suspended for five years with conditions including a year of supervised probation. They Woodley's may not own, possess or control animals during the probation.

Successful local prosecution of cruelty:
On January 22, 2004, police raided the home kennel of Jennifer Siliski in Franklin, Tennessee, and seized 230 animals, 200 of whom were adult Maltese dogs. The animals were living in deplorable conditions, three or four to a cage, with cages stacked in two small rooms and the garage. The raid was precipitated by a call to Williamson County Animal Control from a man who had recently purchased three dogs from Siliski and found them to be in very poor health. This phone call was the beginning of what became a highly-publicized case involving a breeder who sold dogs through her Internet Web site.

Ultimately, dog breeder Jennifer Siliski was charged with 30 counts of animal cruelty, based on the cases of the 230 seized dogs that were the most egregious. In addition to the criminal case, civil and class action cases are also being considered due to numerous complaints from people who bought from her, who have reported dogs with parvo, heart murmurs, mange, socialization problems,

and with their vocal cords surgically cut, a gruesome practice called "debarking". One veterinarian testified that some female dogs could barely stand and had large tumors, yet they were still being bred. Some of the dogs were severely dehydrated; others suffered from ear and uterine infections. At least three dogs were over age 13 and still being bred, despite blindness, dental disease and mange, according to the vet's testimony.

The local media immediately picked up on this story and the public—outraged about the treatment of the dogs—rallied to find them temporary homes. Six months after the local authorities seized the dogs, the case finally went to trial and the District Attorney's aggressive prosecution helped bring a guilty verdict by the jury on 11 of the 30 counts. Prior to sentencing, DDAL wrote to Judge R.E. Lee Davies, asking for stiff penalties to be handed down. Siliski was sentenced to 10 days in jail, one year of supervised probation and 50 hours of community service. She also was prohibited from trading or selling dogs in the future. Further, Judge Davis ordered the dogs to be sold at auction in order to help the county recoup the $100,000 in expenses related to caring for them, but rejected the D.A.'s request that the animals be spayed or neutered.

Again, the public outcry was enormous, especially from those who had been fostering the dogs for several months. Selling the dogs at auction, they reasoned, would almost certainly put them back in the hands of breeders. In response, Williamson County Commissioners Houston Naron and Judy Hayes sponsored a resolution that would help the county recoup its money by selling the dogs, but would guarantee that the foster parents would have first right of refusal

and the dogs would be spayed or neutered. The judge agreed to abide by the resolution, if adopted. DDAL again took action by contacting the county commissioners in support of the resolution. The County Commission unanimously approved the resolution, finally giving animal lovers and humane and caring citizens in Williamson County a reason to celebrate.

Breeders in New York Sell Sick Dogs to Consumers in Florida:
Oswego County, New York
On July 9, 2004, 23 dogs and puppies in Hannibal, New York, were rescued from Jerry and Sherry Schmidt, who were selling them directly to the public. The dogs were reportedly locked in cages, covered with urine, feces and fleas, some had no water and most didn't have food. A few of the dogs were outside without shelter or protection. Many were sick and had worms, several were pregnant, and one pregnant female was left outside to give birth in the mud.

The Schmidt's were apparently out of town at the time of the raid, but eventually surrendered to police upon learning of warrants for their arrest. They now face 23 counts of animal cruelty, plus separate felony charges of scheming to defraud and selling or offering to sell sick animals directly to the public. The case is currently moving slowly towards a possible trial, while the dogs remain in limbo, but, at least, safe, in foster homes.

Upon the arrest of the Schmidt's, local officials reported that they began receiving numerous complaints from customers across New York State and from as far away as Florida saying dogs purchased from the couple were in bad health and required numerous vet visits. Many customers claim to have tried unsuccessfully to contact the Schmidt's to obtain refunds.

Lack of Opportunity for Federal Intervention
Taylorsville, Kentucky
Laura Pope's breeding facility in Spencer County was shut down on September 2, 2004, following several complaints made by neighbors and others to the Spencer County Sheriff's Department. Investigators found approximately 100 dogs and puppies, mostly Siberian huskies, in deplorable conditions. They were kept in small, unsanitary pens with no protection from the elements.

Pope had reportedly been selling her dogs over the Internet to customers across the U.S. and overseas, and was charged with 95 counts of animal cruelty. The dogs were temporarily in the custody of local authorities, but have since been returned to Pope until the case is resolved, according to a judge's recent ruling.

Breeder Loses USDA License – Reemerges Without a License to Sell Retail
In October 2005, Dansville, Michigan breeder Karen Cochran had 33 dogs seized from her property, with authorities working to locate another 62 dogs. The dogs suffered from brittle bones causing leg fractures, eye and ear infections and other health conditions. Ms. Cochran was selling puppies direct to the public. Previously she sold puppies at wholesale and held a USDA license, but after being cited for animal welfare violations in 1989 and 1992, she lost her USDA license. Unfortunately for the puppies and the public, Ms. Cochran simply avoided federal licensing and inspection by changing her business from sales to pet stores – which requires a license – to selling to the public. PAWS will prevent unscrupulous breeders, who have lost their USDA licenses, from simply changing their business to selling puppies over the Internet or through classified ads.

A Domino Effect: The Impact on Consumers and Localities
The animals are not the only ones who feel the repercussions of the actions of unscrupulous breeders. In cases of reported abuse and neglect in which large numbers of animals are seized, the local humane organizations charged with their care must carry the burden as their resources are stretched to the limit. Bills for housing and vet care fall to the city or county governments and can run into thousands of dollars, with few options available to recoup the expenses.

Pending legal removal from the breeder once the case is settled, which often takes several months, the dogs can be made available for adoption, once given a clean bill of health by veterinarians. Unfortunately, these dogs often have not been adequately socialized due to having little contact with humans or appropriate contact with other animals while spending their lives in cages; therefore, these dogs are usually turned over to foster homes until they adapt to living closely with humans and can hopefully be adopted in the future.

And what of the cost to the caring consumer? American families bond with a puppy or kitten who quickly becomes a member of the family. When that beloved pet becomes ill and

requires literally thousands of dollars of necessary veterinary care, only to have the dog sentenced to a lifetime of disease or a rapid death, both the dog and the family suffer.

Prevent Cruelty, Provide for Animal Welfare, Not Burden Society

In many of these cruelty and neglect cases, as many as 100-200 dogs are seized by local authorities. These breeders are operating for-profit businesses and are not hobby breeders. The PAWS language clearly exempts any reputable breeder who sells a few litters of puppies and the Doris Day Animal League supports the threshold as it currently stands in the bill. Those breeders who sell more than six litters per year should be considered high-volume breeders, as supported by the American Kennel Club guidelines. And for the first time since DDAL launched its challenge of the existing "retail pet store" definition in the AWA in 1989, we have an opportunity to provide a level playing field for animal sold through large, commercial breeders who are currently licensed and those who should be licensed by USDA

Our goal is to prevent animal cruelty, provide for animal welfare and ensure that society is not burdened with a problem that has a solution. By passing S. 1139, the U.S. Congress can begin to license large, commercial breeders who are using today's technology to avoid regulation under the minimum standards of the Animal Welfare Act. The Doris Day Animal League strongly urges the Senate Research, Nutrition and General Legislation Subcommittee and the U.S. Senate to expeditiously move the Pet Animal Welfare Statute.

Class A Dog Dealers and the AWA						
Dates	**Bill, Law, Litigation**	**Retail Pet Stores**	**Hunting Dogs**	**"Hobby Breeders"**	**Puppy Mills**	**Notes**
1970 Ammendments to AWA	Expanded AWA to include animals sold as regulation of dealers of pets	"Retail Pet Stores" Excluded 7USCA2132(F)				
1970 Regulations Under AWA	Expanded AWA to include animals sold as regulation of dealers of pets	Defined as any "outlet" excluding dogs used for hunting, security or breeding	Not specifcally mentioned			
1976 Amendments to AWA			Definition of "Dealer" expanded to specifically include those selling dogs for hunting, security, breeding. (No market exists for these animals in a "retail pet store")			"animal" defined to include these dogs. Congress noted in a legislative hearing that "contrary to the interpretation of the USDA all dogs including those used for hunting, security or breeding, do fall within the act."
1989	USDA informs DDAL of Agency Interpretation of law		"Congress gave no clear indication of intent to regulate" "agency is reviewing new policy	"Exempt from licensing since dogs sold on retail basis"	"Exempt from licensing since dogs sold on retail basis"	
1995	DDAL files petition for rulemaking with agency requesting change in definition of "retail pet store" and hunting dog exemption					

Dates	Bill, Law, Litigation	Retail Pet Stores	Hunting Dogs	"Hobby Breeders"	Puppy Mills	Notes
1996	DDAL files lawsuit for unreasonable delay in Responding					
1997	Parties agree to settlement whereby USDA agrees to consider requested regulatory changes					
1997	USDA publishes DDAL's petition for comment in FR (36,000 comments received)(4 years after petition is filed)					USDA notes its delay ub issuing final decision is due to need to read all comments-most of which are indentical postcards
May-00	DDAL files lawsuit to demand conformance with plain language of Act	DDAL argues that under "Chevron" ruling of statutory construction, USDA should use "plain meaning" for retail pet store.	DDAL argues that hunting dogs are clearly covered under the act			

Dates	Bill, Law, Litigation	Retail Pet Stores	Hunting Dogs	"Hobby Breeders"	Puppy Mills	Notes
Dec-00	USDA issued proposed rule to license wholesale dealers of hunting dogs		Proposed rule recognised USDA's own definition of dealer required regulation of both wholesale and retail dealers of hunting dogs and that its policy of non-regulation is inconsistent with its own rule.			
July 2001	U.S. District Court rules in DDAL case	USDA's interpretation of the meaning of "retail pet store" is not the plain meaning of the word and is not a reasonable construction	court grants USDA's motion to Dismiss without prejudice due to USDA's proposed rulemaking on hunting dogs			USDA waited over 10 years from its initial comment that it was reviewing its policy ib hunitng dogs to take any action. The action it took blocked the judiciary from ruling on the issue while our lawsuit was pending
Mar-03	USDA issued final rule to license wholesale dealers of hunting dogs		Final rule regulates dealers who don't exist			

Dates	Bill, Law, Litigation	Retail Pet Stores	Hunting Dogs	"Hobby Breeders"	Puppy Mills	Notes
2003	Decision of US Court of Appeals	overturns District Court decision ruling that USDA's interpretation of "retail pet store" ro include all sales direct to public is possible and that "homes" could be "retail stores"				
2003	Writ of Certiorari to Supreme Court. Cert Denied, case over	Ask court to strike down Ct. of Appeals decision that reviewed whether USDA's interpretation was "possible and reasonable" rather than reviewing "plain meaning" as required under Supreme Court precedent. (a retail pet store is not a home)				

Dates	Bill, Law, Litigation	Retail Pet Stores	Hunting Dogs	"Hobby Breeders"	Puppy Mills	Notes
2005	Pet Animal Welfare statute 2005 introduced	narrows definition to mean public retail establishment that sells animals commonly kept as pets	specifically excluded from exemption	excluded if: 1.) sell less than 26 dogs or cats to public or 2.) does not whelp more than 6 litters or 3.) covers less than $500 income	covered under act if selling to the pubic unless Hobby Breeder as defined	

http://www.nytimes.com/2005/10/02/business/yourmoney/02dog.html?

October 2, 2005

Surfing for a Pup? Homework Comes First

By MARYANN MOTT
The New York Times

AFTER waiting more than a year, September Morn of Shelton, Wash., recently received her American Eskimo puppy from a breeder she found online.

"I consider this breeder a personal friend now, after our many, mostly e-mail, interactions," said Ms. Morn, a professional dog trainer. "We've shared joys and sorrows, hopes and worries, and news of our dog families. And if it weren't for the Internet, I might never have found her."

More than 200,000 American households bought puppies online last year, according to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association, a trade group.

But not all Internet purchases have a happy ending. Law enforcement officials in California and Florida recently reported that charges have been filed in more than 30 cases in which consumers either received sick puppies that later died, or paid upwards of $1,000 for a dog and never received it.

The American Kennel Club - the largest registry of purebred dogs - does not officially track complaints involving Internet purchases. But a spokeswoman, Lisa Peterson, says that more people are reporting health problems in dogs bought online.

Many complain "that the dog arrives sick or in poor condition, and the puppy buyer can't get satisfaction from the breeder because they often live in another state," Ms. Peterson said.

Sometimes the puppy may never show up.

After moving to Virginia earlier this year, Shawnell Ingle wanted a dog for her family. So she went online and noticed an ad for English bulldog puppies for $1,000. After previewing pictures, she chose one.

Ms. Ingle said the seller told her to transfer the funds to a Western Union account in California. Once the money was received, she said, the seller promised to put the pup on a flight to the East Coast.

Days turned into weeks and the puppy did not arrive, and numerous calls to the seller went unanswered, Ms. Ingle said. "All I did was cry for a day or so," she said. "My kids were so brokenhearted."

The police in Chula Vista, Calif., say the seller, Elizabeth Rivera Davis of Chula Vista, stole more than $20,000 from nearly two dozen online puppy buyers throughout the country and Canada. She has pleaded guilty to 2 of 17 felony counts and will be sentenced tomorrow in Chula Vista.

To help buyers find the right breed and to choose responsible sellers, the A.K.C. last year introduced a Web-based service called Breeder Classifieds, found under "Online Services" at akc.org. Only breeders in good standing with the organization can advertise. The site averages 135,000 searches a month, Ms. Peterson said, and includes a list of questions to ask of breeders.

Some people mistakenly think that A.K.C. papers alone guarantee that a puppy is healthy and of good quality. They don't. They prove only that a puppy is the offspring of a known sire and dam.

Prices for pedigree puppies vary by region, depending on the type of dog, its health screening tests and whether the parents are champions. In the New York metropolitan area, for example, Rhodesian Ridgebacks - large, athletic dogs with permanently raised hair along their backs - sell for around $1,500. In upstate New York, they go for half that price.

In general, buyers can expect to pay $500 to $2,000 for a pet-quality pedigree puppy - one that the breeder believes won't be able to compete successfully in dog shows. A higher price, though, doesn't necessarily mean better quality.

Many fans of purebreds say that good breeders often have the following qualities:

They are not in the business solely to make money. For many, it is a hobby, with the goal of improving the breed.

They often specialize in one breed, and spend time educating buyers about its advantages and disadvantages.

They sell only healthy animals and guarantee them for reasonable periods. They should test a puppy's parents for hereditary diseases, and the puppy's vaccinations should be up to date.

Their contracts stipulate that if the buyer does not meet specified conditions of care, or becomes unable to keep the puppy, they will take it back. (Most contracts for pet-quality dogs also have a clause that requires spaying or neutering of the dog.)

Elaine Gewirtz of Westlake Village, Calif., wants to make sure that her Dalmatian puppies go to good homes - and to people who know what to expect from owning them. (Both Ms. Morn and Ms. Gewirtz, as well as this reporter, are occasional contributors to Dog Fancy magazine.)

More than 60 percent of Ms. Gewirtz's prospective buyers come from online breeder referral services and firebusterdals.com, her Web site. When people send e-mail requests for information, she asks them to call her. She then asks about their pet-owning experience and lifestyle to determine if they're a good match.

"My husband says it's easier for someone to get a bank loan than one of my puppies," said Ms. Gewirtz, who has bred 25 champion Dalmatians.

When visiting a breeder's home or kennel, ask to see at least one of the puppy's parents, experts say; the appearance and temperament of the parent can provide an idea of how the pup may turn out. Be wary, the experts advise, if a breeder does not let you do so - or if he does not let you see the environment where the puppy was raised.

If you do buy an animal with a health problem, 12 states, including Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, have consumer protection laws for buyers. These laws differ by state. Some "puppy lemon laws" make the seller compensate the buyer for a portion of veterinarian bills incurred; others cover hereditary conditions.

MS. MORN, who recently bought the American Eskimo puppy, a dog with a thick, snowy white coat, said she is happy with her choice.

The dog, which she named Iris, "is healthy, happy, brilliant, athletic, bold, affectionate and thoroughly charming," she said. "She's everything I wanted in a pup."

Ms. Morn clearly did her homework.

"There are different ways to use the Internet to locate a puppy," she said. "Some are great; others are ridiculous."

She said she joined a chat board for owners whose American Eskimo dogs compete in the sport of agility, in which the dogs race through timed obstacle courses.

She carefully read its postings, then asked knowledgeable members to recommend a breeder. She interviewed several, eventually narrowing her search to a breeder in Indiana. The two exchanged dozens of e-mail messages and had a number of phone conversations before Ms. Morn decided to buy a puppy from her for $800.

"My advice to someone seeking a pup - whether they make their contacts in person, by telephone, or via Internet - is before you decide who you're going to get your puppy from, educate yourself about that breed and about common health and temperament issues," Ms. Morn said. "Know the right questions to ask and be able to understand what the answers mean."

The Sanford Herald

New chapter in dog drama opens

By KATHERINE MCDONALD

SANFORD - Barbara and Robert Woodley face a national animal-rights advocacy group in court Thursday in their on-going legal battle to keep hundreds of dogs at their Westover Road property.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund, a national non-profit organization that advocates for humane treatment of animals, filed a complaint and motion for preliminary and permanent injunctions against the Woodleys in Lee County District Court Dec. 23.

The complaint cites cruelty, abuse and neglect of the dogs, estimated to number more than 200, which they keep on their property.

The case will be heard by Judge Resson Faircloth at 9 a.m. Thursday in Courtroom 1 of the Lee County Courthouse.

Professor William Reppy of Duke University Law School and Peter MacQueen, president of The Humane Society of Eastern North Carolina, who were involved in another recent case against the Woodleys, approached the ADLF about being the plaintiff in the animal-cruelty suit.

According to MacQueen, the ADLF studied the Woodley case and decided it is significant enough to take it on because it allegedly involves "puppy-mill" breeders who keep large numbers of dogs in cramped and filthy conditions without adequate medical care.

The ADLF is asking the court to give it custody of the dogs, terminate the Woodleys' ownership of them and prohibit them from further violating state laws against abuse, cruelty and neglect of animals.

The couple was taken to court on animal cruelty charges by Lee County several months ago. Chief District Judge Andy Corbett dismissed those charges in November because the prosecution documents "failed to adequately allege a violation of the law."

Lee County Attorney K.R. "Dick" Hoyle said that the county is not a plaintiff in the suit to be heard Thursday, but is assisting the ADLF where needed, such as providing records of the county's investigation of the Woodleys' dog-raising and breeding facility at their home.

Several Lee County residents are also working with the ADLF on the case. One of those is Pat Sprouse, a former president of Carolina Animal Rescue & Adoption.

"This situation has been going on for a long time," she said. "We tried to do something four years ago, but to no avail. In the ADLF, we've got the right people this time who know the laws about animals. I hope Thursday the judge will award the animals to us and get them out of there into homes."

The Woodleys could not be reached for comment on this case. At the time of the earlier legal action, Barbara Woodley denied all the charges, saying that she keeps the dogs "fed, watered, vaccinated, clean and in good shelter."

She said that she feels she is running "a rescue mission" for dogs that have been abandoned or can no longer be kept by their owners.

Four years ago, the city inspected the Woodleys property and found no evidence of abused animals. The city did require the Woodleys to hook up to the city sewer line, remove trash and debris and exterminate rats and insects.

Barbara Woodley said that the previous case was inspired by "revenge" on the part of county officials and by adjacent property owners who, she said, want her land to expand an existing nearby business.

Sprouse said she hoped that a victory in the hearing Thursday will give momentum to the effort to close down places that neglect and abuse dogs while breeding them for profit.

"Anybody else operating an inhumane puppy mill nearby - we're going after them," she said. "They better clean up their act."

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ALDF Files Lawsuit to Save Dogs

Published 1-11-05 (Sanford, North Carolina)

Alarmed by reports that hundreds of dogs in Sanford, N.C., were being subjected to serious abuse and neglect, ALDF began working with North Carolina animal advocates to investigate the situation late last year. The results of that investigation are shocking and sad — and have resulted in a legal battle to protect the animals from further possible abuse.

Through eyewitness testimony, photographs and veterinary reports, ALDF learned that more than 400 dogs were being kept on property owned by Barbara and Robert Woodley. Most of these dogs were living in filth and squalor and were suffering from a variety of serious medical illnesses. Many had a variety of eye infections, and many were blind — conditions attributed by veterinarians directly to the ammonia-saturated air at the site. As much as half or more of the animals had lost teeth, or the teeth remaining were rotting in their mouths. Such periodontal complications can lead to infections, kidney failure and death.

All these conditions are preventable by normal care; none of these dogs had received that. ALDF also learned of a serious threat of disease for the dogs and humans alike: None of the dogs on the Woodley property have been vaccinated for rabies or other diseases since 2002. Many of them have never had a rabies shot.

On December 30, 2004, Judge Resson Faircloth III entered a preliminary injunction in response to a lawsuit filed by ALDF. The court order allowed veterinarians to remove dogs who had significant medical problems and were in need of extensive medical care that could not be administered on

the property. A team of veterinarians and veterinary technicians (several of them trained in animal cruelty cases) went to the property and were stunned at the degree of neglect. Dogs' coats were matted with old and new feces. Dogs were boarded up in wooden boxes without exposure to light or outside air. The smell of old urine had created a stench of ammonia so bad that the team was still suffering side effects after leaving the property. Every one of the veterinarians agreed that significantly more than half of the dogs on the property had to be removed to have their conditions treated.

The veterinary team removed the sickest dogs first and was in the process of removing dogs when the Woodleys objected and demanded that they stop, despite the fact that these dogs are suffering and in pain. The team is doing its best to monitor the dogs on the property, but the animals' conditions will only worsen unless they are rescued from the property.

Inundated with more than 100 sick dogs to care for, the North Carolina volunteers involved in the case have sent out a nationwide call for assistance and donations. Significant funding is needed to house, feed and provide veterinary care for the dogs. Volunteers are also needed to walk, socialize and clean up until the case is resolved. The dogs cannot be adopted out until the court issues a final ruling in the case, which could be months.

To find out how you can help the rescued dogs as a volunteer or donor, click **here**.

Animal Legal Defense Fund
www.aldf.org

newsobserver.com

Volunteers seize about 200 dogs from Lee County home

The Associated Press

SANFORD, N.C. -- About 200 dogs were removed Wednesday from the Lee County home of a couple who were sentenced last month to five years probation for animal cruelty.

Veterinarians found the dogs suffered from blindness and skin scalding caused by ammonia, internal parasites and dental decay.

Volunteers including veterinarians and animal control workers marked the dogs with plastic collars, loaded them onto animal control vans from Wake and Lee counties and took them to a warehouse in downtown Sanford. There, the puppies and adult dogs joined 250 already seized from the property under an earlier court order.

The volunteers were allied with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, a Petaluma, Calif.-based animal-rights organization that sued Robert and Barbara Woodley.

In March, District Court Judge Albert A. Corbett sentenced the Woodleys to five years of probation. During that time, they may not keep animals at their home. He also sentenced them to two 45-day periods in jail each, suspended for five years.

In December, District Court Judge Resson Faircloth allowed veterinarians to examine the dogs and take them for treatment if needed.

The Woodleys are appealing the conviction, but Corbett ordered the Animal Legal Defense Fund to care for the dogs until the appeals process is finished.

"There's no animal here that's not threatened with serious health problems," said Bruce Wagman, litigation director for the animal-rights group.

Barbara Woodley also was found guilty earlier this year of making a death threat against a veterinarian and technician, who were on the Woodleys' property to care for the dogs. Her attorneys have appealed.

Information from: The Fayetteville Observer, http://www.fayettevillenc.com

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The Sanford Herald

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Woodleys convicted of animal cruelty

By TIM PRESTON

SANFORD - Barbara Woodley swayed slightly and collapsed to the courtroom floor Thursday after Judge Andy Corbett found her and husband Robert guilty of criminal animal cruelty and ordered all dogs remaining at their Sanford home surrendered to representatives of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

The Woodleys, of 500 Westover Drive, had an estimated 400 to 500 dogs, along with a number of birds, in their home and on their property before legal charges and a civil lawsuit were filed against them in late 2004.

Animal rights advocates, along with representatives and witnesses for the ALDF cheered openly as emergency medical technicians responded to the Lee County Courthouse shortly before 1 p.m. Lying on the courtroom floor, Woodley tapped her chest and gave the paramedics abbreviated verbal responses as they worked to determine if she had suffered a heart attack after hearing the verdict. Woodley was reportedly taken to the emergency room at Central Carolina Hospital for evaluation.

Corbett announced his decisions almost as soon as the last attorney to present closing arguments took his seat. Corbett found Robert and Barbara Woodley guilty of all charges of animal cruelty, sentencing both to 45 days in jail suspended for five years with conditions including a year of supervised probation. The Woodleys will pay court costs and must forfeit of all animals in their possession or under their control to ALDF representatives. The couple is not allowed to own, possess or control any animals during their probationary period, according to the judge's ruling.

Attorney Chip Post, who represented the Woodleys during the majority of the civil portion of this week's trial, said the judge's decision on the criminal charges "was erased," by their notice of appeal on the criminal charges. The appeal notice takes the case to Lee Superior Court for a jury trial. Post said he expects the new trial may be heard in Superior Court this summer.

"They are no longer convicted. They are now accused and have no restraints on them except to show up for court," Post said Thursday afternoon.

Corbett said statutes do not allow either the Animal Legal Defense Fund or the Woodleys from seeking damages or reimbursement for expenses related to the case. Veterinary bills for dogs taken from the Woodley property in January have been estimated at $100,000 for problems

including blindness and ocular problems, parasitic infestations, open wounds and sores, and "scalded" body parts caused by constant exposure to feces and urine.

Agents for the ALDF must care for the animals throughout the appeals process, the judge said, and are forbidden from "disposing of any of them," during that undetermined time. ALDF attorney Woody Webb Sr. told the judge that several of the dogs are in immediate need of euthanization and asked for permission to have those animals destroyed. Corbett repeated his orders and said ALDF agents must "follow the process" and submit a formal request to the court before any such action is taken.

Barbara Woodley was found not guilty of simple assault against a court-approved veterinarian working at her home. Dr. Laureen Bartfield accused Woodley of assaulting her by grabbing her sleeve and saying, "No pictures," when the vet began photographing animals and conditions at the Woodley property. The judge based his not-guilty decision on the fact that a police officer present when the alleged assault occurred determined no legal action was called for.

Attorney George Whitaker, who helped represent the Woodleys, said he was surprised at the reaction of ALDF supporters to Barbara Woodley's post-verdict collapse.

"What I saw was them hugging each other, laughing and high-fiving, even as they sneered at Barbara laying on the floor. When the bailiff asked them to leave the courtroom, they went outside and were yelling, whooping and hollering. The callousness of their actions says a lot about them and their warped point of view," he said.

Attorney Woody Webb Jr. of Raleigh, who helped represent the ALDF during the civil phase of the trial along with his father, said the ALDF supporters in court Thursday were purely celebrating their legal victory and were not reacting to Woodley's courtroom collapse.

"It had nothing to do with Mrs. Woodley," Webb said late Thursday, noting that the ALDF organization's supporters, "were obviously gratified with the ruling for defenseless and helpless animals." Webb said the judge's decision is a reflection of community standards in Lee County and North Carolina in general.

Contact Tim Preston by e-mail at tim@sanfordherald.com or call 718-1219.

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Police raid turns up 230 animals at local 'puppy mill'

By MELISSA N. WARREN / Review Appeal Staff Reporter

"The safety and well-being of our dogs and puppies is foremost," Jennifer Siliski says of her home kennel where a police raid Thursday night turned up 230 animals, more than 200 of them adult Maltese dogs.

Animal control officers remove a cage containing two Maltese puppies from the Oakwood Estates home of a breeder where authorities found 230 animals in bad condition. (Mindy Tate / Staff)

There also were 14 cats and an unspecified number of Maltese puppies.

"Our dogs are treated as part of our family," she says on Hollybelle's Villa Malta South, Siliski's Web site covered with pictures of her four children playing with the small white dogs that come with "a five-year health guarantee."

Despite that guarantee, the animals' health varied greatly when authorities served a search warrant on the two-story brick house at 2235 Bowman Road in Oakwood Estates.

The animals were in "deplorable" conditions — penned in small wire cages stacked atop each other in two small rooms, authorities said.

"Some of the dogs had infections, and one is in surgery today," Davis said. "They were being stored in the garage ... three or four in a cage."

Siliski's telephone answering service was full yesterday and she was unavailable for comment. No criminal charges had been filed late yesterday.

Siliski's Web site claims she believes in quality, not quantity, and there is no mention of cages. In fact, "these furry beauties are raised underfoot ... with [our family]," she says.

Siliski's youngest child, Holly, is the namesake of the Maltese boutique. Holly suffers from a terminal metabolic mitochondria disorder.

"She can neither walk nor talk, but the puppies are content to sit with her for hours. They have always brought her great joy," Siliski says.

Holly is not the only one who enjoys the dogs from Hollybelle's — country singer Billy Ray Cyrus and Aerosmith rocker Joe Perry have purchased dogs there, according to the Web site.

Police raided the house about 5:30 p.m. in response to a request from Williamson County Animal Control. The center had received complaints from neighbors about noxious odors coming from house, but most recently were alerted by two cleaning women. The women had been hired by Siliski to clean the house, but refused the job after seeing the condition.

A woman who lives nearby said most subdivisions have an unkempt house that neighbors hope will be cleaned up and "that house was it." She called the house "messy" and said it frequently looked as if it was under repair.

The neighbor also said she had never seen a dog outside there.

But Assistant District Attorney Braden Boucek saw each and every one of the dogs housed in Hollybelle's as he helped investigate the scene until the "wee hours of the morning," Davis said yesterday.

Boucek, a former investigator in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, had previous success with similar cases and "knew what needed to be done," Davis said.

After removing the animals from the house, Williamson County Animal Control officials housed the dogs for the night and yesterday said they had been inundated with calls about the dogs.

They closed the shelter to other business yesterday, except in emergencies, in order to care for Siliski's animals.

Animal control officials must await a court decision on disposition of the dogs

and cats before the general public may seek to adopt them, assistant director Debbie Leddy said.

She issued a call for clean used or new towels, newspapers, dog food for puppies and adult animals, cat food and cat litter. Such items may be left at the covered entrance to the shelter, located off Hillsboro Road behind Columbia State Community College in Franklin.

Meanwhile, Davis said the probe continued into the legality of Siliski's operation.

"We are extremely concerned about any cases involving animal cruelty and intend on vigorously enforcing the animal cruelty laws," he said.

Deputy Derek Smith, also on the scene Thursday night, agreed.

"These dogs deserve to be treated humanely, like all animals do. We would not have seized the [animals] if they had been in humane condition."

Smith, asked if Hollybelle's was a puppy mill, said it appeared the animals never went outside.

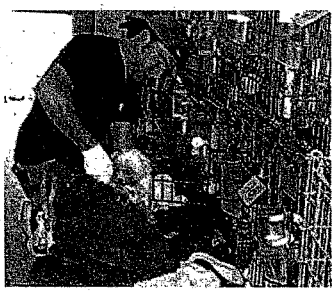
"Yeah, I'd say it was a puppy mill," he said.

Staff Reporter Melissa N. Warren can be contacted at melissa@reviewappeal.com.

Puppy mill raid began with his phone call

By CAROLE ROBINSON / Review Appeal Staff Reporter

When Dewayne Whitson called Williamson County Animal Control officials in mid-December about three West Highland Terriers he purchased from Franklin breeder Jennifer Siliski, he had no idea what he would be setting in motion.



Volunteer Nathan Tutt helps out at Williamson County animal Control cleaning cages, bathing and playing with some of the dogs confiscated during the Thursday night raid of Jenny Siliski's home. (Carole Robinson / Staff)

Within a day of purchasing his three "Westies," Whitson had to take them to his vet where one was diagnosed with a heart murmur and had sores and mange. Unable to keep the sick dogs or to get restitution from Siliski, Whitson said he called WCAC.

"It wasn't right for my county to take dogs from another county," said Whitson, of Cookeville.

A few days later he surrendered them to Williamson County Animal Control.

WCAC assistant director Debby Leddy said yesterday her office has had complaints about Siliski for years. With the three dogs in their custody, communications from the Tennessee Office of Consumer Affairs and inside information reporting on unhealthy and unsanitary conditions at Siliski's Bowman Road address, the judicial wheels were being set in motion to act.

At the state level, Consumer Affairs officer Linda Geary had been filling a file with complaints about Siliski, who was placed on the Tennessee State Buyer Beware list.

"This has been going on for years, but I handled my first complaint two months ago,'' Geary said.

"The calls are increasing. Consumers are telling us that Jennifer Siliski was

selling dogs and puppies as AKC (American Kennel Club) and AKC authorities say they are ineligible to be registered."

Geary said Siliski charged $250-$10,000 for her animals.

"One consumer paid $1,800 for a purebred dog and it died the next day," she said.

On her Hollybelle's Maltese web site, Siliski offers a five-year health warranty on her dogs, but Geary said consumers reported Siliski did not honor them. Consumers reported dogs with parvo, heart murmurs, mange, socialization problems and the vocal chords of many had been clipped, a process called debarking.

Whitson verified that — Siliski would not honor the warranty on any of his three dogs. He said it was strange that it was so quiet for the number of dogs she had in her garage.

"When I was in the house I couldn't hear dogs barking. Then I found out all three of my dogs had been debarked."

Geary is spearheading an investigation into Siliski's business practices and advises consumers to file complaints with her office. That can be done by downloading a complaint form off the internet at www.state.tn.us/consumer.

Since documentation is necessary to prosecute this case, Geary asked that forms be downloaded and mailed or faxed to her office. She also can be reached by phone at 1-800-342-8385 or 615-741-4742 or by email at linda.geary@state.tn.us.

Documentation should include letters from veterinarians regarding medical problems, correspondence from the AKC about registering, copies of payment receipts and any correspondence from Siliski.

Meanwhile, at WCAC, volunteers organized through Bon du Jour, spent the weekend washing, clipping, feeding, cleaning cages and socializing the 230 animals. Five members of the Tutt family were on hand to help. They recently purchased two female Maltese Terriers from Siliski.

"We didn't know anything was wrong," Elisia Tutt said. "It just kills me to see these animals in this condition — not bathed, can't hear because of stuff in their ears, gunk in their eyes, they can't even go to the bathroom."

Without the volunteers, the job of caring for so many abused animals would have been monumental, Leddy said.

"The dogs and cats are doing much better. They are eating well, they are hydrated and our vet, Dr. Mary Foshee, is doing regular checks on them."

One kitten and one puppy died over the weekend and seven other animals are still in guarded condition at local veterinary hospitals.

Once all the animals are documented, WCAC will look for a larger space to house them until the investigation and court proceedings are complete. Officials may foster out mothers and pups to keep them together.

A judge eventually will decide what will be done with the animals when the case has been decided, Leddy said.

"One of these dogs needs to be somebody's princess," volunteer Vickie Roberts said.

And Whitson, who only wanted a healthy dog, is thrilled attention has been brought to the situation, but because of the scope of the case, he hired Nashville attorney Christina Norris to represent him and the many others who have contacted him in a class action suit against Siliski.

"I'm extremely happy I got somebody's attention on this," Whitson said.

Staff Reporter Carole Robinson can be contacted at carole@reviewappeal.com

Task force formed in Siliski case

By MELISSA N. WARREN / Review Appeal Staff Reporter

Two minds are better than one.

And in the case of Jennifer Siliski, the Franklin dog breeder whose 230 animals and four children were removed from her care last week, officials say it's going to take the combined efforts of numerous "heads" to put together the clues.

The home at 2235 Bowman Road has popped up on the radar screens of many different agencies over the years — the Williamson County District Attorney's Office, the state Department of Children's Services (DCS), the state Division of Affairs, Williamson County Animal Control (WCAC), the Humane Society, the Better Business Bureau (BBB), the American Kennel Club and the Williamson County Codes Compliance Department are just a few, documents turned up by the Williamson County Review Appeal indicate.

Nonetheless, the different agencies did not begin to share all of their information in a joint task force until two weeks ago, just before the raid on Siliski's home, said Linda Gerhey of the state Division of Consumer Affairs.

"I had to come up with a creative way to combine our efforts, so we held a meeting a week before the raid with the different departments that were involved," she said.

The D.A.'s office, WCAC, the Humane Society and the BBB were all present at the meeting.

But the Siliski case, with its growing list of false names and allegations of illegal business, now merits even more help.

"The task force has now grown to include several other agencies, which cannot be named due to the sensitivity of the case."

It is difficult to include every department in the task force, though. Siliski is being investigated on numerous levels, and certain aspects of the case are not

necessarily under the jurisdiction of all members in the task force, Gerhey said.

For instance, Carla Aaron, DCS communications manager, said that agency was not notified about the raid until the day after the animals had been removed.

"We had been there before, but [for this specific incident] we received no official report," Aaron said.

While it is disturbing that the animals were removed from the "deplorable" conditions prior to the children, there is no system that ensures information regarding neglect cases is shared immediately, she said.

"Just because Animal Control removes animals doesn't mean there are necessarily children involved, and vice versa. Sometimes, we don't know that there are animals at the house until we get there. The same goes for Animal Control."

DCS is sharing as much information with the D.A.'s office, and as much as is legally possible with Consumer Affairs, although the office is not "involved in any task force" with an outside agency, Aaron said.

The agencies are not the only ones organizing — on the Web, Internet traffic is high on the different forum boards regarding the Siliski case.

Dwayne Whitson, a Cookeville resident and disgruntled Siliski customer, says he has been contacted by several other Hollybelle's Maltese owners.

"I've been working on this for a month," he said yesterday. "My wife and I check and post on that forum (www.malteseonly.com) every day."

Siliski customers from California to New York to Florida say they are gathering their American Kennel Club certificates, registration documents and any e-mails from Siliski.

In fact, officials are gathering much of their new information from these deeply committed Maltese lovers.

"I'm getting five new calls a day," Gerhey said.

With time, energy and monetary losses, customers who have bought dogs from Siliski are angry and united.

Adam Edwards of South Carolina is one such customer.

"We just want to make sure she doesn't get those dogs back," he said in a phone interview yesterday. "It sickens us what she does and we want to do anything we can to help make sure she never gets those dogs again."

Edwards also is a key informant about the mysterious Bruce Redler in South Carolina.

Redler filed a suit against Jennifer Siliski — "formerly known as Melissa Henya Redler" — in 1994, although no information about the relationship of the pair or the nature of the complaint were on record at the Franklin courthouse.

But Edwards said yesterday that he dug up information on Redler's 1994 court case; it was a divorce complaint. That means a fourth ex-husband can be added to the group of three who were in a custody hearing last Monday about Siliski's children.

Staff Reporter Melissa N. Warren can be contacted at melissa@reviewappeal.com.

TENNESSEAN.com
Everyday matters.

Saturday, 02/12/05

State: Ban Siliski from more sales of animals

By MITCHELL KLINE
Staff Writer

FRANKLIN — The state is asking a Williamson County judge for a permanent injunction that would keep dog breeder Jennifer Siliski from selling any more animals and to fine her for violating the Consumer Protection Act.

In documents filed yesterday on behalf of the Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs, the Attorney General's Office claims Siliski sold dogs with genetic defects and other health problems and led buyers to believe they were paying for American Kennel Club registered dogs when the dogs were not registered. The state wants a partial summary judgment, which could be made before the case goes to trial.

Along with an order that would keep Siliski from ever selling animals again, the Attorney General's Office is asking for penalties and attorneys fees.

The state will seek restitution on behalf of consumers who purchased dogs from Siliski, said Sharon Curtis-Flair, spokeswoman for the Attorney General.

"We want to have the consumers testify in court that have a complaint in this case," Curtis-Flair said. "That's why we're not asking for restitution at this time."

No trial date has been set, but the case will be heard by Judge Russ Heldman.

According to the state's motion, "there is no dispute as to any material fact or genuine issue for trial other than proof of monetary damages to affected consumers."

In affidavits attached to the motion, consumers claim Siliski swindled them. Nevada resident Gerald Kerns said he paid $2,600 for a dog that had a hole in its skull.

Williamson County residents Dwayne Whitson and Linda Gillespie said Siliski sold them dogs with severe health problems. Whitson paid $1,300 for three dogs, and Gillespie paid $1,300 for a puppy that died. Mary Mierley of Pennsylvania said she paid $1,600 for a dog she believed was registered with the AKC.

Siliski did not return a reporter's phone call.

Williamson County Animal Control raided Siliski's Franklin home on Jan. 22, 2004, claiming it found more than 230 dogs and cats living in unsanitary conditions.

Siliski was convicted on 11 counts of animal cruelty in August and later sentenced to 10 days in jail, community service and probation. She is appealing her conviction.

Prosecutors have recently charged her with violating a court order to stop breeding animals. They claim she has continued breeding operations and is still selling dogs out of her home.

Siliski's criminal attorney, John Herbison, said she has not been breeding animals. That case will be presented to a judge Tuesday.

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TENNESSEAN
Every day matters. .com

Thursday, 03/03/05

Former dog breeder ordered to stay animal-free

By MITCHELL KLINE
Staff Writer

FRANKLIN — Convicted animal abuser Jennifer Siliski was released from the Williamson County jail yesterday after a judge ruled her 16-day stay there fulfilled the sentence he imposed after her trial.

Judge R.E. Lee Davies said he was "tired of this case" and that he is "pulling for her to behave herself." On Feb. 15, Davies revoked the bail Siliski, 47, had posted while pursuing an appeal of her conviction after witnesses testified that she violated his order to never breed animals again.

Yesterday, Davies told Siliski he would release her from jail and reinstate her bail under the condition that she is not allowed to have any animals in her home. Siliski said that wouldn't be a problem. She claims the five remaining dogs the judge allowed her to keep were stolen last month when she and her family went to breakfast on a Sunday morning. Siliski said she did not file a police report because she did not feel she would be taken seriously.

Found guilty on 11 counts of animal cruelty in August 2004, Siliski was sentenced to 10 days in jail, a year of supervised probation and 50 hours of community service followed by eight years of unsupervised probation. She was accused of keeping more than 230 dogs and cats in unsanitary conditions at her Franklin home.

Assistant Attorney General Preston Shipp told Davies that the 16-day jail stay should not be considered part of the criminal sentence, but it was punishment for violating the terms of her bail.

"It doesn't have anything to do with her sentence," Shipp said. "She blatantly disregarded this court's authority. In jail is the only place she's going to be where she is not violating this court's order."

Davies said he felt Siliski fulfilled the 10-day jail sentence, but he was unsure whether she could continue to the next phase of her sentence —

probation — because she is appealing her conviction. Davies said he would reinstate her bail. Siliski's attorney, John Herbison, told Davies that he could hold her in contempt of court if she violated the new terms of her bail.

Braden Boucek, assistant district attorney, said he was disappointed with Davies' ruling but respected the decision.

"We will have probation officers out to her house with regularity to ensure she's not (breeding animals) again," Boucek said. "It was definitely a good ruling that she not have any animals. She's shown that if you give her an inch she'll take a mile."

Minutes after being released from jail yesterday morning, Siliski told reporters she was glad to be out and looked forward to being reunited with her children. She said she will abide by Davies' order.

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The Post-Standard

Man accused of animal cruelty

State police charge Hannibal resident with mistreating nearly two dozen dogs.

Thursday, July 29, 2004

By Delen Goldberg
Staff writer

A Hannibal man accused of running a puppy mill has turned himself in to state police on 23 counts of animal cruelty.

Jerry Schmidt, of 525 county Route 21, was arrested Tuesday night at the Fulton state police barracks on charges he mistreated almost two dozen dogs, troopers said.

Oswego County Animal Welfare League officers found the animals alone July 16 in Schmidt's house. The dogs were locked in cages, covered in feces and infested with fleas and parasites, said Judy Spicer, a welfare league volunteer.

Schmidt and his wife, Sherry, were on vacation in Florida when investigators showed up to their house and seized their pets, neighbors said. The couple had moved to Hannibal about eight weeks earlier from Ocala, Fla.

Schmidt turned himself in to troopers after he learned Hannibal Town Justice Luther Dennison had issued a warrant for his arrest, Spicer said, and is free on $1,000 bail. He told state police Tuesday that his wife was still in Florida, Spicer said.

Sherry Schmidt also is wanted on almost two dozen counts of animal cruelty.

"And there will be quite a few more charges coming," Spicer said Wednesday.

Spicer said Animal Welfare League volunteers have received more than a dozen calls in the past two weeks from people across Central New York complaining about the Schmidts. Investigators say the couple was breeding and selling their dogs.

"People are calling . . ., saying the Schmidts sold them sick dogs, or they paid money and never got a dog," Spicer said.

Animal Welfare League investigators seized from the Schmidts' home one Doberman pinscher, two Japanese Chins, three English bulldogs, two litters of toy poodles - 3-week- old to 6-week-old puppies and 6-month-old puppies - and several Great Danes, Spicer said.

Volunteers have found foster homes for all of the animals.

None of the dogs can be adopted until the Schmidts' sign a release or a judge orders the dogs removed from the couple's care, Spicer said.

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NBC3 WSTM.COM CENTRAL NEW YORK LIVE LOCAL LATEBREAKING

Dog's Owner Wants Mill Shut Down

A two year old great dane named Blade suffers from Wobbler's disease, and his owners say he's the victim of a puppy mill they want shut down. Blade's disease will kill him at a young age.

Last weekend police in Hannibal raided what they called a puppy mill, and they found nearly two dozen dogs living in horrible conditions. The owner of the mill is Sherry Schmidt, she's nowhere to be found. Police have issued a warrant for her arrest.

Jeff Disinger of Cicero bought Blade from Schmidt. Just ten months after the purchase Blade came down with the crippling Wobbler's disease. Disinger says the money he paid for the dog simply doesn't matter anymore- he just wants Schmidt put out of business. He says poor breeding conditions helped cause Blade's illness.

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NBC3 WSTM.COM CENTRAL NEW YORK LIVE LOCAL LATEBREAKING

Woman brings more allegations against puppy mill owner

Edited by Dave Pieklik
7/13/04 5:09 p.m.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Sherry Schmidt, charged with 23 counts of animal neglect, animal abuse or failure to provide adequate shelter at her puppy mill.

The owner of one of the dogs seized by animal cruelty investigators wants justice.

Phantom was a Valentine's Day purchase by Lynn Maldonado, of Syracuse. But after noticing his poor health, especially the way he walked, Maldonado took him to the vet.

"The vet said my option was to either give him back or put him down, and I can't put an animal down. That's not me," she said.

So she tried getting a hold of Schmidt, of Galaxy Danes, to get her money back and return the dog.

"I sent numerous letters, I kept calling her cell phone. She gave me a cell phone number, she gave me a number on top of the contract. I called the numbers over and over and over again," said Maldonado.

She tried for a month and a half, but still hasn't received word from Schmidt.

"I contacted the Attorney General's office, cause like I said, he's $800. I paid her $800, I have a contract, his health was very poor, he's gonna need numerous surgeries for one," she said.

In May, Maldonado says she heard from Schmidt but says she wouldn't refund her money, instead promising a new puppy if Phantom didn't get better. That was fine by Maldonado, until she saw the deplorable conditions Phantom had been living in.

"I hope that wherever she is, she gets exactly what she deserves. Every dog has its day and that dog's gonna have hers," she said.

Several attempts to contact Schmidt at three different phone numbers were unsuccessful. There are listings for her in Cortland County, Florida and in Hannibal.

The Oswego County Animal Welfare League, who is looking after the remaining puppies, says the case has left it in desperate need of donations in order for it to take care of the puppies. To make a donation, you can call **625-4895.**

Or you can mail checks to:

Oswego County Animal Welfare League
P.O. Box 4
Oswego, NY 13126

WHAS11.COM

Breeder charged with 95 counts of animal cruelty

01:23 PM EDT on Friday, September 3, 2004

Kerri Richardson

Laura Pope told the Spencer County sheriff she wasn't selling her dogs online, but we found her website, which promises different types of purebred puppies and dogs to anyone with a deposit and boasts Pope's signature on her American Kennel Club compliance report last April.

What the website doesn't show: pictures of the dogs' living conditions, which investigators say are terrible.

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A half-mile down a gravel road in Mount Eden, about 100 dogs announce any visitor's arrival.

"I mean, this has been going on for not just a month or two, this has been going on for years." Neighbor Roy Wyatt worries about the dogs, mostly purebred Siberian huskies and malinois. Some are tied with long log chains; others, locked in small cages.

"Been out in the sun the rain and as far as feeding, she'd just take the food out and pitch it on the ground to the dogs," Wyatt says.

"They walk in the mess, they walk in no cover. Some of them have little tarps over them for shade or to stay out of the weather, but some of them don't have anything," describes Sheriff Steve Coulter. "It's just inhumane for animals to have to live that way."

After several complaints to the Humane Society, the Spencer County sheriff served a search warrant on Pope's property Thursday. Not only did they lose count of the dogs, investigators found nearly 60 chickens and rabbits in a run-down barn filled with feces.

"I've never seen this many animals on one piece of property," Coulter says.

Laura Pope refused to talk to us about her arrest or her 95 charges of second-degree animal cruelty.

"She is a good person, but I think there's more here than she can control or handle or take care of, you know," Coulter says. "She's not a bad person by any means, I don't think."

"All we got planned right now is to go ahead and feed and water the animals, make them comfortable for the night and then we'll start a mass cleanup in the morning," says Mike McNutt of the Kentucky Humane Society.

Investigators say despite the cramped and dirty pens, the dogs appear to be healthy.

"I don't believe she should be able to have any animals at all," Wyatt says.

The sheriff originally planned to charge Pope for each of the animals on her property, which would have been about 150 counts. However, Kentucky animal cruelty statutes don't address rabbits or chickens, so Pope is just charged with one count for each dog.

She's in the Shelby County jail on a $25,000 cash bond.

Web story produced by Jay Ditzer.

Online at:
http://www.whas11.com/topstories/stories/WHAS11_TOP_AnimalCruelty.de9212e

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Accused dog breeder has faced charges of animal cruelty before

USDA cited woman in '89, '92 for animal welfare violations

By T.M. Shultz
Lansing State Journal

DANSVILLE - A woman arraigned last week in Mason District Court on six counts of animal cruelty twice faced similar charges filed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture - once in 1989 and again in 1992, a department spokesman said Thursday.

Karen Cochran was charged with failure to correct non-compliance standards in 1992, Darby Holladay said.

The case was closed in May of that year when Cochran's animal dealer license was revoked, and she was disqualified from reapplying for a license for four years, Holladay said.

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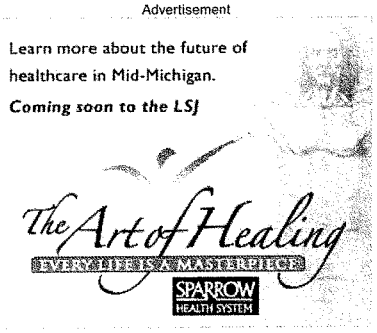

Reached by phone Thursday, Cochran said she recalled going to court in 1992 on charges she failed to provide animals with adequate housing, sanitation, supervision, pest control and veterinary care in violation of the federal Animal Welfare Act.

Records also show the department lodged a complaint against Cochran in 1989 for

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failure to maintain veterinary care of animals and for malnutrition.

Holladay said there is no record of the disposition of that case.

"This goes to show this is business as usual for her," said Jamie McAloon Lampman, director of Ingham County Animal Control, which investigated the current case.

Cochran, 54, was arraigned last week along with Walter Krause, 62, on six counts of animal cruelty. The charge is a misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of 93 days in jail and a $1,000 fine, Ingham County Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings III said.

Cochran declined to comment on the current case against her saying she had been advised by her attorney not to. But she did add that since her arraignment became public, she has received hate mail and death threats.

"You guys are crucifying me," she said. Asked if she had treated her dogs badly, Cochran declined to comment.

Cochran and Krause were released on personal recognizance bonds on the conditions they not contact witnesses in the case nor own or possess animals. A pretrial date has not been set.

A woman who answered the phone at Krause's residence Thursday said he didn't live there anymore and she didn't know how to reach him. No attorney is listed with the court for Krause.

Cochran's attorney is listed by the court as Sal Gani of Lansing, who did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Dunnings said the abuse - which occurred on property on Swan Road outside Dansville - was so horrible he wanted to file more serious charges but couldn't because the law requires a previous animal cruelty conviction before a person can be charged with a felony.

Told of the previous Department of Agriculture charges against Cochran, Dunnings said he would "look into the matter thoroughly" with an eye toward possibly bringing stronger charges. "If we can, we will," Dunnings said.

Lampman said the importance of any previous charges may come during the sentencing portion of the case, if Cochran is convicted.

The plight of the dogs came to light last month when owners who bought dogs from Krause and Cochran called and complained about their conditions.

An investigation ensued, and animal control officers seized 33 of the tiny dogs - most weighing no more than 3 pounds. They were placed in foster care where they must remain until the case concludes.

The dogs were covered with bugs, infections oozed from their ears and eyes and their legs fractured easily from brittle bones, Lampman said.

Dunnings said authorities still are trying to locate about 62 dogs that disappeared from Krause's care in the weeks before the 33 dogs were seized.

Contact T.M. Shultz at 377-1061 or tshultz@lsj.com.

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92 dogs seized at Maine home

Tuesday, April 19, 2005 - Bangor Daily News

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BANGOR DAILY NEWS PHOTO BY KEVIN BENNETT Megan Cushing of Brewer assists animal care technician Sue Bryan (in cage) as she feeds 15 of the 92 dogs seized from the Dover-Foxcroft home of Mark Hagelin.

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DOVER-FOXCROFT - Animal welfare officials were scrambling Monday to provide care and medical treatment for 92 emaciated and ill English springer spaniels seized from a home last week. Agents from the state animal welfare program used a warrant Friday afternoon to search the home of Mark Hagelin of Gray Hill Road. Ten agents, veterinarians and volunteers helped remove the dogs.

Dover-Foxcroft police and Maine state troopers secured the scene while volunteers worked more than nine hours to catch, inventory and transport the dogs to shelters.

As of Monday afternoon, Hagelin had not been charged with any crime, but Norma Worley, director of the state animal welfare program, said her complaint will be forwarded to the Piscataquis County district attorney by the end of the week.

Calls to the Hagelin home on Monday were not returned.

"The conditions were horrendous," Worley said Monday. She said dogs - some acting aggressively - were found throughout the property: in the kennels, in Hagelin's home and running loose.

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Rochelle Black, adoption manager for the Bangor Humane Society, said that fecal matter and urine were "everywhere, inside and outside the home. The animals had no access to food or water. Their bodies were basically eating themselves to stay alive."

The dogs that were loose were drinking from puddles, and dead dogs were found on the property, she said.

Black said the amount of waste on the home's floor was so great that it was seeping through and dripping into the basement.

"This was a situation that just got out of control and it was beyond his ability to care for this many animals," she said.

Neighbors on Gray Hill Road said they had been complaining about dogs barking and running loose for at least three years. One neighbor, who asked for anonymity, said that the dogs had often run loose in packs of eight or 10 and that people walking in the area were afraid.

Worley said that the town of Dover-Foxcroft had been aware of the situation and had attempted for some time to work with Hagelin. But the situation just "came to a head" last week, Worley said.

Steven Robinson, director of investigations for the American Kennel Club, said Monday that Hagelin's AKC breeder's license had been suspended in December for 10 years because he refused to make his records and kennel available for inspection when requested by AKC officials.

At least one of the dogs previously bred by Hagelin had found its way to the Blaine House in Augusta. Sam, one of a pair of English springer spaniels, was purchased by first lady Karen Baldacci from Hagelin, said Lynn Kippax, spokesman for Gov. John Baldacci. "The first lady responded to a newspaper ad and went and saw the dog," Kippax said. "That is the extent of the relationship between them."

The 92 seized dogs were sent to the Bangor Humane Society and the Kennebec Valley Humane Society in Augusta since the state does not have its own shelter, Worley said.

"They are in pretty bad shape," Jeff Mitchell, director of the Bangor society, said Monday. The society ended up with about 50 dogs,

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including 44 puppies. "None of them are housebroken - they are kenneled dogs - and all are infested with parasites. Most are malnourished, some to the point of muscle atrophy," Mitchell said. The puppies range in age from 8 weeks to 7 months and include three mothers with new litters.

Mitchell said that Mark Hanks, a Veazie veterinarian, volunteered his services over the weekend to give each animal a physical examination. Three employees of a Bangor pet store also helped to clean each dog.

Roxanne Brann, director of the Kennebec Valley Humane Society, said Monday that her staff was assessing the conditions of each of the 42 dogs at her facility. "They are all thin and dirty, with heavily matted fur," Brann said.

Worley said her staff is reeling from its fourth major animal seizure in three months.

"We are exhausted to the breaking point," she said. "We keep wondering how many more of these hellholes are out there that we haven't seen."

Worley said the program, which does not receive any money from the state's General Fund, but is funded through dog license fees, is paying $400 a day to care for the animals. "That's why we will be trying to push a possession hearing in the courts through as fast as possible," she said. Such a hearing would allow the state to take possession of the dogs in an action separate from any future criminal case.

It will be at least two to three weeks before any of the dogs will be available for adoption, said Mitchell.

Black said, "I'm just glad that today they are all warm and clean and dry and fed."

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Judge denies man's bid to recover dogs

Friday, June 24, 2005 - Bangor Daily News

Outside Dover-Foxcroft District Court on Thursday, Mark Hagelin reads Judge Kevin Stitham's decision to forfeit Hagelin's 92 dogs to the state. Hagelin and his mother, Carol (right), were upset over the ruling, which says the dogs, which were seized from their property, are going to be sold. They said they are considering an appeal. bangor daily news photo by Gabor Degre

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92 animals, offspring forfeited to state; Hagelin, dad still face animal cruelty charges

DOVER-FOXCROFT - A District Court judge ruled Thursday in favor of the state regarding the seizure of 92 dogs and puppies from the home of Mark Hagelin and his parents.

Judge Kevin Stitham issued his decision in a seven-page document, which denied several motions filed by Hagelin, including that the warrant to search his home was illegal, that he was denied due process and that his privacy was invaded.

"The court declares that each of the 92 spaniel-type dogs and each of the resulting offspring are forfeited to the state of Maine through the state Department of Agriculture, Animal Welfare Program, and each are to be sold," the statement read.

Hagelin, 45, has 21 days to appeal the judge's decision, which was issued by the court outside of a hearing.

"I don't know if I'll appeal this or not," Hagelin said Thursday outside the Dover-Foxcroft courthouse with his mother, Carol Hagelin, at his side. "There were things that were not entered in court that were entered in [the judge's decision] after the fact."

Hagelin declined to elaborate what any of those things were, saying,

"They will be foundation for an appeal."

He and his father, Burton Hagelin Sr., 73, who was not at the courthouse Thursday, still face criminal charges of animal cruelty. The cases are expected to be heard in August.

Stitham's decision culminated a civil matter that played out over five days, spanning more than a month. The case included Hagelin's dismissing his attorney, then representing himself.

"I'm pleased [with the judge's decision]. It's good to get this over with," Piscataquis County District Attorney R. Christopher Almy said Thursday by phone.

The dogs and puppies, all English springer spaniels, were seized in April from the Hagelins' home on Gray Hill Road after authorities obtained a search warrant.

State Animal Welfare officials testified during the hearings that the conditions at the home were deplorable and showed a video in support of that claim. Many of the dogs suffered from various types of worms and ear mites and were malnourished, the state said.

Hagelin argued during the hearings that the warrant was illegal because an affidavit of probable cause was not included. Stitham, however, wrote in his decision that "the warrant is still valid even without the affidavit being attached," citing a prior case.

"Stitham is as corrupt as the rest of them," Hagelin said Thursday. "I used to think he was a judge with integrity, but he just proved that he doesn't have any.

"Somebody wanted the decision to go a certain way, and it got manipulated that way," he said.

Even before the seizure, the Hagelins were prevented from selling any of their animals. Mark Hagelin said that it was bad timing the day the search warrant was issued because he was still in bed and hadn't been

given the opportunity to clean up. He added that the conditions that day in April were not indicative of his abilities as a kennel operator.

"These people have never tried to work with me. ... You don't work with someone who comes on to your property and is rude to you. They deliberately put us in this type of situation," Hagelin said.

Since the dogs and puppies were seized, 21 new puppies have been born. The Animal Welfare Program has received several calls from people wanting to adopt one of the animals, but the state can't release any until the appeal process is complete. The animals are split among five different shelters throughout the state.

"We'll be thrilled when we're able to find homes for these dogs," Animal Welfare Director Norma Worley said Thursday.

Meanwhile, it's costing the state - and ultimately taxpayers - about $400 per day to board and feed the dogs.

The total costs are nearing $30,000, according to Worley.

In his decision, Stitham granted Hagelin a lien that alleviates him from responsibility for the costs that have accrued, but if the matter continues, that courtesy may not continue for the kennel owner.

"If he appeals, we're entitled to ask the court to require him to post a substantial cash bond to offset the cost," Almy said.

Hagelin countered that "[the dogs] belong to us; [the state] stole them. We should not absorb the financial loss from it." He added that the state stands to make money off the seizure when the animals are sold.

"We'll recoup the costs, but I'm hardly going to make money on this," Worley said.

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Judge increases bail for dog breeder

Friday, September 09, 2005 - Bangor Daily News

DOVER-FOXCROFT - A district court judge on Thursday increased the bail for a local man, charged with animal cruelty, who allegedly has violated his bail conditions repeatedly by being too close to dogs.

Mark Hagelin, 45, pleaded not guilty Thursday to two counts of violation of conditions of release and to criminal mischief that occurred between Aug. 31 and Sept. 6. The latter charge was made after Hagelin allegedly pounded his head into the trunk of a police cruiser on Aug. 31 causing $239 worth of damage.

Judge Kevin Stitham set the highest of the bail conditions for Hagelin on Thursday at $5,000 surety or $500 cash and ordered Hagelin to have no contact with any dog, including his mother's dog.

"There's no condition of bail that I can see, Judge, that he's going to obey," Prosecutor R. Christopher Almy said Thursday in court.

As he left court, Mark Hagelin said he was hoping his parents would make the bail.

As of Thursday evening, he hadn't made bail.

Hagelin and his father, Burton Hagelin Sr., were both charged with cruelty to animals in April after state and local authorities seized 92 English springer spaniels from their Gray Hill Road home and kennel. Animal welfare officials said the dogs were malnourished and had little food or water. Wife and mother Carol Hagelin, who also lives in the home, was not charged.

With the exception of the dog owned by Carol Hagelin, both men were ordered not to be within 10 feet of any other dog.

Carol Hagelin's dog has since delivered five puppies, which are in the Hagelin home. To avoid trouble, Burton Hagelin Sr. has moved out of

the home and is staying in a motel in the region, but the younger Hagelin has been living at home with his mother.

"I just want to go home without being arrested," a subdued Mark Hagelin said Thursday in court.

Court-appointed attorney Chris Smith of Dover-Foxcroft, who represented Hagelin for Thursday's court appearance, recommended that Hagelin be allowed to live in the home and be around the puppies with supervision, since the issue with the dogs was neglect rather than intentional harm.

Hagelin has been ordered to get a mental health evaluation but has not done so yet. He said that the head-banging incident was caused by a panic attack that he suffered at the time.

"I'm claustrophobic," he said in court.

Outside the courtroom, Almy said his biggest effort now is to protect the dogs at Hagelin's home.

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TESTIMONY OF

Henry E. Childers, DVM
President
American Veterinary Medical Association

Concerning the
Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS)
S1139
2005

Before the
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation of the United States
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

November 8, 2005

Testimony of Dr. Henry E. Childers, President of the American Veterinary Medical Association, on the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS) S1139

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee for giving the American Veterinary Medical Association the opportunity to speak in support of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute, commonly referred to as PAWS.

I am Dr. Henry Childers, President of the AVMA and a companion animal practitioner from Cranston, Rhode Island.

The American Veterinary Medical Association represents 73,000 American veterinarians engaged in every aspect of veterinary medical science. Among other things, our members ensure the health of the nation's livestock, help preserve endangered species, and protect human health through control of zoonotic disease. Nearly fifty five percent of us, however, are companion animal practitioners who commit our expertise and energy on a daily basis to ensuring the well-being of the nation's pets. Pets are important members of 58 million U.S. households, and veterinarians are passionate about making sure that strong bonds are created and maintained between owners and their pets.

Unfortunately, each and every day, veterinarians are confronted with pets that suffer the ill effects of irresponsible breeding, poor perinatal and pediatric care, and inappropriate transport over long distances. Animal suffering is compounded by human suffering as heartache and financial burdens are thrust upon pet owners who have purchased these unfortunate animals. Not only is the existing owner-pet relationship harmed, but future relationships are also jeopardized as some owners may hesitate to make another commitment.

Large-scale puppy and kitten dealers who escape regulation under the current Animal Welfare Act are a significant source of these problems. Overbreeding, inbreeding, minimal veterinary care, poor quality food and shelter, overcrowding, poor socialization practices, and poor approaches to transport are the hallmarks of these operations. These operations escape regulation because they sell directly to the public, either from their facilities or via the Internet, and are therefore classified as "retail pet stores." "Retail pet stores" are not required to be licensed under the Animal Welfare Act.

Hip dysplasia in Labrador Retrievers, spinal cord problems in German Shepherds, blindness in Collies, and heart problems in Maine Coon cats are but a few of the genetic conditions that result from overbreeding and inbreeding. Overcrowding, poor sanitation, lack of veterinary care, and the stress of prolonged transport encourage exposure to and the spread of otherwise preventable gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases that can easily take the lives of the puppies and kittens born in these facilities.

Unfortunately, by the time veterinarians see these sick animals, its family has usually formed a strong bond with their pet. Their joy and excitement over having a wonderful companion in their lives soon turns into a difficult choice between returning a pet to its source, surrendering the pet to a local shelter, or accepting the emotional and financial burdens of health problems that may or may not be treatable and can potentially last a pet's lifetime.

As veterinarians, we see the shortened life expectancies and the days, months, or years of impaired function or discomfort that the affected pets must endure. We see the emotional pain inflicted upon families as they suffer along with their pets. Sometimes, when our most valiant efforts cannot fix the problem, or at least ensure a reasonably good quality of life for the pet, or when families can no longer manage the financial or emotional burdens associated with their pets' care, these same families may be forced to make yet another difficult decision—euthanasia.

The burdens created by individuals who irresponsibly breed and import and who escape regulation are not limited to those affecting the pet and its family. When owners can no longer care for their pets and cannot bear the idea of euthanasia, they often surrender their pets to animal shelters. Whether those shelters are publicly supported or privately funded, the cost of caring for these animals is now borne by the community.

The high-volume breeders and importers that this statute will affect have profit as their only goal. Neither morals, nor ethics guide the misery they breed. To date, through an unintentional oversight, they have been exempt from the law. The American Veterinary Medical Association believes this must be corrected. Congress has the power to do that.

Veterinarians work hard to educate prospective owners about obtaining puppies and kittens from reputable sources. It is incredibly frustrating when our efforts are undermined by disreputable breeders and importers. Amending the Animal Welfare Act with the PAWS will provide the Department of Agriculture with the tools it needs to bring those high-volume breeders and importers who are currently escaping regulation under a mandate that requires a viable health plan for their animals. This means these breeders and importers will have to work more closely with veterinarians to improve husbandry practices and breed healthier animals. It also means these breeders and importers will be held accountable when their efforts do not meet standards.

We understand that regulation without complementary education usually fails. Therefore, the leadership, members, and staff of the American Veterinary Medical Association stand ready to help ensure the success of this legislation.

The AVMA has a strong professional and public education presence. Veterinarians are provided with up-to-date and scientifically rigorous information about animal health, care, and welfare. Veterinarians assimilate that information and pass it along to their clients on a daily basis. Those clients include breeders, pet owners, and an increasing number of prospective pet owners who are seeking the advice of a veterinarian before obtaining a pet. Veterinarians often participate in pet-friendly community events and this provides another opportunity to deliver related information to an even broader audience. In addition, the AVMA makes educational materials on the importance of careful breeding, appropriate pet selection, and responsible pet ownership and care directly available to both breeders and the public.

Ensuring animal welfare is at the heart of what we, as veterinarians, do. Ensuring the welfare of the American public is at the heart of what you do. Together, we can help

ensure that America's pet owners and pets are afforded the protection they deserve. The PAWS is an important step in the right direction.

Despite its support for the PAWS, the AVMA acknowledges that this piece of legislation is not perfect. There are some unanswered questions and some unintended consequences of its current language that should be addressed. These include:

- Ambiguities in the definition of "retail pet store" and "dealer"
- The effect of the PAWS on hobby and show breeders
- The effect of the PAWS on rescue organizations and shelters
- Source record requirements for pet stores that would otherwise not fall under USDA's jurisdiction.

"Retail pet store" is not explicitly defined in the current Animal Welfare Act. As previously mentioned, to date, almost anyone who sells at retail has been considered to be a "retail pet store" by the USDA and, thereby, has been exempted. "Retail pet store" is redefined by the PAWS as "a public retail establishment that sells animals commonly kept as pets in households in the United States, including (a) dogs; (b) cats; (c) guinea pigs; (d) rabbits; and (e) hamsters." Exclusions are listed as "(a) a person breeding animals to sell to the public as pets; (b) a person selling hunting, security, or breeding dogs; or (c) a person selling wild animals."

An expected effect of the new definition and associated exclusions is that more pet stores will be required to be licensed. Why? First, because it is not clear whether the species listed under the proposed redefinition of "retail pet store" (i.e., dogs, cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, and hamsters) are all inclusive. Warm-blooded animals besides those species listed, such as sugar gliders, gerbils, and fancy mice, are often kept as pets. If the definition is interpreted as being all-inclusive, then pet stores selling other species will be required to be regulated under the revised Act. Second, some pet stores will have inadvertently bred certain species (e.g., hamsters) as a result of their being housed in groups. Third, "wild animal" is not defined. Although most small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians sold by retail pet stores have been through several generations of domestication, identifying when an animal moves from being "wild" to being "domesticated" is extremely difficult. This means that pet stores selling such animals might find it difficult to determine whether they are or are not required to be licensed under a revised Act.

Even if a pet store limits its sales to dogs, it is possible it may be subject to regulation under the exclusion of "selling hunting, security, or breeding dogs." The AVMA is not confident a retailer could easily confirm for what purpose a dog is being sold, therefore retailers would not be able to determine whether they do or do not meet the definition of "retail pet store" and, thereby, are or are not subject to regulation. In the current Animal Welfare Act, language addressing the sale of hunting, security, or breeding dogs primarily applies to dealers whose business revolves around that purpose and who are already required to be licensed (i.e., wholesalers).

Members of the Subcommittee should also be aware that the revised definition of "retail pet store" will expand coverage to some hobby and show breeders of dogs and cats. It does this by specifically excluding individuals who breed animals to sell to the public as pets from the definition of "retail pet store." To date, most hobby and show breeders have been exempted from regulation because they sell directly to the public at retail; i.e., USDA-APHIS-Animal Care has chosen to consider them as retail pet stores. Under the PAWS, however, whether hobby and show breeders are required to be licensed depends on whether they meet the new definition of "dealer."

Under the current Animal Welfare Act, a "dealer" is defined as "any person who, in commerce, for compensation or profit, delivers for transportation, or transports, except as a carrier, buys, or sells, or negotiates the purchase or sale of, (1) any dog or other animal whether alive or dead for research, teaching, exhibition, or use as a pet, or (2) any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes, except that this term does not include (i) a retail pet store except such store which sells any animals to a research facility, an exhibitor, or a dealer; or (ii) any person who does not sell, or negotiate the purchase or sale of any wild animal, dog, or cat, and who derives no more than $500 gross income from the sale of other animals during any calendar year." The PAWS modifies the definition of "dealer" to include anyone selling dogs imported from outside the United States (including retail pet stores) and exclude those who (a) sell 25 or fewer dogs or cats per year, or (b) do not whelp more than 6 litters of dogs or cats per year and sell only dogs or cats bred or raised on their own premises directly at retail to persons who purchase those animals for their own use and enjoyment, and (c) derive not more than $500 gross income from the sale of other animals. "Or" appears to be subject to interpretation, but it has been opined that dog and cat breeders may meet either criterion (a) or (b) and be considered exempt.

The AKC has advised the AVMA that the revised definition of "dealer" will affect less than 4% of breeders in their registry, including some who are already required to be licensed. The impact, therefore, of the PAWS on hobby/show breeders is expected to be minimal. The exception, however, might be co-ownership situations. In the past, USDA-APHIS-Animal Care has regulated the person on whose premises the puppies are raised and sold; however, concern has been expressed about how co-ownership will be handled in the context of a definition that identifies "dealer" on the basis of the number of animals sold or whelped (i.e., what is the impact of the phrase "and sell only dogs or cats bred or raised on their own premises"?). The AVMA agrees this is a question that should be addressed before the PAWS is passed.

Rescue organizations and shelters, like hobby and show breeders, have benefited from the USDA's interpretation of "retail pet store." It is not clear to the AVMA whether rescue organizations and shelters might meet the definition of "dealer" under the PAWS? "Dealer" refers to a person who, "for compensation or profit," "negotiates the purchase or sale of any dog or other animal whether alive or dead for research, teaching, exhibition, or use as a pet." Many rescue organizations and shelters derive a significant portion of their funding from adoption charges; i.e., they transfer animals and are compensated for it. Furthermore, "commerce" is currently defined under the AWA as "trade, traffic,

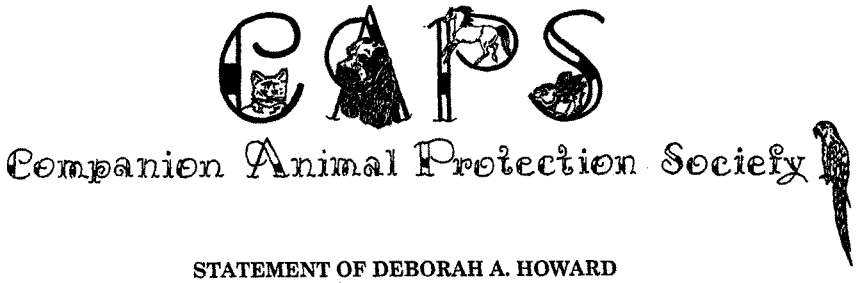
transportation, or other commerce (1) between a place in a State and any place outside of such State, or between points within the same State but through any place outside thereof, or within any territory, possession, or the District of Columbia; (2) which affects trade, traffic, transportation, or other commerce described in paragraph (1)." It has been opined that "commerce" may include rescue organizations and shelters since animals transferred in rescue/shelter transactions comprise a significant portion of the total market for animals. Some AVMA members have suggested that perhaps it was intended that rescue and shelter animals be covered, because some rescue organizations and shelters have been alleged to be involved in some of the activities precipitating the PAWS (i.e., imports and internet sales and transfers). Nevertheless, it seems prudent to consider the impact of the PAWS on this group of individuals and organizations involved in the pet trade during your deliberations.

PAWS would further require that dealers and retail pet stores maintain and allow access to source records for dogs and cats. Those source records would have to include (1) the name and address of the person from whom each dog or cat was purchased or otherwise acquired and (2) whether the person from whom the dog or cat was acquired was required to be licensed or registered under the Act. We believe that requirement (1) is reasonable for individuals who met the definition of a "dealer," and thereby are subject to the Act, but question the appropriateness of the requirement for "retail pet stores," since they would be excluded from USDA's jurisdiction. We believe that meeting requirement (2) would require a regulatory interpretation by the "dealer" or "retail pet store." This is not appropriate.

Finally, the AVMA suggests that a requirement for permanent animal identification be considered for inclusion in the source records provision.

To summarize our concerns, the AVMA does not believe the intent of the PAWS is increased regulation of retail pet stores, hobby and show breeders, or rescue organizations and animal shelters. Therefore, these unintended consequences of the PAWS should be rectified prior to passing it. We are particularly concerned that increasing, without good reason, the number of facilities required to be licensed under the AWA will place additional inspection burdens on USDA-APHIS-Animal Care that will dilute their ability to regulate the problematic dealers that have actually created the need for the PAWS.

Despite these questions and concerns, AVMA remains steadfastly convinced that much needed enforcement tools are present within the PAWS. We emphasize that it is our intent to support this legislation and look forward to working with members of Congress to rectify language that may complicate its enforcement and dilute its impact. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and speak on behalf of this important proposal.



STATEMENT OF DEBORAH A. HOWARD
PRESIDENT
COMPANION ANIMAL PROTECTION SOCIETY
ON S. 1139, THE
PET ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTE OF 2005 (PAWS)
PRESENTED TO
THE SENATE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RESEARCH, NUTRITION AND GENERAL LEGISLATION
NOVEMBER 8, 2005
WASHINGTON, DC

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, my name is Deborah A. Howard and I am President of the Companion Animal Protection Society ("CAPS") based in Fort Collins, Colorado. Founded in 1992, CAPS is the *only* national non-profit organization dedicated *exclusively* to protecting companion animals. CAPS' foremost concern is the abuse and suffering of pet shop and puppy mill dogs. CAPS actively addresses the pet shop/puppy mill issue through investigations, education, media relations, legislative involvement, puppy mill dog rescues, consumer assistance, and pet industry employee relations.

Mr. Chairman, CAPS supports enactment of S. 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" ("PAWS"). We appreciate your having introduced PAWS; and we are grateful for your long standing support and leadership in the Congress on companion animal-related issues. CAPS also appreciates the support of your co-

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sponsor, Senator Durbin, and we are pleased that a companion bill, H.R. 2669, has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Gerlach and co-sponsored by Congressman Farr.

More specifically, CAPS agrees that use of the internet and other mass marketing mechanisms has resulted in a tragic increase in the numbers of sick puppies being offered for sale at retail by puppy mill breeders and their allied dealers. We also have first hand experience in the investigation of dealers who are importing foreign-bred puppies for direct retail sales. Sadly, many of these imported puppies have significant health problems. Mr. Chairman, far too many average American families pay hundreds of dollars for purebred puppies, and wind up paying thousands of dollars more on veterinary bills shortly after welcoming these animals into their homes. In many cases medical treatment is too late.

CAPS is pleased, therefore, that section 3 of PAWS requires all dealers and retail pet stores to prepare and retain "source records" for the puppies they obtain. Requiring such records and making them available to the Secretary of Agriculture should assist the Secretary's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service ("APHIS") in identifying puppy mill breeders who are in violation of the standards of care required by the Animal Welfare Act (the "AWA").

CAPS also endorses section 4 of PAWS, extending the time period during which the Secretary can suspend the license of a puppy mill dealer when an animal's health is in imminent danger.

Finally, CAPS supports section 5 of PAWS which authorizes the Secretary to have direct access to an appropriate United States district court for the purpose of obtaining temporary or permanent injunctive relief against puppy mill breeders who are violating the AWA or operating without a license. Under present law overworked United States attorneys pay little attention to even the most egregious violators of the AWA.

Mr. Chairman, having expressed our support for enactment of PAWS and our gratitude for your leadership role on animal welfare issues, we would be remiss, however, if we did not tell you that, based on our years of investigative experience, CAPS has concluded that the Secretary's implementation of the AWA has been grievously insufficient – fulfilling neither the letter nor the intent of the law.

CAPS believes strongly that the time has come to fix these problems once and for all, and we urge the Congress, under your leadership, to take whatever action is necessary to achieve this goal, including enactment of PAWS and other remedial legislation as well as oversight of the Secretary's and APHIS's activities.

Frankly, CAPS questions whether the Secretary and APHIS are even institutionally capable of adequately implementing the puppy mill protection provisions of the AWA. Thus, we urge that the Subcommittee conduct prompt and vigorous oversight of the Secretary's Animal Care program with the following questions in mind:

- Does APHIS have sufficient funding and personnel to carry out its statutory mission?

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Testimony of
Cathy Liss, Legislative Director

Before the Senate Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
In support of S. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute

November 15, 2005

The Society for Animal Protective Legislation, a division of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI), supports S. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute, as introduced. We greatly appreciate the strong interest of Senator Santorum and Senator Durbin in alleviating the suffering of dogs and cats sold in the commercial pet trade. In addition, we are pleased with the support of their colleagues, Senators Specter, Feinstein, Dole, DeWine, Allard, Bingaman and Bayh. The legislation will address a gaping loophole in the Animal Welfare Act, one that an ever-increasing number of commercial breeders selling companion animals are slipping through.

As the organization that worked toward passage of the initial Animal Welfare Act (originally titled the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act) in 1966 and subsequent amendments to the Act in 1970, 1976, 1985 and 1990, we recognize the need for S. 1139. Current methods employed by commercial breeders permit circumvention of the law; since breeders selling wholesale are covered, but not those selling retail, classified advertisements and use of the internet are the sales mechanisms of choice. All commercial breeders should be covered under the law.

The abuses endured by kittens and puppies and the breeding stock of adult cats and dogs are the same, irrespective of the means by which the animals are marketed. These include failure to provide fresh food and water, failure to provide needed veterinary care, failure to properly clean feces-contaminated enclosures, and failure to provide cages of sufficient room. Herewith is an article from the *AWI Quarterly*, "Cats Seized from a Pet Trade Cattery" (Summer 2004, Volume 53, Number 3), an example of the problems that can go unchecked due to a lack of federal oversight.

Oversight and Enforcement Must Be Conducted by the US Department of Agriculture.
The USDA has nearly half a century of experience in enforcing the minimum requirements of the Animal Welfare Act. The Department's highly trained field force of inspectors is located all across the country. These individuals are suited to the task of enforcing S. 1139. *The Animal Dealers: Evidence of Abuse of Animals in the Commercial Trade, 1952-1997*, published by the Animal Welfare Institute, contains vast numbers of citations directly from the reports of USDA inspectors highlighting the problems present at dealer premises and the capability of USDA in documenting the apparent violations of law for prosecution by the Office of the General Counsel.

It has been suggested that other bodies might supplement—or supplant—the USDA inspection and oversight regime, and this would be wholly unacceptable. Turning over any responsibility for inspection or oversight of the Animal Welfare Act to third parties would result in disastrous consequences. The program would lose its transparency as key documents, in fact all documents, regarding inspection and enforcement activities would no longer be available to the public. Further, documentation from third party inspection and oversight reveals the failure of these outside bodies to do the rigorous job done by USDA inspectors.

Enforcement of the Horse Protection Act is conducted by horse industry organizations (HIOs) approved by USDA. Sometimes the HIO inspectors are accompanied by USDA inspectors. There is a huge disparity, documented over a 21-year period, between the numbers of violations cited when HIO inspectors are on their own versus the violations cited when the industry inspectors have USDA inspectors present to oversee their activities. For details on this disparity, please see USDA's Horse Protection Act Enforcement Report: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ac/HP2000.pdf. Note especially pages 11 and 14 and the fact that the disparity was greatest during the most recent year for which figures are available, FY 2000 (the quality of inspections has not increased over time).

An AWI book, *Beyond the Laboratory Door*, contains charts that document the abysmal failure of research laboratories to comply with the Animal Welfare Act--even though they were fully accredited by the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (now renamed the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International). The book reveals that 33 of the 58 institutions identified for their failure to comply with the Animal Welfare Act because of "serious deficiencies and chronic deficiencies" were accredited in full or in part. Accredited research laboratories have repeatedly failed to meet the minimum requirements of the Animal Welfare Act even though AAALAC has *higher* written standards than USDA. Thankfully, this accreditation has not been allowed to replace enforcement by USDA.

USDA Will Be Able to Address the Increased Workload.

We acknowledge that there are an enormous numbers of breeders who are not currently licensed by USDA, but who will be should the legislation be adopted. Inspecting these additional dealers will take time. All newly covered dealers should be required to submit paperwork to USDA requesting licensure under the Animal Welfare Act. As soon as possible and as time permits, USDA inspectors can begin making their routine unannounced inspections to these facilities. This will have a deterrent effect since commercial breeders will not know when a USDA inspector might arrive to conduct a compliance inspection. In addition, USDA will be able to respond immediately to any complaints made by the public. The ability to file grievances with USDA (a system already in use with current licensees and registrants) provides an immediate remedy for both the animals and concerned members of the community.

Ideally, the Threshold Used to Distinguish Commercial Breeders from Hobby Breeders Should Be Decreased.

In the interest of moving this legislation forward, we support the threshold in S. 1139. However, we have concerns that the existing threshold is both too complicated and too high. A

single entity must be recognized as owning and selling animals rather than permitting a system which attempts to include some form of dual ownership or partnership. Dual ownership promises to create an enforcement nightmare for USDA. Based on existing state thresholds for the sale of dogs and cats, we prefer that any individual who sells 25 or more dogs and cats in a year be recognized as a commercial operation and covered under the federal law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cats Seized from a Pet Trade Cattery

Acting on a tip, authorities discovered and seized sixty Maine Coon cats kept under appalling conditions in a house in Harrison, New York. The animals were being bred so their kittens could be sold for as much as $1,100 each for the pet trade. Most of the cats had been confined several to a cage. Many were thin and suffered from upper respiratory infections, urinary tract infections, ear infections, diarrhea, parasites and ring worm. An additional sign of neglect was massive mats down to the skin in the cats' fur. The building reeked, and there were urine stains and feces all over the carpet.

SPCA of Westchester/www.spcawf14.org

These young cats suffering from upper respiratory infection were slated to be breeders. The place was filthy; even the wall behind them is urine-stained.

The business, in existence for several years, was operated by Ruth Sonneville under the name Charlemaine Maine Coon Cattery, and the offspring were being advertised for sale over the internet. The company's web site described how Sonneville had previously bred German shepherds and Great Danes, but had switched to Maine Coon cats after moving to a smaller building; shortly after the bust, the web site was removed from the internet. Apparently internet sales of both cats and dogs are increasing dramatically.

In this case, a potential buyer called authorities after seeing overcrowding and smelling an overwhelming stench. Frequently, commercial breeders don't want customers to see the squalid conditions or the tragic state of the breeding animals so they either conduct business with potential buyers at locations that are separate from the breeding facility—or they sell their animals based on internet photographs and ship them directly to their new homes.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not require commercial breeders such as this who are selling animals retail to be licensed and regulated under the federal Animal Welfare Act. The local District Attorney's Office has decided not to prosecute Ms. Sonneville though she will likely face fines from the Health and Building Departments.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) of Westchester, the group that conducted the seizure, has provided veterinary care for the cats and is seeking financial support for their care and adoptive homes for the animals. Mimi Einstein, SPCA President noted, "Obviously, Ms. Sonneville was not equipped to handle this number of animals. Every single cat there wound up suffering in some regard because of neglect. The conditions on the premises were completely out of hand."

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Written Statement of John E. Hoffman
Dog Fancier and Lawyer

To the

Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

November 8, 2005

Thank you for the opportunity to present information relating to abuses occurring in the commercial importing of puppies from low cost countries, primarily in eastern Europe and South America.

BACKGROUND

First, let me introduce myself. I have been practicing law (major business litigation) in California since 1972. I have owned Miniature Schnauzers since 1964. I am an occasional breeder and exhibitor at dog shows, but the primary reason I own dogs is the same as the reason most people own dogs: they are man's best friend.

I have been interested and active in canine health issues and rescue for a number of years. In October 2004, I was asked by the French Bulldog Rescue Network ("FBRN") to help Ms. Willa Bagwell, the Humane Officer for Lake Elsinore, California, deal with the Slacks, a couple who were importing Bulldog and French Bulldog puppies from eastern Europe and selling them through newspaper ads and over the Internet. Ms. Bagwell and FBRN had received several complaints from buyers who had bought puppies from the Slacks, whose puppies had become seriously ill within a day or two of purchase. Several buyers had incurred veterinary bills of more than $1,000 in the first week after buying their puppies. Many of those puppies had died despite strenuous efforts to save them.

Ms. Bagwell told me that she had contacted the Riverside County District Attorney's office and the Lake Elsinore City Attorney's office, and that she had written letters to the California Veterinary Board and the Internal Revenue Service about the Slacks, but had received no assistance in dealing with them. Ms. Bagwell had also written to the office of Congressman Darryl Issa. Ms. Bagwell reported that Congressman Issa's staff was sympathetic and tried to help, but had been unable to provide any tangible assistance.

During the next few months, I spent more than 500 hours reviewing files, interviewing witnesses and preparing statements for them to sign, writing to governmental authorities and speaking with them by telephone, and writing to newspapers and Internet web sites on which the Slacks were advertising, asking that the newspapers and Internet web sites stop running the Slacks' ads because the Slacks were providing buyers with sick puppies. Ms. Bagwell undoubtedly spent even more time on the matter than I did.

Ms. Bagwell and I succeeded in putting the Slacks out of business in May 2005, but *only* as a result of two lucky and unusual breaks: First, in December 2004, the Slacks' former bookkeeper (a) provided Ms. Bagwell with extensive computer records concerning the Slacks' puppy business and their financial affairs, (b) allowed me to interview her, and (c) provided us with a detailed sworn statement concerning the Slacks' business and business practices. Second, in January 2005, the Slacks foolishly filed for bankruptcy in an effort to escape about $12,000 in small claims judgments that buyers had obtained against them. Following up on information provided by the Slacks' former bookkeeper, I was able to demonstrate to the Trustee that the Slacks had undisclosed assets. The Slacks then converted their bankruptcy petition to a petition for reorganization under Ch. 13 of the Bankruptcy Code. I was able to persuade the Ch. 13 Trustee to include a provision in the reorganization plan for the Slacks that prohibited them from buying, selling and kenneling dogs until the end of their five-year payout plan, because they had represented that they lost money on their puppy importing business and should not be allowed to gamble with money due their creditors. *Had those two lucky breaks not occurred, the Slacks would still be in business, still cheating buyers, despite the strenuous efforts of Ms. Bagwell and myself.*

LARGE NUMBERS OF PUPPIES ARE BEING COMMERCIALLY IMPORTED

Shortly after I began assisting with the Slacks, I started to look at the Internet to see what I could learn about the scope of importing of young puppies from low cost countries for retail resale. I found that the sale over the Internet of both domestically-bred puppies and imported puppies has become a big business – and probably considerably outstrips sales of puppies through pet shops. Many substandard breeding kennels and importers have their own web sites. Many advertise as well or instead, on one or more of the many websites that carry classified ads by commercial puppy sellers. Those websites

include www.terrificpets.com, www.nextdaypets.com, www.puppyfind.com, www.dogbreedinfo.com, and many others.

I was unable to obtain reliable statistics on the numbers of puppies being commercially imported each year, but the numbers are clearly large and growing rapidly.[1] The schedules provided by the Slacks' former bookkeeper indicate that they alone imported more than 300 puppies during the one year period from June 2003 through May 2004, for total gross sales of more than $440,000 for the one year period. (See schedules attached at Tab 1.) Last year, when I searched using Google, I was able to find more than 20 persons advertising imported Bulldogs and French Bulldogs over the Internet. A few samples of current ads are attached at Tabs 2 through 14. The ads at Tabs 2 through 7, 10, 11, and 14, illustrate sellers who openly advertise imported puppies for sale in violation of federal law on quarantine of imported puppies (discussed below). The sellers whose ads appear at Tabs 10 and 11 represent sellers who openly advertise imported puppies for sale at less than 8 weeks of age, though puppies may not be transported when younger than 8 weeks. (9 CFR §§ 2, *et seq.*) The sellers whose ads appear at Tabs 8 and 9 represent another class of deceptive sellers. Both of those importers, who are located in California, fail to disclose in their websites that they are selling imported puppies. My knowledge that they do sell imports comes from complaints to FBRN by buyers who have purchased from them. Europuppy, Tab 4, deceptively states that it is located in Budapest, Hungary, but provides no address, telephone number or contact information other than an email form on the website. However, I discovered from its classified ads on other websites that it is operated by someone in Massachusetts.

It is impossible to know how many others with Internet websites or internet ads sell puppies without disclosing that they are imported from eastern Europe. Additionally, I learned there are many commercial puppy importers who sell through newspaper ads rather than through the Internet, and that others are selling through pet shops. I have no information concerning the numbers of such sellers or the volumes they sell.

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[1] I use the phrase "commercially imported" to refer to puppies imported for prompt resale, as contrasted to (a) pets that are brought back to the U.S. by persons who acquired them while residing abroad, (b) dogs who are imported by persons who intend to keep the dogs (which category includes most of the animals imported to improve the breed or to diversify gene pools within a breed), and (c) dogs that are imported for training as guard dogs before resale (primarily German Shepherds and similar breeds).

Many of the commercial puppy importers who sell over the internet advertise 10+ puppies available at any given time. (Big Bulldogs, Tab 8, shows 24 puppies available for sale as of October 18, 2005!) Thus, I estimate that the numbers of Bulldogs and French Bulldogs being imported and sold over the Internet is at least 5,000 per year.

Additional puppies are sold by commercial puppy importers who do not advertise over the Internet (that is, who sell through newspaper ads and/or sales to pet shops). Furthermore significant numbers of puppies of other breeds are imported as well. Taking into account a recent estimate by the CDC office at Los Angeles International Airport that the volume of commercially puppies there is about 600 puppies per month, I estimate that at least 10,000 puppies are being imported into the U.S. each year by commercial puppy importers.[2] At this time, most of the commercially imported Bulldog and French Bulldog puppies seem to come from low-cost European countries formerly in the Soviet bloc, most prominently Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania. However, I have received email solicitations to purchase puppies from someone in Argentina who was offering about two dozen breeds of puppies for sale. I have also been told by a supervisory airport inspector of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) that South America is exporting large numbers of puppies to the United States.

Upon the arrival of puppies from a foreign country at a port of entry, the Centers for Disease Control issues a Form CDC 75.37 which lists the number, age, type and description of the puppies in the shipment, the flight number, the point of origin, and the name and address of the importer. The form provides the importer with notice of the confinement regulations – regulations which are almost universally ignored as discussed below. A fairly exact computation of the number of commercially imported puppies in any given year could be compiled from CDC 75.37 forms for the period in question that show

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[2] The number of commercially imported puppies appears to be higher for Bulldogs and French Bulldogs than for most other breeds, no doubt because those breeds are characterized by relatively high puppy prices and relatively high need for veterinary care in the breeding process, but the number of commercially imported puppies for all breeds other than Bulldogs and French Bulldogs would almost certainly greatly exceed the number of imports for just those two breeds.

shipments of 4 or more puppies.[3] A sample of Form CDC 75.37 is attached at Tab 15.

ABUSES IN THE COMMERCIAL PUPPY IMPORT TRADE

Many of the abuses that are occurring in the sale of commercially imported puppies are identical to those found in domestic substandard breeding kennels. They are the same abuses that led to the passage of the Animal Welfare Act in 1970. That is not surprising. Many of the commercial puppy importers operated domestic substandard breeding kennels and have turned to imports only because it is an easier and less expensive method of procuring puppies. (*See, e.g.,* Puppy Love, Tab 14, which claims to have been breeding Bulldogs for 15 years.) Furthermore, some of them both breed puppies domestically and import puppies from abroad for resale. (*See, e.g.,* ads at Tabs 11, 13 and 14.) Some even warn that *others* selling imported puppies over the Internet are "puppy mills." (*See, e.g.,* Top Gun ad at Tab 12.)

Commercially imported puppies suffer even more than do puppies bred and raised in abusive substandard breeding kennels in the U.S. First, the puppies are subjected to significant stress in being shipped from abroad. The fragmentary information we have obtained from responsible breeders in some of the countries of origin (*see*, for example, the emails attached at Tab 16)[4] indicates that the export brokers buy their puppies from producers in the countryside, ship the puppies by rail or truck to international airports in the capital city, and then ship the puppies by air to the U.S. The importer then transports them by car or truck to the importer's place of business. That means that the puppies often spend 3-4 days in transit, under stressful conditions, and in close proximity to each other where disease can spread among them like wildfire. We are further advised that the required pre-departure veterinary checks are often avoided through payment of bribes.

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[3] Commercially imported puppies are normally shipped in groups of at least four in order to reduce shipping costs. Shipments of three or less are more likely to be animals imported for reasons other than commercial resale.

[4] There are, of course, excellent breeders of quality puppies in all of the countries from which the commercially exported puppies come. Like good domestic breeders, however, the good foreign breeders do not sell their puppies through brokers and do not sell whole litters of puppies at a time. Their exports, if any, to the U.S. are of single animals at a time, to buyers who are purchasing the dogs for their own household.

We know for a fact that many of the puppies the Slacks received were sick, dying, and covered with urine and feces upon arrival. During 2003-2004, the Slacks bought their puppies from an export broker in Moscow named Marina Kanevsky, who sent them puppies from the Ukraine and from Russia. We know some of the other importers also purchased from Ms. Kanevsky. The puppies they received were almost certainly no different than the ones the Slacks received. We know less about the puppies that come from other export brokers, but there is no reason to believe that the conditions of those puppies were much different. (*See*, for example, at Tab 17, the samples of complaints FBRN has received from buyers who bought puppies from importers other than the Slacks.) One reason that there are comparatively fewer complaints about some of the importers than about others appears to be that some apparently hold the puppies for 10 days before sale, whereas the Slacks often had buyers waiting at their home while they drove the puppies home from the airport. Holding the puppies for 10 days does not lessen the carnage in puppies – it simply means that the puppies die before rather than after sale.

A second problem with commercially imported puppies is the ease of falsifying foreign registration documents, and the greater difficulty a buyer has in discerning that he has been furnished with phony papers. The pedigrees the Slacks furnished to their buyers were purportedly issued by the Polish Kennel Club, though most of their puppies came from the Ukraine and the rest came from Russia. The CDC forms that Ms. Bagwell received as the local Humane Officer indicate that *none* of the Slacks' shipments during 2003-2004 came from Poland. In early 2005, the Slacks sent purported Polish registrations to a large number of buyers to whom they had sold puppies during 2004 The papers appeared to have been altered. Those papers were accompanied by AKC registration applications that the Slacks had filled out to falsely show the puppy buyers as the initial US importers. In December 2004, I had sent the AKC copies of the records we had obtained from the Slacks' former bookkeeper. Thus alerted, the AKC forwarded the purported Polish registrations to the Polish Kennel Club for information as to the validity of the papers. It turned out that the foreign registration papers were not merely altered, they were completely fraudulent. The Polish Kennel Club had no record of the dogs shown on the export pedigrees it had purportedly issued. Indeed, it had no record even of the purported breeders. Those papers were furnished to the Slacks by Ms. Kanevsky. It is probable that she furnished similarly fraudulent papers to her other U.S. importer customers.

I also learned that fraudulent foreign pedigrees were being furnished to buyers of imported puppies at pet shops in New York. As part of my Internet investigation, I discovered web pages of the Companion Animal Protection Society ("CAPS"), which was investigating such abuses. I spoke to Deborah Howard, the President of CAPS. She told me that, after receiving complaints from buyers from some pet shops in New York, her organization had investigated and found that the purported registrations for puppies imported from Hungary came from a registry set up specifically to provide papers for commercial puppy export brokers. She said that her organization had contacted the owners of champion dogs from other countries that appeared on the pedigrees, and that her organization had ascertained that some of the purported matings had never taken place.

EXISTING STATE REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL IMPORTERS IS INEFFECTIVE

Some of the anti-PAWS articles argue that PAWS is unnecessary because any abuses can be solved by better enforcement of existing federal, state and local laws and ordinances. Unfortunately, however, state and local enforcement against the importers and others who sell puppies over the Internet is ineffective – for exactly the same reasons the Animal Welfare Act became necessary in 1970.

State and local funding for animal welfare is virtually non-existent outside of large cities such as Los Angeles. Thus, in most localities around the country, animal control and animal welfare is delegated to private organizations such as SPCAs and Animal Friends of the Valley, the organization in Lake Elsinore by which Ms. Bagwell is employed. Seizure of animals for neglect or cruelty results in large costs for such organizations, many of which can barely maintain their normal operations. This is particularly so if seized animals must be held indefinitely pending resolution of a criminal proceeding against the owner.

Even if the local humane organization is willing to take action, it can do so only if the local or state prosecuting authority is willing to bring criminal charges or a forfeiture action. Humane organizations often have great difficulty in persuading local and state prosecutorial offices to take such action because those offices are busy with theft, assault, murder and drug cases. They generally regard animal offenses as low priority. Furthermore, outside of large cities which may have a deputy prosecutor assigned to animal matters,

prosecutors are rarely familiar with animal protection laws. Prosecution of animal cases therefore requires an additional expenditure of time to learn the relevant statutes and ordinances by prosecutors who may never have prosecuted such cases before. Prosecutors are particularly reluctant to devote the needed resources to prosecuting animal welfare cases where most of the victims are outside of the jurisdiction, as is commonly the case with sellers, including commercial puppy importers, who sell over the Internet.

Because of the foregoing factors, neither Ms. Bagwell nor I were able to persuade the Riverside County District Attorney's office or the Lake Elsinore City Attorney's office to take action against the Slacks. During the course of providing free legal advice to rescue groups around the country over the years, I have learned that such reluctance of local authorities to devote prosecutorial resources to abusive puppy sellers is the general rule, particularly where most of the sales are to buyers who live outside the jurisdiction.

PRESENT FEDERAL REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL IMPORTERS IS INEFFECTIVE

The Animal Welfare Act covers breeders but not importers. Indeed, one of the primary purposes of PAWS is to bring large scale importers under the same regulation that presently applies to commercial breeders who sell at wholesale.

There are federal laws that apply to imported puppies. Those, however, do not directly regulate the care and treatment of the imported puppies after arrival, or the sale of the puppies with fraudulent pedigrees and registration papers. Furthermore, those laws are not being enforced.

CDC regulations concerning importation of dogs, 42 CFR § 71.51, require prior rabies vaccination or confinement until 30 days after vaccination. With respect to puppies, § 71.51(c)(2) provides in pertinent part that:

> (2) Regardless of the provisions of paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the Director may authorize admission as follows:
>
> . . .
>
> (ii) If the dog is less than 3 months of age, it may be admitted, but must be confined until vaccinated against rabies at 3 months of age and for at least 30 days after the date of vaccination.

Thus, the minimum age at which an imported puppy may be sold is 4 months (5 months in some States, including California). The CDC allows the importer to confine the imported animals at his own premises. The CDC itself does nothing to ensure that importers comply with the confinement obligation. (The CDC has told me it has no funds for enforcement.) The CDC sends a copy of the Form CDC 75.37 (*see* Tab 15), which is completed for each arriving shipment of puppies, to an agency designated by each State. That State agency is responsible for forwarding the copy to the local Humane Officer. In California, the State agency sends the copy to the County Health Department, which then in turn forwards the copy to the local Humane Officer. Ms. Bagwell advised me that she normally received the Forms CDC 75.37 for the Slacks' shipments about a month after the shipments arrived and that the puppies were normally sold by then. Even if there were prompter transmission of the copies to the local Humane Officers, they are not motivated to enforce the CDC's confinement regulations absent complaints from buyers. Even if the Humane Officers tried to enforce the confinement regulations, they are unlikely to get cooperation in that regard from City Attorneys and District Attorneys, who rarely take action to enforce even their own animal laws and ordinances, let alone federal regulations.

CDC representatives told me that the practice of home confinement was developed when most dogs were being imported by persons who were keeping the dogs and that it worked well in such circumstances. The practice is not working well now that the business of commercial puppy importing has developed, because commercial puppy importers are highly motivated to sell the puppies as soon as possible after arrival. Furthermore, the complete lack of enforcement is so well known to, and relied upon by, commercial puppy importers that they feel free to openly advertise for sale 7 and 8-week old imported puppies. (*See* Tabs 2 through 7, 10, 11, and 14.)

Realistic enforcement of 42 CFR § 71.51 (such as by requiring confinement at third party facilities licensed by the CDC for imports of four or more puppies in a single shipment) would effectively end the abuses of the commercial puppy import business because the cost of keeping an imported puppy until it is at least four months of age before sale would remove the cost advantage of importing over breeding in the U.S., particularly since puppies older than four months of age typically bring lower prices than younger puppies. (*See*, for example, the statement on Bulldog Alley's website (Tab 6)

that "Many of the pups below have been reduced in price to make room for our new litters" and the apparent reduction in price of about $200 per puppy for the 10 week old puppies.)

USDA regulations prohibit carriers from accepting animals for transport without a health certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian (9 CFR § 2.78) and from transporting puppies younger than 8 weeks (9 CFR § 2.130). It appears that both regulations are routinely flouted by commercial puppy exporters abroad. That health certificates are being forged is evidenced by the large incidence of illness and death among puppies within a day or two of arrival in the U.S. and by anecdotal reports from responsible breeders abroad that forged signatures are commonplace in eastern European countries – which is corroborated by the fact that the pedigrees from those countries are frequently forged. That puppies are being shipped at younger than 8 weeks of age is evidenced by the ads at Tabs 10 and 11 and by reports of buyers of imported puppies that their veterinarians have told them on their first visit after buying their puppy that the puppy was younger than 8 weeks old. Furthermore, there is a strong economic incentive to both exporter and importer to ship puppies as young as possible. For the seller, selling younger puppies brings in the profits earlier, reduces expenses of care, and avoids the risk of loss as soon as shipment is made. For the buyer, as noted above, younger puppies bring higher prices and a longer "shelf life."

CONCLUSION

Enactment of PAWS, combined with realistic enforcement, including prompt and effective response to complaints by consumers and humane officers is sorely needed to combat the evils of the commercial puppy import trade. Those evils include (a) a high death rate of young puppies during and shortly after transport to the United States, and (b) defrauding of buyers and causing them needless heartache and expense when a newly purchased puppy requires expensive treatment to save its life, and often dies even with such treatment, or when a fairly young pet develops serious genetic problems requiring the buyer to choose between very expensive ongoing treatment or euthanasia.

Many opposing PAWS have posited that, if it passes, the USDA would unnecessarily harass quality breeders whose sales are just above the regulatory limits, prohibit their keeping dogs in their homes, and other silly

hypotheses spread around the Internet rumor mill. Others are likely opposing PAWS because they do not report sales and do not pay sales tax on the sales or income tax on the profits from those sales.

I have heard no sensible, legitimate arguments against the passage of PAWS. On the other hand, abuses among unregulated sellers of puppies, including both domestic puppymills and importers, is real, widespread and serious, resulting in substantial harm to the puppies, to the buyers, and to shelters and rescue organizations, such as the FBRN, who are asked to take unhealthy dogs for whom the owners cannot or will not pay for expensive ongoing veterinary care.

Very truly yours,

John E. Hoffman

JEH:tms
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TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL MADDOX
PET INDUSTRY JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL

ON THE PET ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTE OF 2005 (S. 1139)

BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RESEARCH, NUTRITIOUN AND GENERAL LEGISLATION

SEANTE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

November 8, 2005

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, we appreciate the opportunity to offer you our views. The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) is the largest pet trade association in the world, and represents every segment of the pet industry, including manufacturers, importers/exporters, commercial breeders, wholesalers, distributors and retailers. PIJAC works to ensure that members of the commercial trade observe high standards in the care of pet animals. We have been involved with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) since it was amended to regulate pet dealers, and have testified on proposed amendments to the Act in the intervening three decades. Equally as significant, PIJAC has worked tirelessly with APHIS to maximize effective administration of the AWA. We believe proper enforcement of Animal Welfare Act standards brings about mutual benefit for the pet industry, the pet owning public and the animals themselves. We have witnessed first-hand these benefits over the years since adoption of the AWA, and are intent on taking whatever efforts we may to perpetuate the good work of USDA.

Congress has historically recognized the need for a functional regulatory framework that targets those persons in the pet trade escaping public and regulatory oversight. From its inception, the AWA has explicitly exempted retailers that are subject to broad public exposure and are frequently regulated at the state and local governmental level. PIJAC joins with you, Mr. Chairman, in acknowledging that the rationale for exempting pet stores from the Act is as valid today as it has always been. In fact, as this subcommittee considers bringing under the Act potentially thousands of additional licensees that will vie for APHIS regulatory and inspection resources, it is important that we do not overburden the agency with a mandate for persons that aren't in need of federal regulation.

Advocates of PAWS point to large scale breeding operations which retail puppies, and Internet sales of dogs, as recent trends escaping oversight and therefore necessitating expansion of the Act. The legislation would accomplish regulation of these individuals. Unfortunately, as originally drafted, the bill would also bring about unintended consequences that have the effect of capturing under the Act the very pet stores that are intended to be subject to the AWA's explicit pet store exemption. And other provisions would go so far as to mandate federal licensure of persons who sell even a single pet animal.

We would respectfully urge this subcommittee to address these provisions of the bill which work to defeat the intent of the AWA and would undermine enforcement efforts that are critical to success of the Animal Welfare Act.

PAWS' amendment to the "*Dealer*" definition in Section 2 of the bill deletes the longstanding de minimis exemption for non-commercial breeders (i.e. the $500 exemption that applies to all animals other than dogs, cats and wild animals) such that every person selling even a single pet animal other than a dog or cat would be required to obtain a USDA license. PIJAC feels certain that the Congress does not wish to subject a ten-year old child to federal licensure for selling a couple baby hamsters. Further, we all know that a dollar just does not buy what it did in 1970. This de minimis exemption, established 30 years ago and never amended, should remain in the Act with a revision of the dollar amount to represent inflation over that time span.

One significant objective of this legislation is to ensure regulation of those who import dogs for resale in the United States. However, by regulating retailers selling imported dogs, this provision of the bill would not distinguish between those who import and sell dogs themselves (for example, persons importing dogs and selling them directly over the Internet) and bona fide pet stores who buy puppies from a Class B licensed dealer who may obtain dogs from domestic breeders as well as importing them from abroad. In such a case, the person importing the animals should be required to obtain licensure, not the pet store that doesn't even know the dogs were imported.

The new definition for a "*Retail Pet Store*" found in PAWS is meant to ensure regulation of persons not viewed as traditional pet stores and, to that end, includes certain exclusions. Unfortunately, these exclusions as originally crafted have the effect of affecting the very businesses to which the retail pet store definition is meant to apply. For example, the provision excluding animals bred for sale to the public is intended to capture those who breed and sale dogs and cats directly to the public, not pet stores who happen to carry hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits, mice, rats or other small animals that are not deliberately bred by the pet store.

The exclusion for hunting, breeding and security dogs is meant to ensure regulation of persons who sell animals that could be used for any of these purposes, as well being kept merely for purposes of companionship. But it would have the effect of regulating pet stores selling pet animals simply because these dogs could also be used as hunting, breeding or security dogs. In other words, this exclusion would turn the hunting, breeding and security dog clause on its head, accomplishing the opposite of what it was intended to accomplish.

Finally, the "*Retail Pet Store*" exclusion for wild animals moves language from elsewhere in the act into a definition in which it does not belong. Because the term "wild animal" is defined to include any species that lives in the wild, many common, domesticated household pets could fall within the definition. Again, the exclusion would have the anomalous result of extending licensure to the very pet stores that are specifically intended for exemption under the definition.

This brings us to the provision mandating keeping of source records by pet dealers and pet stores selling dogs and cats. The language would actually require the keeping of information that pet stores and pet dealers have no authority to obtain in the first place. A far more effective provision would require the keeping of USDA license numbers by pet stores and pet dealers of those from whom they buy dogs and cats. This would permit USDA to specifically target unlicensed dealers that are required by law to be licensed.

Two additional enforcement provisions that PIJAC believes will substantially aid APHIS in achieving the ends of the AWA are found in Sections 4 and 5 of PAWS. The temporary suspension period extension clause will give USDA the authority to intervene if a licensee fails to ameliorate conditions that threaten the health of animals. While USDA's existing authority to temporarily suspend licenses is sufficient in most cases, this section ensures the agency's authority in less common, but more urgent, cases.

Of even greater import is the provision creating authority to enjoin unlicensed dealers who are ignoring their obligation to meet legal standards under the AWA. Currently these people are outside of USDA's reach. The injunctive authority under PAWS would add a powerful enforcement tool to permit the agency to go after people who are often the most egregious violators of the Animal Welfare Act.

PIJAC endorses these provisions unchanged, and feel that they would go far in facilitating USDA's effective enforcement of the Act.

We appreciate, Mr. Chairman, your willingness to consider the pet industry's concerns about adverse and unintended consequences of PAWS, as well as your consideration of amendments to the bill that would address these concerns. As noted, there are important provisions of this bill which would advance the welfare of pet animals, and we are hopeful that other provisions we feel are counter to those interests may be remedied. We again thank this subcommittee for providing us the opportunity to voice our views on the legislation and would be pleased to respond to any questions you may have.

Testimony of Mr. Ronald Menaker
Chairman, Board of Directors
The American Kennel Club

to the

Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

November 8, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am the Chairman of the Board of the American Kennel Club. The AKC is the largest and only significant not-for-profit dog registry and sanctioning body for competitive dog events in the US. We register nearly 1 million purebred dogs and over 400,000 litters of purebred puppies every year. Almost 17,000 competitive dog events are held nationally each year under AKC rules, attracting more than 2.5 million entries.

I cite these statistics to emphasize the importance of the *sport* of purebred dogs. Selling puppies is a business for some, but for many Americans who breed and raise purebred dogs, it is a hobby, a family sport, and a labor of love. The AKC was founded in this spirit 121 years ago, and this passion is still alive today.

The AKC, however, provides registration services to all dog breeders, large or small, who meet our standards, including mandatory inspections of high volume breeders, dog identification and recordkeeping, care and condition standards for dogs and kennels, and DNA testing to check parentage of litters. This year we are on target to conduct approximately 5000 kennel inspections.

The AKC encourages puppy buyers to buy from *responsible* resources. We believe the vast majority of high volume breeders, as well as smaller breeding establishments, do a conscientious job of breeding and raising quality puppies, and care passionately about their animals.

However, we also know from our first hand experience in the field, that in spite of our efforts, and the efforts of the USDA, there are still significant problems that need to be addressed for the sake of both the dogs and the pet buying public.

Some of these are deficiencies in the Animal Welfare Act. Some result from changes in the marketplace and marketing techniques for dogs that have occurred in the 30 years since the Act was extended to dog dealers. That is why we are pleased that you have focused your attention, and the attention of Congress, on the need to strengthen the Act. We are pleased to be working with you in that effort.

As you know, we did not support your previous legislation intended to address the problems of so-called puppy mills, because we felt that federal regulation of practices for breeding and socialization of puppies was the wrong approach. However, PAWS takes a different approach. It gives the USDA access to source records of persons who acquire dogs for resale, provides a realistic limitation on license suspensions for violators, and gives the USDA effective authority to close down egregious violators. These are

essential tools for the USDA to effectively enforce the Act. We do not expect the USDA to have to use these tools often. But the fact that the USDA *has* these tools, will create an incentive for persons to obtain licenses and quickly correct violations.

We also know from the AKC's own experience that the time has come to bring under regulation high volume breeders and brokers who sell at retail or who import puppies in volume for resale. However, it is also essential that we maintain the sport and hobby of purebred dog breeding and exhibiting as it is today, an activity regulated by our own rigorous compliance requirements. PAWS should focus the federal government's regulatory resources on realistic targets and goals. We appreciate the dealer provisions of PAWS, as you have clarified them. We especially appreciate the addition of the provision that will exempt retailers based on kennel inspection standards of not-for-profit organizations certified by the Secretary of Agriculture. This will focus enforcement on the high volume retail breeders and importers whom it is appropriate to regulate without imposing federal regulation on hobby and show breeders.

Mr. Chairman, we thank you for your hard work and leadership on this important issue. We thank you for your flexibility and openness to new approaches. We look forward to continuing to work with you to develop and secure passage of legislation that will be good for our beloved dogs.

Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
Testimony of Wayne Pacelle, Chief Executive Officer
The Humane Society of the United States
November 8, 2005

Thank you Mr. Chairman, and the other members of the Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation, for inviting me to present testimony on S. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS) of 2005. My name is Wayne Pacelle, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and I appear on behalf of its 9.4 million members and constituents. I commend Chairman Santorum and Senator Richard Durbin for their leadership on animal protection issues over the years, and specifically applaud their effort to address problems with commerce in dogs for the pet trade. The HSUS strongly supports the PAWS legislation and urges the subcommittee to report it favorably and expeditiously.

The issue of inhumane treatment of animals kept and bred for sale to the public has long been a concern to The HSUS and other animal welfare organizations. We have conducted investigations and provided support for local communities, prosecutors, law enforcement, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in order to prevent or remedy the inhumane treatment of dogs and cats in large-scale dog and cat breeding operations. Documented problems at major breeding operations include a lack of veterinary treatment, poor quality and unsafe housing, insufficient protection from the elements, excessive breeding, and a lack of basic sanitation.

Under the USDA's interpretation of existing federal law, only those breeding operations selling puppies or kittens at wholesale are licensed and inspected. Licensing and inspection not only provides a safeguard for animals to help prevent inhumane treatment, but it also empowers the USDA to take action when animals must be removed from abusive situations. Another critical function of the inspection process is that it provides citizens with basic information regarding cruelty or inhumane treatment at some facilities and patterns of neglect or abuse.

However, under current law, this coverage and protection is denied to the tens of thousands of dogs and cats kept at breeding operations that sell directly to the public. Historically, "retail" operations, those who sell directly to the public with no broker, have been deemed exempt as "pet stores" by the USDA. Ostensibly, the pet store exemption is based on the fact that pet stores aren't breeding animals, so they needn't be regulated to ensure humane breeding conditions. Moreover, Congress may have felt that pet stores are open to the public and their conditions are readily apparent to consumers, allowing for informed decision-making as consumers would notice the effects of chronic abuse and neglect.

Unfortunately, with the advent of the Internet, including its use for commercial purposes, large-scale breeders have taken advantage of this pet store exemption, shifting to a retail-based business using the Internet to sell puppies and kittens and sidestep any federal oversight. As a result, we have witnessed a growing trend in cruelty cases involving breeders who sell their animals over the Internet. Essentially, we have a group of people who are required to play by

federal standards when selling animals wholesale, and a growing group of people who play by their own set of rules because of a massive loophole in the law and the regulatory process.

A small sample of these cases reveals a disturbing pattern of neglect and abuse directly traceable to the retail pet store exemption:

- In 1997, 260 dogs were discovered without food or water at the home of an Internet breeder in Newport, Wash.
- In 2000, a Lyles, Tenn. investigation uncovered 164 dogs kept with no food or water and in squalid conditions at the home of a retail dealer exempt under the pet store provision.
- In Shelby, Mont., a 2002 raid by local officials resulted in the seizure of 171 dogs and 10 cats from an Internet dealer when they were discovered living in four inches of feces, emaciated, dehydrated, and suffering from severe ear infections, intestinal parasites, and malnutrition.
- In 2003, another 250 dogs were discovered in knee-deep feces and crammed together in rabbit hutches at the home of an Internet dog dealer in Union County, N.C.
- In 2004, investigations revealed a retail Internet dealer in Berry, Ky., where 108 dogs were literally covered in feces, had frozen water bowls, and one dog was discovered frozen solid.
- In a 2004 Macomb, Mo. case involving an Internet dealer, 147 live dogs and four dead dogs, all with severely matted fur, were found in dilapidated wire cages, covered in feces, many with eye ailments, hair loss, deafness, blindness, and tumors.
- Just last week, on October 28, 151 dachshunds and springer spaniels and one cat were found, many described as "skin and bones" at the home of a retail dealer in Vero Beach, Fl.

None of these operations was subject to the regulatory authority of the USDA under the Animal Welfare Act because these facilities sold their dogs and cats directly to the public, evading coverage through the "retail pet store" exemption. This list will continue to grow until we take action to close this loophole in the Animal Welfare Act. We are deeply disturbed by this new kind of dog breeder – those who breed large numbers of animals and sell them over the Internet.

In most states, there are no laws requiring licensing or inspection of these breeding businesses. Those states that do have laws vary in their coverage and oversight. It is nearly impossible for states to plug the loophole in federal law, given the use of interstate commerce instrumentalities by these businesses. Animals are bred in one state, sold over the Internet, and shipped by air to the pet purchaser several states away. This interstate commerce also makes it nearly impossible for breeders to be held accountable if a puppy becomes ill or dies. Without any inspecting agency to report problems to, these animals and the families who purchase them are left completely unprotected.

The existence of this loophole is a crisis for consumers, as well as for the animals unfortunate enough to be commercially sold through a breeder using the Internet. The HSUS has seen, over the last several years, a substantial increase in the number of cases reported to us from puppy buyers who have purchased a dog over the Internet only to have their puppy become ill or die within weeks of purchase. We receive hundreds of calls from consumers annually, and have

been able to document the harm this growing, unregulated business has inflicted on consumers, as well as the animals. Young children who form a close bond with their puppies experience their own form of grief when these animals become sick and die. Some puppies, raised in intense confinement and isolation, are unable to adapt to life in their new home because they have not been properly socialized. Consumers cannot see the first stirrings of disease and behavioral problems in animals purchased over the Internet and only discover these problems after they have lived with a puppy for weeks or months.

Their tragedy is compounded when they feel forced to surrender the animals to a shelter or to euthanize their new pet. Because the breeding business may be located several states away, consumers are often unable to recoup any financial losses for the exorbitant veterinary bills and other expenses related to puppy mill puppies. Local communities bear the brunt of this loophole for Internet breeders when many of these animals are ultimately seized by or surrendered to chronically underfunded municipal shelters or animal control operations. For consumers who are concerned for the welfare of the other dogs and puppies at the breeding business site, based on the condition of their puppy upon arrival, there is often no agency to which they can report their concerns. While The HSUS works to educate puppy buyers about ways to locate reputable breeders who properly care for the dogs they keep and the puppies they raise, there needs to be a government agency available to enforce standards for humane care and handling for all major breeders.

Some other aspects of the bill address a growing frustration that the enforcement of the AWA has been hampered by cumbersome procedures and limited resources. One great concern has been the growing number of breeders overseas who see the United States as a lucrative market for dogs, and who can mass produce the animals with no humane regulations or oversight. The public source records section of the bill will allow the USDA to determine the origin of dogs and cats coming into the United States and trace their pathway, allowing for better control of disease and inhumane treatment. Sections expanding the temporary suspension and giving the USDA the ability to enjoin breeding operations will enhance the USDA's enforcement capability, as well as focus on serious violations.

The urgency of this legislation is evidenced by the broad range of support for the PAWS bill. While it may not be surprising that every major animal welfare organization in the United States supports this bill, it is important to note that a broad diversity of organizations including the American Kennel Club and the American Veterinary Medical Association support the legislation as well. Clearly, the lack of oversight of large breeding facilities simply because they sell their puppies directly to the ultimate pet owner and not to a pet store or other middleman is a problem that needs immediate action. This represents a glaring inconsistency in the law.

The PAWS legislation is the product of input from a variety of groups with a broad range of interests in the welfare of dogs, including animal welfare, veterinary, and breed enthusiast clubs. I must note that dog fighters have been among those working most diligently and persistently against the bill, as demonstrated by the traffic on several of their websites. Dogfighters masquerade as legitimate breeders, but are themselves involved in the vicious and despicable business of selling animals for fighting ventures.

Oftentimes, dogs seized in cruelty cases are taken in by local rescue organizations and shelters. The rescue and shelter community is the lone safety net that exists for animals discarded in our society. The individuals working for these organizations are utterly selfless and they should be recognized for the vital role they play in saving animals' lives and enhancing the quality of life in communities across the nation.

Some have falsely suggested that these organizations would need to become USDA-licensed and inspected dealers under the language of the PAWS bill. Rescue and shelter operations do not operate for commercial purposes and are therefore exempt from all coverage. PAWS is carefully drawn to only cover those entities that are large-scale, commercial breeding operations. We believe that the passage of PAWS will help alleviate the burden on these small, struggling organizations by limiting the flow of abused or discarded animals they are compelled to rescue and shelter.

The PAWS bill does not restrict breeding in any way. It merely levels the playing field among all large-scale breeding businesses. In order to be covered, a person would have to breed and sell more than 6 litters of puppies or kittens a year at retail. Depending on the breed, that might mean an individual could sell more than 60 puppies in a given year and still not be required to obtain a USDA license. While some would argue that this is too liberal a threshold, we feel that this trigger -- the same one utilized by the American Kennel Club for their high-volume breeder program -- is an important step in assuring that large-scale commercial breeders are brought under coverage.

It simply does not make common sense to exempt large breeding businesses because they are employing new and unforeseen technology to evade oversight. PAWS will provide tremendous benefits to consumers, to animal shelters and rescue groups, to the breeding community as a whole, and to the thousands of animals produced annually at commercial breeding facilities.

I want to thank the Subcommittee for inviting me to discuss this serious problem and express our gratitude to Chairman Santorum for his leadership on this legislation.

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July 26, 2005

Jonathan R. Lovvorn
Vice President, Animal Protection Litigation
The Humane Society of the United States
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Dear Mr. Lovvorn:

At your request, I have reviewed Senate Bill Number 1139 (the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005) which, if enacted, will amend the Animal Welfare Act (the "AWA"), and have concluded that concerns regarding the Bill's possible reach with respect to rescue and shelter operators are unfounded. Nothing in the language or purpose of the Bill suggests that the proposed changes to the Act are directed to rescue and shelter operators, or that rescue and shelter operators will inadvertently become subject to United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") licensure and inspection requirements.

Senate Bill 1139 is aimed specifically at eliminating the portion of the "retail pet store" exemption that currently allows high-volume home breeding operations to qualify as "retail pet stores" and thus evade USDA licensure. In order to effect this change, Senate Bill 1139 would amend the AWA as follows:

> (f) The term "dealer" means any person who, in commerce, for compensation or profit, delivers for transportation, or transports, except as a carrier, buys, or sells, or negotiates the purchase or sale of, (1) any dog or other animal whether alive or dead for research, teaching, exhibition, or use as a pet, ~~or (2) any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes, except that this term does not include--~~ *(2) any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes, or (3) any dog imported from outside the United States, unless the dog is imported by the person for the use and enjoyment of the person, except that this term does not include--*;
>
> (i) a retail pet store except such store which sells any animals to a research facility, an exhibitor, or a dealer, *or which sells any dogs imported from outside the United States*; or

~~(ii) any person who does not sell, or negotiate the purchase or sale of any wild animal, dog, or cat, and who derives no more than $500 gross income from the sale of other animals during any calendar year;~~

(ii) any person who, during any calendar year—

(I)(aa) sells not more than 25 dogs or cats at wholesale or to the public; or

(bb) does not whelp more than 6 litters of dogs or cats and sells only dogs or cats bred or raised on the premises of the person directly at retail to persons who purchase such animals for their own use and enjoyment and not for resale; and

(II) derives not more than $500 gross income from the sale of other animals;

Senate Bill 1139 also adds a definition of the term "retail pet store" to the AWA. The term was previously undefined in the AWA, and courts and other interpreters of the AWA have focused on regulations promulgated by the USDA that interpret the term. The defined term is as follows:

(n) Retail Pet Store-

(1) IN GENERAL- The term "retail pet store" means a public retail establishment that sells animals commonly kept as pets in households in the United States, including—

(A) dogs;

(B) cats;

(C) guinea pigs;

(D) rabbits; and

(E) hamsters.

(2) EXCLUSION- The term "retail pet store" does not include—

(A) a person breeding animals to sell to the public as pets;

(B) a person selling hunting, security, or breeding dogs; or

(C) a person selling wild animals.

Thus, the critical features of Senate Bill 1139 are to amend the AWA to include a definition of "retail pet store" within the statute and to exclude from the definition "a person *breeding* animals to sell to the public as pets ..." The net result of the measure is that high-volume breeders are no longer exempt from USDA regulation as "retail pet stores." However, breeders can still be exempt under the proposed bill if they either (1) "sell[] not more than 25 dogs or cats" a year, or (2) "do[] not whelp more than 6 litters of dogs or cats" a year and, in either case, do not derive more than $500 gross income. The first of these two exemptions also applies to persons who sell a de-minimus amount of animals wholesale or to the public. There is no language in the proposed amendment directed towards rescue or shelter operators.

Any concern that Senate Bill 1139 will somehow inadvertently impact rescue and shelter operations is misplaced. At the outset, it is unlikely that rescue and shelter operators would be deemed to "sell" animals, even if they receive adoption fees or other payments. The USDA has separately defined a pound or shelter to mean a "facility that accepts and/or seizes animal for the purpose of caring for them, placing them through adoption, or carrying out law enforcement, ..." 9 C.F.R. §1.1. Rescue or shelter operators are, obviously, involved in an entirely different mission than "dealers" who sell animals solely for compensation or profit.

Still, in the event that someone attempted to argue that a rescue or shelter operator fell within the specific definition of "dealer," under the current and proposed statute (as well as court interpretations of the same and underlying regulations), rescue and shelter operators fall squarely within the definition of a "retail pet store" and, as a result, would be specifically exempt from the AWA's USDA licensure requirements. As long as rescue and shelter organizations carry out their traditional activities and do not engage in high-volume breeding, or other behavior regulated by the AWA, they will be considered "retail pet stores" under the amended AWA. This conclusion is based on a plain reading of the proposed statute, as well as court and regulatory interpretations of this provision in the context of the overall statutory scheme.

"Retail pet store" is defined in Senate Bill 1139 as a "public retail establishment that sells animals commonly kept as pets in households in the United States." At the outset, the plain meanings of the words "public," "retail," and "establishment," encompass shelter and rescue operations. "Public" means "of, relating to, or affecting the people as an organized community; of or relating to business or community interests as opposed to private affairs." WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY 1836 (2002). "Retail" means "to sell in small quantities . . . to sell directly to the ultimate consumer." Id. at 1938. "Establishment" is defined as "a more or less fixed and usu. sizable place of business or residence together with all the things that are an essential part of it." Id. at 778; it should be noted that this definition of "establishment" was utilized by the United States Courts of Appeals for the District of Columbia in the context of interpreting the term "retail pet store." Doris Day Animal League v. Veneman, 315 F.3d 297 (D.C. Cir. 2003). Of particular interest is the fact that the Court, in examining the phrase "retail pet store," defined "store" to be a "business establishment," whereas the proposed language in Senate Bill 1139 defines "retail pet store" without the "business" limitation, strongly implying that not-for-profits are included in the definition. Consequently, rescue and shelter operations clearly meet the "public retail establishment" definition; they are "public" because they affect the community, they are "retail" because they "sell directly" to the consumer, and they are "establishments" because they are more or less a fixed place "of business or residence."

In fact, in the event that a rescue or shelter operator was determined to "sell" animals, there is no discernable legal difference in the context of the AWA between a public or private shelter that is providing pets to the public for an adoption fee, and a pet store that sells cats or dogs directly to consumers; if a shelter and pet store are located next to each other on the street and each distribute pets to the public for fees, they would engage in the same activity for the purpose of the AWA. Of course, if a shelter provides

pets to the public free of charge, such shelter would not be providing animals for "compensation or profit" and would not fall within the reach of the definition of "dealer" found in the AWA.

This analysis remains the same even if the pet adoptions occur with respect to a rescue or shelter operator that conducts its activities out of a residence or other locations used on a regular basis. As noted above, the USDA has interpreted the term "retail pet store" to include individuals selling from their residences. The validity of this interpretation of the AWA was explicitly challenged and upheld in federal court in Doris Day Animal League v. Veneman, 315 F.3d 297 (D.C. Cir. 2003). In Doris Day, the Court clearly stated that a "retail pet store" could operate from a domestic setting. Once again, if entities/individuals who "sell" pets to the public in domestic settings fall within the definition of "retail pet store," it would be illogical to deny such exemption to rescue or shelter operators who engage in the same activity with the public in domestic settings.

Ultimately, this interpretation is supported by the policy considerations that are behind the "retail pet stores" exemption, as articulated by the Court in Doris Day. The Court held that the USDA was correct in its approach in exempting those who sell animals to the public on a retail basis, as opposed to a wholesale basis, because such entities/individuals deal with the public, and, as a consequence, are already subject to a degree of self-regulation and oversight by persons who purchase the animals, as well as regulation by state and local laws. Doris Day, 315 F.3d at 300. Likewise, rescue and shelter operators are subject to the self-regulating oversight of persons adopting the animals as pets; they continuously interact with the public as their mission is to deliver homeless animals to new homes. In addition, they are subject to state and local animal cruelty statutes, as well as, in a significant number of cases, attorney-general and public oversight due to their not-for-profit status if such entities are not-for-profits.

In conclusion, as noted above, the key distinction created by the proposed amendment to the AWA is regarding the *breeding* of cats and dogs. As long as rescue or shelter organizations are not breeding animals, they will stand in the same legal position as a commercial retail pet store, regardless of whether they operate out of a store front, public or private shelter, or residence, and thus face no possibility of having to comply with USDA licensure requirements. Accordingly, I do not believe that there is any legitimate legal issue underlying recent concerns that the Bill will require USDA regulation of animal shelter and rescue operators.

This letter is being provided to you at your request. The legal advice, opinions and conclusions contained in this letter may not be relied upon by any other person.

Very truly yours,

David J. Wolfson

David J. Wolfson

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July 25, 2005

Jonathan Lovvorn
Vice President, Animal Protection Litigation
Humane Society of the United States
2100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

Re: Effect of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 on Rescue and Shelter Operators

Dear Mr. Lovvorn:

You have asked that I set forth my views on whether Senate Bill Number 1139, (the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005), which will amend the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), will require animal rescue and shelter operators to be licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and thus subject to USDA inspections under the AWA, 7 U.S.C. § 2132. Rescue and shelter operators currently are not required to obtain licenses under the AWA and this bill will not alter that status. As discussed in more detail below, rescue and shelter operators are not "dealers" because they do not "sell" animals from their facilities. Rather, they are non-profit groups providing a service to the public and the adoption fee accepted by such organizations is necessary to maintain their existence. Morever, even if the adoption fees are considered "sales" under the AWA, rescue and shelter operators are (1) exempt under the amended definition of "retail pet store" provided in Senate Bill 1139 and (2) do not fall within the newly created "retail pet store exclusion" targeted at high-volume home breeding operations that have thrived due in part to the exponential growth in the use of the Internet for commerce.

The AWA was initially aimed at regulating "dealers"– high volume breeders, specifically those that sell animals wholesale. The AWA requires all "dealers" to be licensed and regulated by the USDA. 7 U.S.C. § 2132 (f). The AWA defines a "dealer" as:

> any person who, in commerce, for compensation or profit, delivers for transportation, or transports, except as a carrier, buys, or sells, or negotiates the purchase or sale of, (1) any dog or other animal whether alive or dead for research, teaching, exhibition, or use as a pet, or (2) any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes, except that this term does not include—
>
> > a retail pet store except such store which sells any animals to a research facility, an exhibitor, or a dealer

any person who does not sell, or negotiate the purchase or sale of any wild animal, dog, or cat, and who derives no more than $500 gross income from the sale of other animals during any calendar year.

7 U.S.C. § 2132.

The existing AWA has no statutory definition of "retail pet store." However, the USDA has promulgated a rule defining "retail pet store" as "any outlet where [pets] are sold or offered for sale, at retail, for use as pets." 9 C.F.R. § 1.1. In turn, the USDA has interpreted this exemption to include individuals selling from their residences, and thus exclude high-volume home breeding operations from the licensing and inspection requirements of the AWA. The validity of this interpretation of the AWA was challenged and upheld in federal court in Doris Day Animal League v. Veneman, 315 F.3d 297 (D.C. Cir. 2003).

Senate Bill 1139 would amend the AWA as follows:

(f) The term "dealer" means any person who, in commerce, for compensation or profit, delivers for transportation, or transports, except as a carrier, buys, or sells, or negotiates the purchase or sale of, (1) any dog or other animal whether alive or dead for research, teaching, exhibition, or use as a pet, ~~or (2) any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes, except that this term does not include—~~ **(2) any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes, or (3) any dog imported from outside the United States, unless the dog is imported by the person for the use and enjoyment of the person, except that this term does not include—**;

(I) a retail pet store except such store which sells any animals to a research facility, an exhibitor, or a dealer, **or which sells any dogs imported from outside the United States**; or
~~(ii) any person who does not sell, or negotiate the purchase or sale of any wild animal, dog, or cat, and who derives no more than $500 gross income from the sale of other animals during any calendar year;~~

(ii) any person who, during any calendar year—
(I)(aa) sells not more than 25 dogs or cats at wholesale or to the public; or
(bb) does not whelp more than 6 litters of dogs or cats and sells only dogs or cats bred or raised on the premises of the person directly at retail to persons who purchase such animals for their own use and enjoyment and not for resale; and
(II) derives not more than $500 gross income from the sale of other animals;

* * *

(n) Retail Pet Store-

(1) IN GENERAL- The term "retail pet store" means a public retail establishment that sells animals commonly kept as pets in households in the United States, including—

(A) dogs;

(B) cats;

(C) guinea pigs;

(D) rabbits; and

(E) hamsters.

(2) EXCLUSION- The term "retail pet store" does not include—

(A) a person breeding animals to sell to the public as pets;

(B) a person selling hunting, security, or breeding dogs; or

(C) a person selling wild animals.

The two critical features of the Bill are (1) to amend the AWA to include a definition of "retail pet store" within the statute as "a public retail establishment that sells animals commonly kept as pets . . . including . . . dogs [and] cats," S. 1139, 109th Cong. § 2(3), and (2) to exclude from the definition of "retail pet store" "a person *breeding* animals to sell to the public as pets . . . ." Id. The net result of the measure is that breeders selling from their homes are no longer exempt from USDA regulation as "retail pet stores." However, breeders selling from their homes are still exempt if they either (1) "sell[] not more than 25 dogs or cats" a year; or (2) "do[] not whelp more than 6 litters of dogs or cats" a year. Rescue and shelter operators currently are not required to obtain licenses under the AWA and this bill will not alter that status.

Rescue and shelter operators are not dealers under the Bill.

Rescue and shelter operators do not "sell" animals as pets; they provide a service to the public. Courts have held that services performed for the benefit of the community should not be considered "sales." See Howell v. Spokane & Inland Empire Blood Bank, 785 P.2d 815, 822 (Wash. 1990); see also Washington National Corp. v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 474 N.E.2d 116, 120 (Ind. 1985). Rescue and shelter operators provide care for animals whose owners can no longer provide such care. These groups are helping to keep stray animals off the streets and to control the overpopulation of companion animals. Since these groups cannot keep the animals they "rescue," they must adopt the animals out to loving homes. The adoption fees accepted by rescue and shelter operators are not in exchange for the animal, but rather to pay for the continued existence of the shelter, i.e. food for the animals, health care for the animals, etc.

which in turn benefits the tax-payers who often pay to support city or state sanctioned shelters. Moreover, the fee may serve as a barrier to prevent the adoption of animals to those people who are not able or willing to provide good homes for them. In sum, as a both a practical and policy matter, these groups are not "selling" the animals they adopt out and thus are not "dealers" under the AWA.

The Bill specifically exempts from the definition of dealer "any person who in a calendar year sells not more than 25 dogs or cats." Most rescue and shelter operators find homes for more than 25 dogs or cats a year. However, this does not mean that they will now be required to be licensed by the USDA. As just explained, such operators are not dealers and thus need not fall within the exemption. Moreover, even if the rescue and shelter operators are deemed to be "dealers" under the statue, these operators fall within the "retail pet store" exemption. Thus, there is no need to meet this "dealer" exemption.

If Rescue and Shelter Operators are Considered "Dealers," they are "Retail Pet Stores" under the Bill.

Under the current law, "retail pet stores" are specifically exempt from the Act. 7 U.S.C. § 2132(f)(1). Under the Bill, if rescue and shelter operators that charge a fee for the animals adopted could be considered "dealers" that "buy[], or sell[], or negotiate[] the purchase or sale" of dogs and cats – a doubtful proposition as explained above – such operations clearly fall within the newly-defined "retail pet store" exemption– "a public retail establishment that sells animals commonly kept as pets in households in the United States."

A shelter or rescue operation is a "public retail establishment." "Public" means "of, relating to, or affecting the people as an organized community; of or relating to business or community interests as opposed to private affairs." WEBSTER'S THIRD NEW INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY 1836 (2002). "Retail" means "to sell in small quantities . . . to sell directly to the ultimate consumer." Id. at 1938. "Establishment" is defined as "a more or less fixed and usu. sizable place of business *or residence* together with all the things that are an essential part of it." Id. at 778 (emphasis added); see also Doris Day Animal League, 315 F.3d at 298-99.

Rescue and shelter operations clearly meet the "public retail establishment" definition. They are "public" because they benefit the community, they are "retail" because they "sell directly" to the consumer, and they are "establishments" because they are a fixed place "of business or residence." Moreover, the animals they adopt out–primarily dogs and cats–are "commonly kept as pets in the United States." Thus, if they are considered to "sell" such animals, they fall under the "retail pet store" exemption.

Jonathan Lovvorn
July 25, 2005
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Rescue and Shelter Operators do not fall with the newly defined exclusion of Retail Pet Store.

Senate Bill 1139 is aimed specifically at preventing high-volume home breeding operations from qualifying as "retail pet stores" by defining an exclusion from this exemption for "a person *breeding* animals to sell to the public as pets." High-volume home breeding businesses have thrived due in part to the exponential growth in the use of the Internet for commerce. These breeders' animals are sold via the Internet, newspaper ads, and through other unregulated formats and yet are exempt from AWA regulation under the current USDA interpretation.

Rescue and shelter operators do not *breed* animals. They provide shelter for unwanted, abandoned, and stray animals and find homes for them. In fact, cruelty cases associated with the currently unregulated breeders require local shelters and rescue organizations to take in their ill and unsocialized animals at the operators own expense. This problem threatens to bankrupt these local organizations. Thus, the need to exclude the high-volume home breeding operations from retail pet stores yet retain the rescue and shelter operators retail pet store exemption. In fact, a primary goal of rescue and shelter groups is to control the overpopulation of pets. Thus, rescue and shelter operators, because they do not breed animals, do not fall within the Bill's retail pet store exclusion.

In sum, based on the plain language of Senate Bill 1139, I have no difficulty concluding that the Bill will *not* require animal rescue and shelter operators to be licensed by the USDA and thus subject to USDA inspections under the AWA, 7 U.S.C. § 2132. Accordingly, I do not believe that the possible regulation of animal rescue operations and shelters by USDA is a legitimate legal issue with regard to Senate Bill 1139.

Sincerely,

Joan Schaffner

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD AND RURAL RESOURCES

John Elias Baldacci
Governor

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Testimony of Norma Worley
Director
Animal Welfare Program
Office of Agricultural, Natural and Rural Resource
Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources

In Support of the Pet Animal Welfare (PAWS) Statute

BEFORE THE SUB COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH, NUTRITION AND GENERAL LEGISLATION OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRUICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

November 8, 2005

Members of the Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation of the United States Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, I am Norma Worley, Director of the Animal Welfare Program from the Great State of Maine speaking in support of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute authored by Senator Santorum and Senator Durbin.

I have been in my current position for 2 ½ years but prior to retiring to Maine in 2001 I spent 21 years as an animal cruelty investigator in Southern California. During my tenure both in Maine and California I have investigated hundreds, if not thousands, of animal cruelty cases including many dealing with breeding kennels.

As you are aware, animal welfare issues, in addition to being difficult, are usually emotionally charged. The investigation of animal cruelty can been extremely controversial, characterized by complaints from the public demanding that the animals they believe are being abused or neglected be removed immediately regardless of what the law allows us to do or the rights of the owner. The media may also compromise these investigations because as the editors put it everyone likes a good animal story. All this eventually results in lengthy debates in both state and federal legislatures analyzing and re-analyzing if our animal cruelty laws, if they even exist, are sufficient.

There are thousands of breeding kennels across the country that do everything in their power to protect their animals and obey the law. I'm sure that you have heard from some of these breeders regarding this legislation. It is important that these law abiding kennel owners know that they have nothing to fear from this proposed statue and there is no "slippery slope" or hidden agenda. Unfortunately for every one of these lawful and ethical kennel owners there are as many if not more who see the animals simply as a commodity and a way to make a quick buck.

The PAWS statute before you today identifies and seeks to correct several loopholes in current federal law that allows no protection for dogs and cats sold directly to the public by large-scale breeders. This legislation will mandate protection be applied for these animals regardless of what state the breeder lives in.

The State of Maine and its domestic animals are fortunate in that we have some of the strongest laws in the United States thus protecting them from unscrupulous breeding kennel owners. This is not to say that we have none because we do. Of its 800+ animal cruelty complaints that we have received this year alone the State of Maine Animal Welfare Program has spent hundreds of hours alone on three investigations involving a pet shop and two breeding kennels. The end result was the 250+ dogs were removed from the two kennels. These dogs were the lucky ones as they were adopted into loving "forever homes" and have been spayed and neutered to help stop this cycle of abuse. Unfortunately the pet store just moved to another state whose laws are not as effective.

Even with these effective kennel laws not a week goes by without the Animal Welfare Program receiving a heart breaking complaint from a new owner who has purchased a pup or kitten from a less than honest breeder.

To even complicate things more we now have a new twist in marketing for these dishonest breeders. As with all new avenues of commerce the Internet is the latest tool to sell dogs and cats. Unfortunately the Internet can reach out all over the world and is difficult to track without cooperation of the user. There is nothing more frustrating to us than to receive a complaint from a new owner that may live over 3000 miles away who is heartbroken over the pup or kitten they have just received.

The usual scenario is these complainants are surfing the net looking for a particular breed and fall in love with a picture of what they think is their ideal pet. Some are looking for show caliber dogs, some just like that particular breed and want a pet or a small minority are even seeking to start their own breeding kennel.

But going back to the dilemma of the new owner. Usually the story entails how they purchased this dog over the Internet and eagerly awaited the arrival of the new addition to their family. However in most cases it is anything but a happy event when the animal arrives. These young pups, sometimes as young as 5-6 weeks are shipped to the new owner by air in a small crate held in the cargo area of the plane for trips that can be up to 12-15 hours in length. Upon arrival they are usually sick, some may have genetic disorders from poor breeding or are a horrible example of the breed. The new owner tries to contact the breeder by email or letter only to be told, it they get an answer at all, their choice is to either return the animal to the breeder which means re-shipping the animal back across the US to be treated by the breeder's veterinarian or "tough luck no compensation". The breeder usually has a "contract" that includes no refund for the purchase price or any compensation for veterinarian bills the new owner may acquire.

At this point the new owner is totally confused, upset and frustrated but as it is in most cases has now fallen in love with this poor creature, which is what the unscrupulous dealer hoped would happen. Now, the owner is faced with the horrendous choice of spending perhaps thousands of dollars at their Vet with the hope that dog recovers or return this poor critter to an uncaring breeder and to an unknown fate.

As you would suspect most decide to keep the animal even though it's not what they wanted, is not healthy and they will be saddled with outstanding vet bills. The positive side is these animals are the lucky ones, as they will spend their lives in a forever home. Unfortunately others will be sent back, nursed back to an appearance of good health only to be sold again in attempt to recoup the dealer's losses or immediately euthanized.

So, who is the real victim in these cases? Many will say it is the purchaser – they were taken advantage of. Others will scoff and say "buyer be aware" - they got what they deserved for not doing the research. Others will say this is simply a civil matter and that's what the courts are for. But keep in mind that courts are charged with settling disputes based on "paper trails" not live animals.

I come before you today to say the real victims in these cases are the puppies and kittens that are taken too young from their mothers, not socialized, many times are ill or are genetically inferior, are then shipped in the cargo holds of airplanes sometimes-enduring trips hours in length and now are unwanted. It is beyond my realm of understanding how anyone could stand by and allow this to happen.

The victims of these horrendous acts must be protected the same as domestic animals who are sold to commercial facilities. The closing of these loopholes must be addressed now in order to protect the voiceless victims in states where they have little or no protection

I ask you to please vote in support of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute.

Thank you.

DOCUMENT(S) SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

NOVEMBER 8, 2005

October 21, 2005

Re: PAWS legislation

Senator Santorum:

THANK YOU so much for sponsoring the PAWS legislation. We in the animal welfare community are thrilled that someone in the Senate has taken an active interest in protecting the health and well-being of our companion animals.

Please don't allow vocal but misguided opponents to prevent you from making this bill a reality. It is the right thing to do.

Best Regards,

Sharon Lewis

Sharon Lewis
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Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance
Working to identify and elect supportive legislators
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North Carolina's leading voice for responsible animal ownership
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Statement for Inclusion in the November 8, 2005 Hearing Record
of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee
Concerning S1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 (PAWS)

S1139 (PAWS) eliminates America's best source for pets – the home hobby breeder and rescuer.

For decades, hobbyists, or home breeders have been the best source of American pets. These animals are exceptionally well suited for the residential environment as they've already been raised in one. Commercial operations are at a distinct disadvantage in that they are not able to provide the type of heart and soul socialization and care that hobby breeders give.

- PAWS imposes USDA regulation on many private hobby breeders, most rescuers and every buyer and seller of a dog for hunting, security and breeding purposes, in a misguided effort to close perceived Animal Welfare Act "loopholes."

- PAWS abandons an existing workable, longstanding, legally tested basis for commercial pet business licensing and regulation, substituting a more complex, significantly larger plan that will be litigated for years, be very expensive to implement and will impair animal welfare.

- PAWS devastates hobby breeders of all pet species, small animal rescuers and targeted dog breeds. The nation's dog, cat, rabbit and bird pet owners say NO PAWS!

The three organizations submitting this statement, the Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance, the North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners' Alliance and the Dog Federation of Wisconsin, represent responsible sportsmen and animal owners nationwide and in two specific states. They are familiar with state pet legislation and regulation, as well as the federal Animal Welfare Act and its USDA implementing regulations. We support sensible and humane animal welfare laws and oppose those that would restrict the rights of responsible animal owners.

Witnesses delivering oral statements at this hearing do not represent the nation's pet owners, hobby breeders, rescuers or owners of hunting and security dogs. Only those with a financial interest in seeing PAWS become law have been permitted to speak at this U.S. Senate Agriculture Subcommittee hearing, making many question whether this is a balanced and well-informed federal law making. PAWS is a fatally flawed bill. If properly enforced, it will either totally overwhelm USDA, or it will stop hundreds of thousands of home pet breeders from doing what they love. It should not receive further consideration from the U.S. Senate.

General PAWS Background

Introduced on May 26, 2005, S1139 or the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005, "PAWS" represents a dramatic departure from the historical scope of the Animal Welfare Act, which has traditionally provided for the care and keeping of animals in a laboratory environment or large commercial settings. Without precedent, PAWS seeks to enter the privacy of American homes, setting standards of pet care and specifications for pet housing.

PAWS also exposes every seller of a hunting dog, most rescuers, and some breeders to USDA licensing and home inspections. PAWS doesn't "close a loophole". PAWS fundamentally changes the USDA's existing, long-standing, legally tested basis for federal dog and cat business licensing and regulation. The current procedure is based on treating wholesale sales and retail sales differently. Reducing it to its simplest terms, under current law and USDA regulations, if you sell a dog to a wholesaler, you are regulated. Rescuers, hobby breeders and owners selling to retail buyers are exempt today. The Doris Day Animal League challenged the hobby breeder portion of this regulatory structure in court and lost in 2003.

PAWS uses the numbers of litters bred and/or animals sold to decide which sellers should be USDA licensed. It ignores the factors of multi-species breeders, co-ownerships, the health of pedigreed cat queens, stud-puppy/kitten arrangements and resales. No study or proof of any kind has been offered to explain the rationale of using numbers as a threshold for licensing. This is completely arbitrary and has no connection or correlation to levels of care or necessity for regulation. An individual who breeds and sells a single litter may do so improperly, while another may sell a great many high quality animals to loving homes. Further, if such numerical criterion becomes law, pressures will quickly mount to reduce those thresholds.

Passage of PAWS will require a total rewrite of USDA regulatory standards. USDA's 60 pages of commercial care standards will need to be amended to allow home breeders to raise small pets in residential settings. This will be an overwhelmingly difficult task, with very large political and legal hurdles, promulgating regulations that apply to small breeders in a variety of settings as varied as there are homes and each different for dogs, cats and the other small animals which are covered in PAWS. In addition, USDA will have to decide whether to follow performance standards or engineering standards in developing these new regulations. Either way is a no win situation. Performance standards are being challenged by animal rights groups in favor of engineering standards. Those entities forced to comply with the current, more costly regulations will challenge home breeder rules, if the newly developed regulations are viewed as discriminating against commercial interests. Lawsuits will be inevitable as all sides attempt to have their version of requirements enacted into law or regulation.

PAWS supporters claim that S1139 will regulate Internet sales; however, this is not even mentioned in the bill. Further, there have been no studies offered to demonstrate the number of internet sales of pets, specifically dogs and cats, in which the purchaser does not see the kennel or cattery. Thus there is no proof of this being a real problem within the USA, under current USDA regulations. There have been no studies to show how many of this unspecified number of buyer complaints were resolved under current local or state consumer protection laws. Therefore, S1139 has no supporting rationale, no proof to validate its need regarding the Internet sales of animals, only scattered anecdotes.

PAWS supporters claim federal regulation is needed to control an increasing number of animals being imported and sold. Under current USDA regulations, imported dogs must be 8 weeks of age and the USDA Animal Care Department already inspects dogs traveling on both US and foreign carriers. A veterinarian must inspect every animal crossing a state line. We submit that if a need to address increased importation truly exists it can be covered in a separate bill without requiring thousands of US citizens to be federally licensed.

PAWS will all but eliminate home-based rescue. Volunteers "rescue," or rehome pets turned into shelters and pounds. Operating out of their homes, with pound and shelter operators, rescue volunteers are a significant source of cost low, quality dogs and cats. Even the smallest of rescue organizations sell or place 25 dogs/cats in one year, making them PAWS "dealers."

Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance/ North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners' Alliance/ Dog Federation of Wisconsin
Testimony Concerning S1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 For Inclusion of the November 8th Hearing Record

Most rescuers couldn't meet the USDA dealer standards and would close their doors, eliminating this large and extremely worthy effort for no good reason.

PAWS Impacts

Dogs - PAWS can only create irreparable harm to small- and mid-size hobby breeders who raise dogs in their homes in a family environment. Dogs are raised for show, performance, service, stock work, hunting, maintaining a connection with animal husbandry which is now limited by urban living. The inability to comply with USDA licensing and regulation in a residential neighborhood will force many enthusiasts to abandon their hobby. This will place severe limitations on many breeds of dogs and eliminate one of the best sources of dogs for the public, service and guide dog programs, search and rescue programs, and herding interests, among many others. Dogs sold for hunting, security and breeding purposes will be regulated irrespective of other provisions in PAWS. Sterilization of puppies and kittens before sale is the only way to be exempt from this *"breeding purposes"* provision; making PAWS appear as the first step in a National Spay-Neuter Incentive Program, variations of which are already in effect in certain urban areas.

Cats - The threshold PAWS attempts to establish for a "high-volume" breeder have no relevance to pedigreed cat breeding. The bill impacts all cat breeders with conscientious and moderate breeding programs and concern for genetic diversity. Responsible pedigreed cat breeding requires mating queens according to their constant heat cycles to maintain the health of the individual cats. In most breeds, females will produce more than one litter per year. Fanciers with as few as 4 or 5 females would therefore have to be USDA licensed under PAWS. There is no such thing as a commercial cat breeder. PAWS will force many serious show exhibitors/breeders to leave the cat fancy. The availability of fine home-raised cats, as well as dogs in some breeds, will be greatly diminished.

PAWS Creates Many More Problems Than it Attempts to Solve

PAWS is confused, highly subjective and predictable only in the sense that it will overwhelm the USDA with unnecessary inspections of thousands of rescuers and hobby breeders and waves of litigation. PAWS also exposes **all** buyers and sellers of dogs for hunting, security and breeding purposes to federal licensing and regulation, increasing USDA's inspection load by hundreds of thousands of currently unsuspecting private dog owners. PAWS will create legions of very motivated and angry voters.

Volumes of federal regulations designed for large businesses will force many dog, cat, rabbit, bird and hamster breeders to abandon their hobby, eliminating the best and most reputable source of pets for the public. The public wants pets – breeding/selling dynamics will change and the supply from commercial breeders and pet stores will simply increase, as home hobby breeders are forced to close.

The current AWA/APHIS budget includes 100 inspectors for approximately 10,000 commercial and research facilities. PAWS expands that group's oversight into the private sector and increases the workload to more than 300,000 facilities. PAWS would be an enforcement nightmare. The USDA's budget cannot possibly accommodate regular inspections of the many thousands of additional "dealers" who would fall into one or another of the PAWS regulatory categories.

Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance/ North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners' Alliance/ Dog Federation of Wisconsin
Testimony Concerning S1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 For Inclusion of the November 8th Hearing Record

PAWS will not achieve better animal care, but it will very definitely divert USDA resources from its food security and protection mission. Adding a top-heavy federal layer of regulation onto private citizens is unnecessary when they are already subject to local and state anti-cruelty, sanitation, nuisance and zoning laws. Attempting to modify AWA regulations designed for high volume commercial facilities and research laboratories into a "one-size fits all" package for the home breeder will undoubtedly create conflicts on the state and local level and interfere with local authorities ability to enforce existing laws.

This expansion of the AWA leading to Federal jurisdiction of home hobby breeders, rescuers and hunting dog owners cannot be justified based on the fragmentary anecdotal evidence that has been offered by the proponents of PAWS.

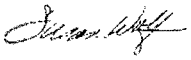
PAWS is unworkable, because it will generate a long series of lawsuits challenging its every clause as many thousands of adversely affected hobby breeders of every species and their advocacy groups take to the courts their fight to protect their hobby.

The vast majority of the nation's dog, cat, rabbit and bird owners oppose PAWS. The breed clubs of more than 60% of all the dogs registered by the American Kennel Club oppose PAWS, as does every cat registry in the country, major dog registries, specialty associations and nationwide sportsmen's groups.

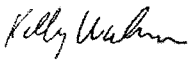
We urge that the Senate Agriculture Committee vote No on S1139.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Kane
Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance



Susan Wolf
North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance



Kelly Wichman
Dog Federation of Wisconsin

Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance/ North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners' Alliance/ Dog Federation of Wisconsin
Testimony Concerning S1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 For Inclusion of the November 8th Hearing Record

Heart of Texas American Pit Bull Terrier Club
15536 Sutton Leighs Lane
Pflugerville, TX
78660

November 10, 2005

Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Room SR-328A
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC..20510-6000

RE: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on PAWS 2005 SB1139

Dear Senate Committee Members:

This letter is being submitted on behalf of the **Heart of Texas American Pit Bull Terrier Club**, to be officially made part of the PAWS hearing record. On November 8, 2005, the Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee met to discuss and hear statements from two panels concerning the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS). I have read the panel statements, and though many of the issues have merit, some are ambiguous and threaten dog owners/breeders, both directly and indirectly.

As you may well know, due to many recent events involving the American Pit Bull Terrier, irresponsible dog ownership has spawned banns against owning an American Pit Bull Terrier across this nation. One of the panel speakers, the American Kennel Club (AKC), does not recognize the American Pit Bull Terrier, but instead registers and recognizes the American Staffordshire Terrier. I believe that by supporting PAWS, the AKC will later be given special privilege, as a vested panel speaker that supported PAWS, to help draft breeding requirements. Without going into breeding as a science, line breeding, interpreted by the AKC, as inbreeding, is a component of breeding that ensures that desirable traits are preserved, thereby securing temperament, ability, and structural soundness. Done correctly, it has preserved some of the best American Pit Bull Terriers in the nation. In short, I feel as though other registries should be stakeholders, allowed to voice there issues concerning PAWS and where we may end up in the future. For the record, we do not support PAWS as it's currently written and represented.

In loving service to the dogs,

Kerry Niemann
President, Heart of Texas Pit Bull Club

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

November 01, 2005

Honorable, Senator Rich Santorm

Please oppose SB1139 and HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statue of 2005 (PAWS). It will not improve the welfare of dogs and cats. It would greatly expand the USDA regulation of small scale dog and cat breeders by requiring that thousands of these breeders meet commercial standards of care, inspections and record keeping. This would greatly overextend the capacity of the USDA. By regulating the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. Paws will diminish the best source of healthy home-raised, well socialized dogs and cats.

Please leave the scrutinizing of the hobby and small scale breeder to the local and state agencies, not the federal government. We urge you to vote against the (PAWS) bill.

Sincerely

Hans C. Anderson

Testimony of Cindy Cooke, Legislative Agent for the United Kennel Club
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation of the
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
November 8, 2005

My name is Cindy Cooke. I am a retired Air Force officer who started my career as a Munitions Maintenance Officer and ended up as a Judge Advocate. I have been breeding and exhibiting AKC-registered Scottish Terriers for almost 30 years. I have owner-handled roughly 100 AKC champions, including two who were the top-winning dogs of their breed in their respective years. I have won three national specialty Bests of Breed. I am the author of "The New Scottish Terrier" published in 1996 by Howell Books and the winner of a Dog Writers Association of America award. I am a past director of the Scottish Terrier Club of America and the Scottish Terrier Club of Greater Dayton, and a current director of the Kalamazoo Kennel Club. I am currently the Kalamazoo Kennel Club delegate to the American Kennel Club. I was employed for seven years by the other major all-breed registry in the United States, the United Kennel Club (UKC), in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where I was the Vice President in charge of Dog Events. I currently advise United Kennel Club on legislative matters. My home, my work, my car, my wardrobe—every detail of my life revolves around the dogs.

I tell you this because the sport of purebred dogs is full of people with resumes and lives like mine. You should also know is that none of the witnesses who purported to speak today on behalf of breeders of purebred dogs has a resume like mine.

For the first time since I've been breeding dogs, I regret to say that the American Kennel Club does not speak for me or my peers. I am not alone in this. For the first time, more than 40 of AKC's parent clubs—the clubs that represent individual breeds—stand in opposition to their registry on a piece of legislation. These clubs represent almost 60% of the dogs registered by the American Kennel Club. Forty-seven state dog organizations and hundreds of AKC kennel clubs oppose the PAWS bill. This, too, is unprecedented

It is also unprecedented for the United Kennel Club to find itself in opposition to the AKC on a legislative issue. Like AKC, the UKC was founded in the 1800s. UKC currently recognizes over 300 breeds of dogs and sponsors 10,000 events annually. Although UKC is a business competitor of AKC, their shared interest in the promotion of responsible breeding of purebred dogs has kept the two registries united on all legislative issues until now. Speaking as a breeder, a member of two AKC clubs who oppose PAWS and on behalf of the thousands of breeders of UKC-registered dogs, we oppose PAWS.

PAWS abolishes the original intent of the Animal Welfare Act to regulate commercial breeders who sell wholesale and establishes instead a scheme to regulate hobby breeders based on the numbers they produce.

Proponents of the PAWS bill assume that there is *a priori* something wrong with dedicated breeders who are fortunate enough to be able to keep a large number of dogs for breeding. In the early days of our sport, breeders understood the necessity of keeping enough dogs to maintain a healthy gene pool and still produce the sought-after traits in each breed of dog. It is still necessary today. Most of our breeds were created and refined by serious breeders who kept relatively large numbers of dogs. If you ever read "Lad, A Dog" you will remember the large kennel of Collies where Lad was born. Sunnybank typified the breeding practices with which many of our breeds were developed, breeding practices which are as valid today as they were 100 years ago. The most well-bred, the healthiest, the best-tempered dogs come from breeders who maintain enough quality dogs to continue producing America's pets, show and working dogs from their homes.

Senator Santorum's July 27 speech about PAWS reflects how negativity about breeders has seeped into the public consciousness. He said: "PAWS will bring under coverage of the Animal Welfare Act high volume dealers who are in every respect like those dealers currently regulated, but are evading regulation because they sell animals exclusively at retail." (Senator Santorum's speech, July 27, 2005) These people are not "evading" regulation. They are merely pursuing their legal (and ancient) hobby from their homes.

The hobby breeders most likely to be affected, at least initially, by PAWS are those producing hunting dogs, stock dogs, and working dogs such as military, police and search and rescue dogs. The critical working skills of these dogs are hard to preserve without fairly large gene pools. It is crucial for you to understand that the best dogs come from the breeders that are targeted by this bill—breeders who breed from their homes and pursue the goal of producing the ideal dog of their chosen breed.

Because there is no nexus between numbers of dogs produced by a breeder and risk of neglect or abuse, animal rights activists will find it easy to argue for reduction of the numbers in future amendments to the AWA.

Jim Holt has warned the dog fancy repeatedly that the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior, and the past behavior of animal rights extremists guarantees that they will seek to reduce whatever numbers are established as the threshold for federal regulation. The following are excerpts from a speech Mr. Holt gave last year, and these remarks represented the position of the American Kennel Club as late as March of 2005:

> "The legislation to require federal regulation of the breeding and socialization of puppies is an excellent example both of incrementalism and the hypocrisy of the animal rights movement.
>
> One of the reasons they [animal rights activists] have been able to [raise so much money] is because they have been, for the most part, masters of the process which I call "incrementalism". For the most part they have learned to be patient and take very small steps, sometimes exploiting genuine problems and sometimes exploiting opportunities that circumstance drops in their lap, to make small gains

> and establish new public policy precedents which can be exploited and expanded over time.
>
> Currently, neither the Animal Welfare Act nor any other federal statute regulates breeding practices of any species of animals. The HSUS wants desperately to establish the principal that it is within the purview of the federal government to regulate breeding. Once they've established that principle, they'll work on the details."[i]

The USDA has resisted all efforts to force them to regulate home-based hobby breeders who sell directly to the public.

The Animal Welfare Act does not exempt hobby breeders. Since 1970, however, the USDA regulations have equated hobby breeders who sell directly to buyers with "retail pet stores" which ARE exempt under the statute. Not one Secretary of Agriculture in that time has attempted to change the regulations, nor, in the many amendments to the AWA before now, has Congress evidenced any intent to bring retail breeders under the aegis of the AWA.

When the Doris Day Animal League (DDAL) brought suit to force the USDA to regulate hobby breeders (DDAL v. Veneman), the agency spent three years in a costly lawsuit to defend its regulation. Nothing in USDA's record indicates any intention to change their position in the future.

At present, the USDA is already burdened with the terrorist threat to our food supply, rebuilding agribusiness in Louisiana and Mississippi, dealing with mad cow disease, real or imagined, as well as inspecting commercial kennels. The proponents of PAWS have produced no evidence that retail breeders are responsible for any problems that are not or cannot be dealt with by state or local regulations.

Opponents of the PAWS bill were not given an opportunity to speak at this hearing.

Senator Santorum and the American Kennel Club are well aware of the significant opposition to this bill, but no representative of the opposition was given an opportunity to speak at this hearing. Equally disheartening, the representatives of the cat fancy, whose hobby breeders will also be regulated under PAWS, have been left out of the process altogether. The gentleman who purported to speak on behalf of AKC dog breeders is virtually unknown within our community and is not supported in his position by his own parent club, the American Miniature Schnauzer Club. The large community of sportsmen who hunt with dogs, all of whom oppose this bill, were also afforded no opportunity to be heard.

The unintended consequences of passing this bill will not be good for dog fanciers or for political supporters of this bill.

Litigation. PAWS is a badly drafted amendment to a badly written and repeatedly patched law. The result will be a playground for litigators. Ambiguity in a statute leads to litigation. Who will be suing to enforce PAWS?

> "The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, today announced that Jonathan Lovvorn will head its newly formed Animal Protection Litigation section to focus on the enforcement of animal protection laws. Lovvorn will assume his duties as vice president on January 1, 2005. The Animal Protection Litigation section is one of several new initiatives made possible by the recently announced combination of The HSUS and The Fund for Animals, and will add several additional litigators by the end of the year." January 1, 2005.[ii]

If you like the way government agencies are tied up in court by environmental special interest groups, you will love the way PAWS generates litigation.

Rescue. Will PAWS affect the widespread informal rescue networks manned by volunteers from the dog fancy? Yes. Over the decades, federal courts have stretched the meaning of "interstate commerce" in order to extend federal jurisdiction. Rescuers are only exempt now because they fall under the same "retail pet store" exemption as hobby breeders. At the very least, PAWS will generate litigation to determine whether or not rescue organizations are engaged in commerce. Our rescue organizations cannot afford to spend their limited resources in court with HSUS' new litigation department. Exempting rescue organizations and shelters is not a workable solution. It will only cause an increase in the trafficking of shelter dogs imported from foreign countries.

Living with USDA regulations. There are currently about 90 pages of USDA regulations for dog breeders. In its inspections, the agency uses engineering standards—standards that spell out exactly how to achieve an outcome—as opposed to performance standards—standards that define an outcome in detail and criteria for assessing that outcome, but do not limit the methods by which to achieve that outcome. AKC tells us:

> "The regulations promulgated under the authority of this Act set certain minimum humane care standards which are not unlike those the AKC itself applies to the breeders it inspects. When this bill is enacted the USDA will have to write implementing regulations, including regulations covering breeders who raise puppies in their own homes. The AKC will certainly be involved in that process, and it is likely that our own standards will be a model the USDA will look to in crafting its regulations."[iii]

Is it likely that USDA will use one set of standards for commercial breeders and another for hobby breeders? With animal rights groups on one side favoring engineering standards and commercial breeders on the other insisting that the rules be applied equally to hobby breeders, we can expect litigation, followed by expensive and complicated federal regulation.

Zoning and other local restrictions. Many dog fanciers are already fighting restrictive zoning ordinances. It is highly probable that local officials will consider a USDA license as evidence that a breeder is engaging in commercial activity. By equating numbers of dogs with true commercial activity, PAWS establishes a precedent that will have the effect of zoning many of our finest breeders out of existence. Considering that the city of Dallas has been prosecuting hobby breeders for just selling puppies in the city limits, imagine the field day that will result when breeders are labeled with a USDA license!

Political awakening of the sleeping dogs. The dog fancy has traditionally paid little attention to politics. Assuming that everybody loves dogs, most dog breeders let the AKC deal with the occasional federal law that might have an effect on the fancy. In recent years, however, well-funded animal activists have pushed through anti-dog legislation at all levels of our government. Faced with breed bans, breeder licensing, dog-limitation ordinances and a myriad of other creative bills designed to prevent the breeding of purebred dogs, dog breeders have finally wised up. We are in a battle for the survival of our dogs, facing an enemy that is rich and politically savvy. If you doubt that the HSUS seeks the extinction of purebred dogs, here is a quote from its President, Mr. Wayne Pacelle who *was* allowed to testify at this hearing: "We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding. ...One generation and out. We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding" (Animal People, May, 1993)

When the AKC announced that it was supporting this bill, the dog fancy was shocked. As late as March of this year, Jim Holt was telling the USDA:

> At the same time, recognize that there are individuals and groups who seek to unduly restrict the ability of persons to breed, own, and enjoy purebred dogs and who seek to redefine the relationship between humans and animals. Unfortunately, these individuals and groups often advocate expanding laws and government regulations and policies to further their objectives in the name of animal welfare. We strongly oppose their efforts to use government to impose an extremist animal welfare and animal rights agenda. And we also strongly oppose efforts to redefine all dog breeding as commercial activity and to undermine the essential amateur and hobbyist status of the sport of purebred dogs."[iv]

Nothing in the past 50 years has generated more opposition among dog fanciers than this bill. The sleeping dog that is the American dog breeder is awake and angry. For the first time, we are forming political organizations and alliances. Do lawmakers really want to make it tougher on hobbyists who provide the healthiest and best quality pets and working dogs when there is no demonstrated need to do so? If you think that gun owners believe in the cold, dead hand, you haven't seen anything until you see dog owners contemplating empty leashes.

The bond between humans and dogs is an ancient one—modern scientists say that man began to domesticate dogs about 15,000 years ago. The dog came before agriculture, before weaving, before metallurgy, before the wheel and before writing. The canine-

human bond is the first and oldest bond between man and beast. According to recent studies, dogs understand us better than our nearest animal relative, the chimpanzee. Loving dogs is part of being human. So before we let animal rights extremists redefine our relationship with our dogs as commercial and uncaring; before we let bureaucrats write reams of regulations that are inapplicable to home-raised dogs; before we let politicians sell us out in order to pander to well-financed animal rights extremists, we will fight ever step of the way.

My recommendations to this committee are these:

- First, kill this bill.
- Secondly, understand that HSUS and other animal rights organizations do not speak for us. We are the stakeholders in the world of dogs. We produce the finest pet and working dogs in the world. We spend the most money on veterinary research. We provide the most volunteers to care for neglected and unwanted dogs. We're for dogs—we should be the "go to guys" when you need legislation for a dog-related issue.
- Work with us to identify real issues relating to breeding and owning dogs. We will help you in every possible way to draft reasonable laws that will solve specific problems without the unintended consequences of a badly drafted bill like PAWS.

I am a conservative Republican and rather shocked to see this type of federal intrusion into my home and hobby being proposed by another conservative Republican. Truthfully, I have never voted for a Democrat. But if you doubt how serious this matter is to the real dog breeders in this country, then know this: In future elections, we will support the people who support us, regardless of past affiliations. We may be coming late to political awareness, but you will find that we are prepared to make any sacrifice for our dogs. And that will make us a force to be reckoned with.

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[i] (Jim Holt's remarks to the NAIA on March 29, 2004)
[ii] http://www.hsus.org/press_and_publications/press_releases/the-hsus-launches-litigation-section.html

[iii] http://www.akc.org/news/index.cfm?article_id=2526
[iv] Jim Holt, March 23, 2005, USDA Animal Welfare Listening Session

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.

PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home –based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Daphne Collins Signature: Daphne Collins
Address: 2210 Hwy 31 NE Waverly, KS, 66871

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

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Name: Regina A. Faron Signature: Regina A. Faron

Address: 14545 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Apt 271
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

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Name: Lorra Veal Signature: Lorra Veal

Address: 1063 GALWAY LN Conway SC 29720

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Name: Donald J Neal Signature: DONALD J NEAL

Address: 1063 [redacted] GALWAY L.N.

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RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am **OPPOSED** to **SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).**

PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: David Peele Signature: [illegible]

Address: 1201 Bayrity Rd Hillsboro NC 27806

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Eric Smith Signature: Eric Smith

Address: 2114 Lark Trail Rd. Monroe N.C. 28110

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Name: Denice Bradford Signature: Denice B

Address: 313 Delmar St Hudson N.C. 28638

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Mitchell Dean Cox Signature: Mitchell Dean Cox
Address: 2797 Spero Rd Randleman N C 27317

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Robert E. Hill Signature: Robert E Hill

Address: 131 Ledwell dr Candor NC 28715

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Nando N Neal Jr. Signature: Nando N Neal Jr

Address: 1280 Woodridge dr Clover SC. 29710

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: [illegible] Signature: [illegible]

Address: 4926 20th St NE Hky 28601

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Name: Michael Sa Signature: Michael Sa

Address: 317 Rock Hill S.C. 29730

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Name: Jesse Bledsoe Signature: Jesse James Bledsoe
Address: 131 OAK Ln Blacksburg

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Name: Odell McCall Signature: Odell McCall

Address: 405 North St.

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Jonny Hay Signature: [illegible]

Address: [illegible]

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Name: Derrick Simpson Signature: [signature]

Address: 4211 Old Camden Road

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Bland Lee Signature: Bland Lee

Address: 4481 Honey's School Rd

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

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Name: David Connor Signature: David Connor

Address: 2419 East Maidin N.C.

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Lydia B. Copeland Signature: Lydia B. Copeland
Address: 7308 Trinity Church Rd, Church Road, VA 23833

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Angie Morris Signature: Angie Morris

Address: 214 Baldwin Rd., Ninety Six SC 29666

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Jeff McClain Signature: [signature]

Address: 216 Cumberland Av. / Greenville SC 29607

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Rick Morris Signature: RickM

Address: 314 Baldwin Rd. Moncks Corner, SC 29461

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Name: Hillary Greene Signature: Hillary Greene

Address: 3778 Gentry Acres Rd. Asheboro NC 27205

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Name: Dean Timms Signature: [signature]

Address: 401 Chalsea Dr. Anderson S.C 29626

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Name: NAYA HAUGHT Signature: N Haught

Address: 3200 JUNE DR CHARLOTTE NC 28205

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Name: Michelle Chedeville Signature: Michelle Chedeville

Address: PO BOX 1045 Frazer, PA 19355

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Name: Amanda Little Signature: Amanda S. Little
Address: 443 Peter Rd Moore. NC 28115

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Name: Tim Klaber Signature: Tim Klaber

Address: 834 Elm Ave W Chester PA 19382

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Melissa Kelker Signature: Melissa Kelker

Address: PO Box 37 Port Clinton PA 19549

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am **OPPOSED** to **SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).**

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Name: Kerry Fesperman Signature: Kerry Fesperman

Address: 510165 Pineview Rd NC 28127.

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: John Propst Signature: John L. Propst

Address: 7509 Kirkland Dr Hickory NC 28601

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: STEVEN Robinson Signature: Steven Robinson

Address: P.O. Box 217 Dallas NC 28034

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: James E. Montgomery Jr. Signature: James E. Montgomery Jr.

Address: P.O. Box 104 Waco, NC 28169

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Kevin Thompson Signature: Kevin Thompson

Address: 2414 Jones Road 32220
Jacksonville, FL

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Brandon Blythe Signature: [signature]

Address: 11817 Riverhaven Dr Charlotte NC 28214

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Name: Adam Phillips Signature: [illegible]

Address: 6 Plymouth Circle Asheville, NC 28803

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Name: Brent Wilkerson Signature: Brent Wilkerson

Address: PO BOX 158 Glen Alpine NC 28628

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Name: MILDRED RINEY Signature: M Haught

Address: 3220 JUNE DR CHARLOTTE NC 28205

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Name: Roxanne Taylor Signature: Roxanne Taylor

Address: 105 A Summerwalk Ct. Anderson S.C. 29625

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Name: Jennifer Queen Signature: Jennifer Queen

Address: 2919 Fairview Dr. Gastonia NC 28052

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Melissa Davis Signature: Melissa Davis

Address: 4123 Brown Dr. Belmont, NC 28012

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am **OPPOSED** to **SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).**

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Name: Anthony Hambrick Signature: Anthony Hambrick
Address: 4123 Brown Dr. Belmont, NC 28012

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Name: Shirley Thompson Signature: Shirley Thompson

Address: 2617 East Maiden Rd, Maiden NC 28650

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Shawn Carroll Signature: Shawn Carroll

Address: 2075 #G McGee Rd Rock Hill SC. 29732

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Billy Craft Signature: Billy Craft

Address: 4343 Norris Store Rd Arden N C 28513

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Richard Wagoner Signature: Richard Dale Wagoner

Address: 613 HWY 66 South Kernersville, N.C. 27284

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Name: [illegible] Signature: Michael Ellis

Address: 170 Thorn Woods Ln STANLEY NC 28164

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Name: Douglas Murray Signature: [illegible]

Address: 2508 Keener Rd Lincolnton NC 28092

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Name: Nola Ward Signature: Nola Ward

Address: P.O. Box 421 Crouse, N.C. 28033

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Name: Robert Murray Signature: Robert Murray

Address: P.O. Box 1855 Lincoln, NH 2023

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Name: Ron Davis Signature: Ron E Davis

Address: 142 Nolan Rd Pierson Fl 32180

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Name: Greg Kimehl Signature: Greg Kimehl

Address: 617 Beauregard RD Summ SC 29483

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Tonya Kanehl Signature: Tonya Kanehl

Address: 617 Beauregard Rd Summerville SC 29483

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

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Name: Wendi A. Chronister Signature: Wendi A. Chronister

Address: 100 Redwood Dr. Greenville, SC 29611

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Todd C. Woods Signature: Todd C. Woods

Address: 100 Redwood Dr Greenville SC 29611

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Name: Andrea Davies Signature: Andrea Davies

Address: 383 River Run Rd Statesville NC 28625

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Kathy Thomas Signature: Kathy Thomas
Address: P.O. Box 787 Kings Mtn. NC 28086

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: [illegible] Signature: Randy Thomas

Address: P.O. Box 787 Kinston NC 28256

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Name: Jonathan M. Morrison Signature: [signature]

Address: 230 Shumaker Drive Statesville NC 28625

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Name: Bobby Johnson Signature: Bobby Johnson

Address: Mocksville NC 28655
384 Jamestown Rd.

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Stoney Greene Signature: [signature]

Address: 6637 W Hwy 421 Wilkesboro, NC 28665

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Name: Cuyler Thomas Signature: [signature]

Address: 2323 POPLAR RD. FREDERICKSBURG VA. 22406

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Name: Todd A. Shell Signature: Todd A. Shell

Address: 15 Lawton Rd. Stafford VA 22554

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Name: Sheree Folmar Signature: Sheree Folman

Address: PO Box 962 Vernon, FL 32462

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: TANYA HOLLAND Signature: Tanya Holland

Address: P.O. BOX 156 HIGH SPRINGS, FL 32655

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

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Name: Richard Holland Signature: [illegible]

Address: PO Box 156 High Springs FLA 32655

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Name: Peggy Weaver Signature: Peggy Weaver

Address: P.O. Box 282 Rhodhiss, N.C. 28667

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Felicia M Weaver Signature: Felicia M. Weaver

Address: P.O. Box 282 Rutherfordton NC 28667

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Kristal Buchanan Signature: Kristal Buchanan

Address: 1060 J.V. Parker dr Hickory, NC 28602

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Dennis Buchanan Jr. Signature: Dennis Buchanan Jr

Address: 1060 JV Parker Rd
Hickory, NC 28602

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Name: Scott Delorenzo Signature: [signature]

Address: PO Box 145 Lake Hopatcong NJ. 07849-0145

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Name: Shelia L Holdaway Signature: Shelia L Holdaway

Address: 254 Ted R Daniels Rd Lexington NC 27295

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Name: Teresa Spargo Signature: Teresa Spargo

Address: 4123 Brown Dr. Belmont NC 28012

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Name: JONATHAN MORROW Signature: Jonathan Morrow

Address: 1805 Hart Rd Charlotte, NC, 28214

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Name: [illegible] Signature: [illegible]

Address: 210 Air View Dr Apt 151 Blacksburg SC 29702

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Name: Dalton A. Ross Signature: [signature]

Address: 744 Old Durham Rd Roxboro NC 27573

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Carvelle Watkins Signature: Carvelle Watkins

Address: 1611 Buford St. Gaffney, S.C. 29341

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

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Name: Angela D. Ross Signature: Angela D Ross
Address: 744 Old Durham Rd Roxboro NC. 27573

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Name: Nicholas Burleson Signature: Nicholas Burleson

Address: 512265 Pinoview Rd. Mountain Island N.C. 28127

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Name: David Morrison Signature: [signature]

Address: 1698 Citation St. York, S.C. 29745

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Chris Rogers Signature: [illegible]

Address: PO Box 156 Lydia SC 29079

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Judy Holdaway Signature: Judy Holdaway

Address: PO Box 304 Emory Va 24327

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Address: 1595 Giles Rd Lexington NC 27295

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Name: Ted W Leonard Signature: Ted W Leonard

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Name: Phuong Nguyo Signature: [illegible]

Address: 12241 Stevenson Ct. Lakeridge VA 22192

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Name: John Veneziano Signature: [signature]

Address: 12241 Steven ct Lakeridge VA 22192

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Name: Juan Comesanase Signature:

Address: 523 Richmond st 2FL Elizabeth NJ 07202

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Giovanni Comesana Signature: Giovanni Comesana
Address: 523 Richmond Street Elizabeth NJ 07202

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am **OPPOSED** to **SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).**

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Name: Connie Leonard Signature: Connie Leonard

Address: 1585 Giles Rd Lexington NC 27295

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Name: F. D. Wright Signature: F. D. Wright

Address: 792 N. Main St High Point, NC 27262

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: DERK BROWN Signature: [illegible]

Address: 1704 OBERLIN DR H.P. N.C. 27260

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Maria Neal Signature: Maria Neal

Address: 1280 Woodridge Dr. Clover, SC 29710

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Deborah Barlow Signature: Deborah Barlow

Address: 2870 Old N.C. Hwy. 18, Morganton, NC 28655

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Name: Tiffany Osborne Signature: [illegible]

Address: 1901 Lincoln Rd York SC 29745

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Name: Suzanne Milam Signature: S Milam

Address: 3808 Florence Drive #1 Alexandria, VA 22305

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Name: Joel Rollins Signature: [illegible]

Address: 3608 Fl[illegible] D. Apt #7
Alexandria VA 22305

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Name: Joseph Holdaway Signature: Joseph Holdaway

Address: PO Box 304 Emory Va 24327

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Loretta Pilgrim Signature: Loretta Pilgrim

Address: 947 Killian Rd Stanley NC 28164

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am **OPPOSED** to **SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).**

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Deborah Barlow Signature: Deborah Barlow

Address: 2870 Old N.C. Hwy. 18, Morganton, NC 28655

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Tiffany Osborne Signature: [illegible]

Address: 1901 Lincoln Rd York SC 29745

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Connie Leonard Signature: Connie Leonard

Address: 1585 Giles Rd Lexington NC 27295

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Suzanne Milam Signature: S Milam

Address: 3808 Florence Drive, #1 Alexandria, VA 22305

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Joel Rollins Signature: [signature]

Address: 3608 Florence Dr Apt #7
Alexandria VA 22305

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Ronald Vaughan Signature: Ronald Vaughan

Address: 418 Gordon Dr Lexington NC 27292

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Name: Chelsea Hamilton Signature: C. Hamilton

Address: 2516 Collins St. Lenoir NC 28645

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Name: SAM HERNDON Signature: Sam Herndon

Address: 4187 Old Catawba Rd, Claremont NC 28610

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Jason V Holdaway Signature: [signature]

Address: 254 Ted R Daniels Rd Lexington NC 27295

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Name: Jackie Bailey Signature: Jackie Bailey

Address: 919 Early Jones Rd Lexington NC 27295

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Mildred Hernda Signature: Mildred Hernda

Address: 487 old Catawba Rd. Claremont N.C. 28610

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Emily Eldridge Signature: Emily Eldridge
Address: 1680 Branch Rd York, SC 29745

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

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Name: Judy O'Brien Signature: Judy O'Brien

Address: 904 Bedford Sty Dickes Branch, Va 23937

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Roy Halbert Signature: R. Halbert

Address: 12168 SW 44 Dr. Lake Butler, FL 32054

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Jesse Hamilton Signature: [illegible]

Address: 114 Woodyville Rd Dallas NC 28034

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Blake Pope Signature: Blake Pope

Address: 203 Nottingham St. York S.C. 29745

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: GREG AVANS Signature: Greg Avans

Address: 8042 HWY 341 CHICKAMAUGA GA. 30707

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Cassandra Connor Signature: Cassandra Connor

Address: 2414 E. Maiden Rd. Maiden NC 28650

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Name: Bonnie V. Russell Signature: Bonnie V.

Address: 3605 Mosby Dr. Greensboro NC 27407

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Name: KRISSY STANFORD Signature: [illegible]

Address: PO Box 323 Worthington Spgs, FL 32697

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Name: Charles S. Johnson Signature: Charles S. Johnson

Address: 2672 Willow Tree Church Rd Morganton NC 28655

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Name: Tina Seal Signature: Tina Seal

Address: 2143 Topaz Dr. Asheboro NC 27205

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Name: Benjamin R. Kearns Signature: Benjamin R. Kearns

Address: 733 Mack Road Asheboro N.C. 27203

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: ARTHUR A PACKER Signature: Arthur A Packer

Address: 1555 Mt. Vernon Fortlawn SC 29714

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

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Name: Montrell Stevenson Signature: Montrell Stevenson

Address: 1141-107 Catawba Pointe, Rock Hill SC, 29730

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Tony R Anthony Signature: Tony R. Anthony

Address: 5745 CHARLOTTE HWY. LANCASTER, SC 29720

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Horace Jennings Signature: Horace Jennings

Address: 349 Irwin St Rock Hill, S.C. 29730

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Michael Pasley Signature: Michael Pasley
Address: P.O. Box 447 Lenoir, N.C. 28645

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Name: Linda McIntyre Signature: Linda McIntyre

Address: RR#4 Aylmer Ont. Canada N5H2R3

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Name: David Jackson Signature: [signature]

Address: 118 Cherrywood Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

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Name: Matt Sprague Signature: [signature]

Address: 19609 Golden Ridge Rd. Barnsville, MN 30512

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Name: F D Wright Signature: F D Wright

Address: 792 N. Main St High Point, NC 27262

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

Bulldog Club of America Rescue Network, Inc.

November 7, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee

Re: Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

President:
Stefanie Light
P.O. Box 50
Sykesville, MD 21784
410 549-2554
bulldogresq@earthlink.net
Web Site:
www.RescueBulldogs.org

Vice President:
Mary Aiken
13520 Skyline Blvd.
Woodside, CA 94062
650 851-3386
maryrick@aol.com

Secretary:
Julie Cromer
29720 Wildbrook Drive
Southfield, MI 48034-7615
248 352-3707
wwwrbulls@aol.com

Treasurer:
Robert Cocks
3945 Charbonier Road
Florissant, MO 63031
314 838-2658
cocks@swbell.net

Directors:
Donna Bartow
Van Blevins
Gail Knight
Nancy Rose, DVM

Thank you for providing an opportunity to contribute to the discussion of the proposed legislation S1139, known as the PAWS bill.

It is important for me to let you know that the Directors of the Bulldog Club of America Rescue Network, Inc. have stated opposition to this legislation because we think that the definition of who is a "dealer" is ambiguous and could easily be applied to rescue organizations. Supporters of the bill say there is no intention to extend USDA regulation to "legitimate rescuers". We hope we would be considered one of those, but we believe the risk is too great that our requesting an adoption donation to cover rehabilitation expenses could be considered selling dogs "for compensation or profit". Our nationwide Rescue Network does place many more than 25 dogs per year, and several of our local rescue groups also exceed that limit.

Applying the same standards to rescue activities in private homes as are necessary for regulating large commercial breeders would mean the end of volunteer rescue as we know it. This would increase the numbers of dogs being euthanized in animal shelters, and, in my opinion, would not be a positive trend for the health and well-being of our society.

I AM concerned about puppies being sold by large-scale breeders, importers, brokers and retail pet stores *without offering lifetime support* to answer questions and see that proper care is provided. (This is something that volunteer rescuers do when the dog goes to the second or third or fourth home.) However, I am not convinced that PAWS would change the practices of these people and companies who are "in it for the money".

It seems to me that extending USDA regulation to those who sell/transfer/place a specified number of dogs at retail or who whelp a certain number of litters per year is not getting at the real problem, which is: Dogs being sold or transferred without regard to the fact that they are living, loving, suffering beings. We need to focus on what is really good for the dogs, and I think it would NOT be requiring rescuers to keep dogs in concrete kennel runs rather than in their living rooms and bedrooms!

I would appreciate a reply to let me know you received this.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Light

Stefanie Light
President

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Derek Brown Signature: [signature]

Address: 1704 Oberlin Dr Ap. N.C. 27260

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Maria Neal Signature: Maria Neal

Address: 1380 Woodridge Dr. Clover, SC 29710

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

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Name: Loretta Pilgrim Signature: Loretta Pilgrim

Address: 947 Killian Rd Stanley NC 28164

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Name: Wanda McDaniel Signature: Wanda McDaniel

Address: 502 N. 12th St, Bessemer City NC 28016

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Name: Dhorah Barlow Signature: Dhorah Barlow

Address: 2870 Old N.C. Hwy. 18, Morganton, NC 28655

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Tiffany Osborne Signature: [illegible]

Address: 1901 Lincoln Rd York SC 29745

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Name: Suzanne Milam Signature: S Milam

Address: 3508 Florence Drive, #1 Alexandria, VA 22305

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Name: Connie Leonard Signature: Connie Leonard

Address: 1585 Giles Rd Lexington NC 27295

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Name: J David Bailey Signature: J. David Bailey

Address: 1209 Oakshade Kannapolis NC 28083

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Name: Nick Mitchell Signature: [illegible]

Address: 11601 Brickley Ct Charlotte NC 28215

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Name: Denise Mitchell Signature: Denise Mitchell

Address: 11601 Brockley Crt Charlotte NC 28215

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Sharon Pack Signature: Sharon Pack

Address: 7116 Howey Bottoms Rd, Indian Trail, NC 28079

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

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Name: Stan Plowman II Signature: Stan Plowman II

Address: 7116 Howey Bottoms Rd Indian Trail NC 28079

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Name: Paula Goode Signature: Paula Goode

Address: PO Box 627 Bowling Green SC 29703

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Name: Johnny Boode Signature: Johnny Boode

Address: [redacted] P.O. Box 627 Bowling Green SC 29703

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Name: Enoch NR Climbingbear Signature: Enoch NR Climbingbear

Address: OTis DeLinger Rd 28092
Lincolnton, NC

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Name: R KITSON Signature: [signature]

Address: 21107 FOOTSTEP TER ASHBURN, VA 20147
571 432 6516

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Joel Rollban Signature: [illegible]

Address: 3808 Florence Dr. Apt #7
Alexandria VA 22305

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Name: Derek Brown Signature: [illegible]

Address: 1704 Oberlin Dr H.P. N.C. 27260

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Name: F D Wright Signature: F D Wright

Address: 792 N Main St High Point, NC 27262

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Name: CHRIS HAUGHT Signature: CHaught

Address: 3220 JUNE DR CHAR. NC 28205

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Name: Lori Lee Hariezle Signature: Lori Lee Hariezle
Address: 2450 Cimarron Circle, Midland, NC 28107

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Brett Schulte Signature: [illegible]

Address: 2950 Cimarron Circle, Midland NC 28107

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Paula C. Thomas Signature: Paula Gale Thomas

Address: 2323 Pollar Ct Fredericksburg VA 22406

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am **OPPOSED** to **SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).**

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Name: Elsa Bonilla Signature: Elsa Bonilla

Address: 7236 Ravenna Drive Charlotte, NC 28213

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Erika Herndon Signature: Erika Herndon

Address: 2516 Collins St. Lenoir NC 28645

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Christine Lyon Signature: Christine Lyon
Address: 5634 Mertie Road, Millers Creek, NC 28651

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

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Name: Monica Rutledge Signature: Monica Rutledge

Address: PO BOX 344, Waverly, KS 66871

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

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Name: Greg Morey Signature: Greg Morey

Address: 26044 Underwood RD NE Waverly KS 66871

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

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Name: Katherine Hott Signature: Katherine Hott

Address: 6355 Corte Tunitas, Camarillo, CA 93012

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KEN SALAZAR, COLORADO

The American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.

Devoted to the Interest of Rabbit Raising for Fancy and Commercial

Parent Body of All Chartered Local and Specialty Clubs
One National Judging and Registration System

OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee on S 1139 (PAWS)

The American Rabbit Breeders Association opposes S 1139 (PAWS) as it is currently written for the following reasons.

- We oppose the concept of federal regulation of hobby breeders of rabbits and cavies (guinea pigs).
- We believe that this bill as written would be detrimental to our **30,000** member association, who are mainly rabbit and cavy (guinea pig) fanciers/exhibitors that raise their animals for competition and show.
- We do not believe that there is any credible evidence to show that huge amounts of rabbits or cavies (guinea pigs) are being sold to the public at retail through mass media or over the Internet. If one was to check, they would find that on rabbit and cavy sites of our membership that specific show or pet quality animals were being sold.
- We believe that S 1139 will harm existing youth rabbit and cavy programs that are sponsored by 4-H and FFA because it will regulate youth and families who raise these animals and sell a few of their project animals to others. Selling these animals is usually part of the project requirements.
- We oppose this bill because it is not clearly written as to the impact that it will have on hobby breeders of other species other than dogs and cats.
- We believe that commercial rabbit and cavy operations should continue to be regulated by the Animal Welfare Act.

The American Rabbit Breeders Association is the largest non profit volunteer group of rabbit and cavy fanciers in the world. Our organization represents a 30,000 membership comprised of adults, youth and families who raise rabbits and cavies (guinea pigs). We charter 1145 clubs and have a registration system for rabbits and cavies. There were close to 900,000 rabbits and cavies shown last year in sanctioned ARBA shows this past

From the office of the President, **Cindy Wickizer**
PMB 196, 20825 Star Route 410 E • Sumner, WA 98390
Phone: 253-826-3976 E-mail: CindyWick@aol.com

Web site: http://www.senate.gov/~agriculture

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year. This does not include all of the small county fairs which had rabbit and cavy exhibits within the United States where 4-H and FFA members competed. Our ARBA National Convention and Show several weeks ago in Indianapolis, Indiana had an exhibit of 25,000 animals. We have recently partnered with the American Livestock Breed Conservancy to protect our endangered breeds of rabbits. The ARBA has foundations for Youth Scholarship and Research. We promote responsible animal ownership and breeding or rabbits and cavies and would welcome the opportunity for any committee members to show our organization how we could help solve a problem that we can find no credible hard evidence that it exists!

Cindy Wickizer

Cindy Wickizer
ARBA President

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Kerstin Parker Signature:

Address: 3900 Meadowridge Ct. Concord, NC 28027

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: RON Fisher Signature: Ron Fisher

Address: 5429 Downefield Drive. Charlotte NC 28207

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Name: VINCE DI PAOLA Signature: [signature]

Address: 8001 GLENCANNON DR CHARLOTTE NC 28227

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Robin Shiloff Signature: Robin Shiloff

Address: 150 Brooktree Dr. Mooresville, NC 28117

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am **OPPOSED** to **SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).**

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Name: Kay Bauingarten Signature: Kay Bauingarten

Address: 1052 Pond Court Kannapolis NC 28081

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Bryan Henderson Signature: Bryan Henderson

Address: 16509 Glenfiness Dr Huntersville NC 28078

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Rebecca Cantrell Signature: Rebecca B Cantrell

Address: 448 Robins Nest Rd Concord NC 28027

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Ken Shuford Signature: Ken Shuford

Address: 2583 Hopewell Church Rd Sherrills Ford NC 28673

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Elizabeth Bishop Signature: Elizabeth Bishop

Address: 5312 Wales St Charlotte 28269

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Rodney Moore Signature: Rodney Moore

Address: Old Beckford Rd. Rockwell N.C. 28138

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Name: Mandy Leonard Signature: Mandy Leonard

Address: 23d Shumaker Drive Statesville N.C. 28625

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Betty Walton Signature: Betty Walton

Address: 1321-Apt A Forest Park Terrace
Statesville, N.C. 28677

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224 1725

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Name: Brenda B Story Signature: Brenda B. Story

Address: 569 Harris Grove Rd Statesville N.C. 28625

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Name: [illegible] Signature: [illegible]

Address: [illegible]

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Name: Timothy O. Gardner Signature: Timothy O Gardner

Address: 10906 Rail Tyre Pl. Pineville, NC 28134

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This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: LEE LAFELLE Signature: [illegible]

Address: 5510 MARTIE ROAD MILLERS CREEK, NC 28651

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

missymcl@swbell.net

From: "Best Friends of Dogs Announcement List" <bestfriendsofdogs@yahoo.com>
To: <missymcl@swbell.net>
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2005 1:09 PM
Subject: Stop the ALF Extremist Agenda! Send a Fax to Block PAWS!

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

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Name: Missy McClure Signature: Missy McClure
1048 Steven St. Burleson, TX. 76028 11/4/2005

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AND FORESTRY

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Name: Juan Gonzalez Signature:

Address: 1639 Griffin St. Lancaster, TX 75146

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Name: Brian T. Breikss (registered voter) Signature: _____

Address: 13148 Haughton Lane SW Port Orchard, WA 98367

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AND FORESTRY

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I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Anthony Brown Signature: Anthony Brown

Address: 1548 S. Ringgold St Phila, PA 19146

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

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Name: Jennifer Johnson Signature: Jennifer Johnson

Address: P.O. Box 1268 Maurinville, Tx 77626

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

November 01, 2005

Honorable, Senator Rich Santorm

Please oppose SB1139 and HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statue of 2005 (PAWS). It will not improve the welfare of dogs and cats. It would greatly expand the USDA regulation of small scale dog and cat breeders by requiring that thousands of these breeders meet commercial standards of care, inspections and record keeping. This would greatly overextend the capacity of the USDA. By regulating the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. Paws will diminish the best source of healthy home-raised, well socialized dogs and cats.

Please leave the scrutinizing of the hobby and small scale breeder to the local and state agencies, not the federal government. We urge you to vote against the (PAWS) bill.

Sincerely

Chris Smith

Gail Smith

Classic PhoneTools

BVRP software

Phone:

Fax:

Message :

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

I would like the following to be made part of the OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD of the PAWS hearing.

Please OPPOSE PAWs S1139/HB2669. PAWS is a badly written bill that will regulate thousands of hobby rabbit breeders. I breed Netherland Dwarf rabbits as a hobby and PAWS will either force me out of rabbits or become a criminal. Either way PAWS will destroy one of the few things left in my life that I enjoy doing as a hobby.

As written PAWs states that those who gross over $500 in sales of "other animals" (rabbits, cavies, etc) need to be regulated by the USDA. The average price of a pet rabbit is $19 (Rabbit Education Society breeder survey), the average number of rabbits a hobby show breeder sells per year is 68 (RES survey 2004) includes breeding stock to other show breeders as well as pets. Using these numbers we can say the average amount a hobby rabbit breeder grosses per year is $1,292. So obviously the majority of hobby rabbit breeders are grossing more than $500 per year and will require to be licensed by the USDA if PAWs passes. 25 rabbits sold at $20 each equals $500. 12.5 rabbits sold at $40 each equals $500. We are talking about a very small number of animals sold. In the Suburban Advertiser 7/14/05 Senator Santorum is quoted as saying "The intent of this legislation (PAWs) is not to cover people who are hobby breeders or breed small numbers of animals". If this is true then why has the senator drafted a bill which severely limits the number of rabbits a hobby rabbit breeder can breed?

Currently hobby rabbit breeders are exempt from USDA licensing if they sell direct to pet owners or gross less than $500 in sales to pet stores. I believe this is how it should stay. Although the $500 in wholesales is an amount that has not been updated and probably should be increased to reflect inflation. There is no evidence that there is a need to regulate hobby rabbit breeders.

It is important to exempt hobby rabbit breeders because you can't make money selling pet rabbits and there isn't a way to increase sales to be able to cover the license fees and cost of compliance. If one regulates hobby rabbit breeders we will be faced with the choice of operating illegally or getting out of rabbits and that is terribly unfair to us taxpaying voters.

From:	**To:**
Corinne Fayo	**Senate Ag Subcommittee**

Date: 11/8/2005 **Page(s):** 5

In addition those who have drafted and support PAWS are allowing dog breeders a much more generous licensing threshold than rabbit breeders. Rabbits are not in demand as much as dogs are. Rabbits also have reproductive issues unique to dogs so that they start breeding younger and must be bred more often and have a shorter breeding lifespan. According to industry estimates there are currently 74 million dogs kept as pets, 90 million cats, and only 5.3 million rabbits. And if PAWs passes the number of pet rabbits will likely drop dramatically as hobby rabbit breeders are forced out. Or large rabbit mills will take over leading to inhumane treatment of animals as well as a loss of our carefully bred purebreeds and the diversity of breeds and colors.

According to the AKC's website under PAWs FAQ a dog breeder can whelp 6 litters and sell 40 dogs and still be exempt from USDA regulation. I checked newspaper classified ads last year for dog sales and found the average price of a dog was $500. So using that number a dog breeder can gross $20,000 in sales and be exempt while a rabbit breeder with the average price of a pet rabbit only $19 is limited to $500 in gross sales per year. This is grossly unfair and if PAWs passes I for one intend to sue the USDA over the unfairness of the licensing threshold. What logical reason exists that dog breeders can gross $20,000 and more while a rabbit breeder is limited to $500 or less?

In addition information has been posted on internet lists that Senator Santorum owns an AKC registered German Shepard bitch that he bred and presumably sold the puppies. I would like to know how much did each puppy cost and how much money did Senator Santorum gross from those puppy sales? Was it more than $500? If so why he is he supporting legislation that limits hobby rabbit breeders to only $500 gross sales per year while he can gross over that in selling dogs he breeds? In addition since the senator is just a pet owner breeding his dog I highly doubt he has any understanding of the issues surrounding serious show breeders of any species.

There are nearly 30,000 members of the American Rabbit Breeders Assoc so this represents the base number of hobby rabbit breeders. The USDA in their impact sheet for RHD stated that it is estimated that only 1 in 10 people who raise rabbits are members of the ARBA. How will the USDA be able to regulate thousands and thousands of hobby rabbit breeders? The AKC estimates 5,000 new dog breeders will be regulated while the CFA estimates 1,200 new cat breeders will be added. As written PAWs may add close to 300,000 new rabbit breeders. Currently there are only 174 licensed commercial pet rabbit breeders regulated by the USDA. There is simply no way the USDA can handle all these new regulated entities. This illustrates the insanity of PAWs.

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) was intended to regulate breeders selling at the wholesale level, not those who sell direct to pet owners. Many states regulate commercial breeding and include those who sell direct to pet owners. For example in NY anyone who sells 9 or more animals for profit requires a pet dealer license and this includes dog and cat breeders who sell 25 or more per year. GA's state law is set-up so that nearly everyone selling any number of animals including shelters and "rescuers" require a state license. Even PA where Senator Santorum is from regulates breeders-those who sell 26 or more are required to be state licensed and inspected. I haven't been able to look up all state laws to get a complete list of states regulating commercial breeding but I know CO has it as well as other northeastern states, CA, and some of the midwest states. Also the nature of hobby breeding includes a built in system of regulation, pet owners coming to the breeder's house can report them if conditions aren't satisfactory. Every state has cruelty laws which set out basic requirements for adequate care. Also in most cases of reported animal cruelty by breeders it was either their buyers or neighbors who

reported them. The current system works to regulate hobby breeders and ensure animals receive proper care. There is simply no need to redefine the AWA to regulate those selling at retail-direct to pet owners.

Another hidden danger with PAWs is that it redefines the scope of the AWA and will open the USDA up to lawsuits from animal rights activists groups who wish to see all breeders regulated (although they want shelters and rescuers exempted which is unfair regulation of the activity of providing pets to pet owners). In 2002 the Doris Day Animal League sued the USDA over how it defines retail pet store in an effort to require regulation of all hobby breeders. The lawsuit was lost on appeal because it was ruled there was no legislative intent to regulate breeders selling direct to pet owners. PAWs will show clear legislative intent to regulate breeders selling direct to pet owners and the next time the animal rights fanatics sue the USDA every hobby breeder in the US will require regulation.

The problem with regulating hobby breeding is that by it's nature hobby breeding is not a commercial or profitable undertaking. The vast majority of hobby breeders lose money, so that the cost of a license becomes a problem plus the cost to comply with regulations. In addition the USDA regulations were written for regulation of commercial breeding, not hobby breeding. Many of the regulations will be difficult and costly if not impossible to implement for the hobbyist. Also the added burden of paperwork, reporting, and the inspection process will further burden a hobbyist. Hobby breeders usually do it as a hobby for fun because they have no desire to run a business. Federal regulation will turn our hobby into a burdensome business. It would be likely that many hobby breeders will just quit not only because it will cost them money they don't have to comply with commercial regulations but also because of the added work of record keeping and paperwork that doesn't further their breeding program. Many others will be forced out due to zoning issues. It seems clear that many local governments will view a hobby breeder licensed by the USDA as a "commercial kennel" and will prohibit that activity.

In addition how is a person breeding as a hobby suppose to handle unannounced USDA inspections? I read a USDA document that they consider business hours M-F 7 am to 7 pm. I don't get up in the morning before 8 am and 6-7 pm is when we eat dinner. How do I handle leaving my house to do things like shop or vacation or whatever and be sure someone is available if the USDA drops by for an inspection? I don't have employees or anyone else because I breed show rabbits as a hobby. I don't have "business hours" because I don't have many to sell per year. However thanks to PAWS I will be defined as needing USDA regulation even though I breed for show as a hobby and have never made any money doing this.

Hobby breeders provide an important service in the pet industry. They perpetuate purebred breeds of animals and are the ones who determine what any particular breed is suppose to look like. They spend time assisting pet owners with problems as well providing quality animals. They contribute to the economy by actively participating in organized animal shows. They are important to small businesses such as feed and equipment stores. Once we start regulating hobby breeding on the federal level we're going to lose hobbyists and there will be a trickle down effect that will end up hurting the economy. It isn't easy breeding rabbits for show and PAWS will make it that much harder. Most rabbit show breeders got their start by buying a pet rabbit. Now with PAWs limiting rabbit breeders so drastically we may not have new breeders entering the hobby. PAWs will likely result in less availability of quality show stock for breeders to purchase to improve their herds. 4-H and youth breeders will also be negatively impacted as many will require USDA licensing and then will have problems finding show breeders who can legally sell show/breeding stock to them. PAWs will destroy the rabbit show world.

Those supporting PAWs say it will stop "puppymills" but it does nothing about stopping them, if anything it will encourage illegal breeding as hobbyists cut back or get out. Local laws and state laws address so called "puppymills". The only thing PAWs does is expand who needs a USDA license. And it expands it so much so that the resources of the USDA will be stretched too thin to properly enforce the original intent of the AWA. And we will not be able to provide enough funding to the USDA with all the thousands and thousands of new hobby breeders who will need regulation. Where will the extra money come from? Homeland security? Healthcare? More taxes?

So Please oppose PAWs, this bill will negatively impact many good people who are doing nothing wrong. It will not solve the problem of substandard breeding facilities nor will it ensure pet owners have access to animals raised in a healthy environment. It will only hurt hobby breeders and encourage more commercial breeding. Bills like PAWs will only lead to a society where the only people breeding animals will be businesses and the rich because they will be the only ones who can afford it.

And I'd like to add some complaints about this hearing. This is like some kind of sick joke where the only ones invited to attend are those who support PAWS and stand to gain financially from it. Where is the American Rabbit Breeders Assoc? Apparently Senator Santorum hasn't seen fit to even contact them about how PAWS affects rabbits even though I have been sending numerous letters and made phone calls telling his office the rabbit community is being left out of the whole process. I just heard that PIJAC was invited last minute, about time although I suspect only because of the outcry about the unfairness of this hearing. The AVMA doesn't represent breeders, they represent the interests of veterinarians. Since part of the USDA regs mandate a breeder has a formal contract with a veterinarian and said vet will treat all their animals it is obvious that the AVMA membership will benefit financially from PAWS so what do you expect them to say about it. And why have an organization that isn't involved in breeding testify at this hearing?

AKC represents a purebreed registry and it is becoming painfully clear that they do not represent dog breeders. They also stand to gain financially if PAWS passes if they end up becoming contractors for USDA to do inspections. So again what do you think they are going to tell you about PAWS? Of course the CFA is being totally ignored and left out despite the bill creating problems for them due to the difference in reproductive issues with dogs.

HSUS and the DDAL are hard core animal rights groups that have come out against breeding especially commercial breeding and represent the interests of animal shelters. Also again, not breeding organizations just anti-breeding organizations. Animal shelters are in competition with all breeders for pet owners. I can't for the life of me understand why a group would be allowed to help draft and then testify for a bill that will help them eliminate their competition. I can't believe this is what the founding fathers had in mind for how our system would work. Obviously if PAWS passes shelters and groups like HSUS will financially benefit as more breeders must be USDA licensed and then will go out due to the burdensome expenses or increase the price of their animals in which case more people will go to the cheaper priced shelter animals.

With the exception of PIJAC everyone else testifying at this hearing has come out in support of PAWS. There will be no fact finding in this hearing, it's like some joke where only the good parts of PAWS will be discussed and the very negative aspects totally ignored. At least PIJAC is there, but then again they mainly represent the pet store industry. So where are the groups representing the rabbit breeders? The bird breeders? The CFA? The cavy breeders? etc. We are all being left out and ignored and PAWS has the real potential of ending our hobby breeding

days. I'm outraged that this is happening. I feel like I have no voice in our government, that only those who stand to profit from bad laws do. I feel frustrated and helpless.

I hope PAWS will go nowhere but to the trash can where it belongs. And I hope legislators like Sanotrum are voted out of office as they are examples of the problem in our system of government.

Thanks for your time
Corinne Fayo
91 Whitney dr
Valatie NY 12184
518-758-2419
ranger18@capital.net

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

November 01, 2005

Honorable, Senator Rich Santorm

Please oppose SB1139 and HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statue of 2005 (PAWS). It will not improve the welfare of dogs and cats. It would greatly expand the USDA regulation of small scale dog and cat breeders by requiring that thousands of these breeders meet commercial standards of care, inspections and record keeping. This would greatly overextend the capacity of the USDA. By regulating the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. Paws will diminish the best source of healthy home-raised, well socialized dogs and cats.

Please leave the scrutinizing of the hobby and small scale breeder to the local and state agencies, not the federal government. We urge you to vote against the (PAWS) bill.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Upkoff

LINDA ANNE CHANCE
335 Beaver Lake Road
Purvis, MS 39475
601 818 2781
lhasasbychance@yahoo.com

November 7, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
FAX (202) 228-8282

Dear Members:

As a lifelong pet owner, member of a family who hunts and fishes, a small hobby dog breeder and fancier, the founder and director of Lhasa Apso Southern Rescue, Inc., a non profit regional dog breed rescue group based in the state of Mississippi, and an officer of the Mississippi Canine Coalition, Inc, an AKC recognized state federation, the PAWS bill being considered in your committee impacts many aspects of my life. I have reviewed the list of participants being allowed to testify in the PAWS hearing on November 8, and while I have the utmost respect for members of the AKC and AVMA, I feel that in this issue they do not represent my best interests. Please consider this letter as part of the official hearing record. I strongly OPPOSE PAWS in its entirety because of its unclear, ambiguous wording and for the following specific reasons:

1) The use of numbers to determine whether a kennel should be USDA licensed is not valid criteria. One breeder could have multiple litters per year of healthy, temperament sound puppies raised in a clean environment and another could have one litter per year of puppies that are substandard, sick, and raised in filth Under the PAWS amendment that first breeder would now be required to be licensed and regulated, requirements that would most likely force many of our country's best hobby breeders out of the sport. The second breeder, under the PAWS amendment, would be free of any regulation and could sell those puppies in the local newspapers or at flea markets. PAWS will even more severely impact purebred cat fanciers at the hobby breeding level with the use of these numbers than it does purebred dog fanciers.

2) Many hobby breeders producing the healthiest puppies in the country in their kitchens and bedrooms would be forced to cut back on breeding in order to avoid the expense of building special kennels to comply with USDA regulations. Those living in areas where zoning requirements prohibit commercial kennels would be forced to stop breeding totally. Citizens participating in other hobbies are not subject to federal regulations and inspections. The invasion of the privacy of a person who participates in this hobby is totally unacceptable.

3) This amendment to the AWA will very likely impose federal regulation on any person that buys or sells any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes. Hunting is very popular in many states as well as mine and this will certainly impact a large number of our citizens.

4) Nonprofit rescue organizations charging a small adoption fee to cover a portion of their expenses provide a great service to this country's unwanted and abandoned pets. Even small rescue organizations "sell" over 25 dogs and or cats per year. PAWS would completely eliminate most of us because we could not afford to comply with commercial type breeding facilities required by USDA regulations nor would we continue to have the support of foster home volunteers who will not be willing to open their private homes to federal or third party inspectors.

5) Healthy, good quality purebred dogs and cats are already expensive. Adding unnecessary federal regulations would make owning such animals as pets completely out of the realm of possibility to many families who deserve the opportunity to do so.

While I would surely support legislation that helps animals, I do not believe PAWS does that in spite of its stated intent. I believe the enforcement of existing state and local cruelty laws would make much more impact in improving conditions and would not federalize the small scale breeding of dogs and cats as would PAWS. As you consider this bill in your committee, I ask that you consider the views of an ordinary citizen just as seriously as you do those of members of this country's large animal interest and animal rights organizations.

Sincerely,

Linda Anne Chance

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

November 01, 2005

Honorable, Senator Rich Santorm

Please oppose SB1139 and HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statue of 2005 (PAWS). It will not improve the welfare of dogs and cats. It would greatly expand the USDA regulation of small scale dog and cat breeders by requiring that thousands of these breeders meet commercial standards of care, inspections and record keeping. This would greatly overextend the capacity of the USDA. By regulating the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. Paws will diminish the best source of healthy home-raised, well socialized dogs and cats.

Please leave the scrutinizing of the hobby and small scale breeder to the local and state agencies, not the federal government. We urge you to vote against the (PAWS) bill.

Sincerely

Francine Barnes.

I am writing to oppose S.1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005. For the first time, retail sales of dogs and cats by breeders of those animals would be covered.

Senator Santorum states: "Because AWA only covers breeders and others who sell at wholesale, many puppy mill owners have successfully avoided AWA requirements by selling directly to the public." "The ability to use the Internet as a marketing tool for direct sales has only made selling directly to the public more prevalent and popular. Because USDA can only regulate wholesalers under the AWA, it has very limited authority to oversee the care and conditions of animals in these facilities. PAWS addresses this growing problem."

On what basis do you say kennels that advertise on the Internet or in national magazines evade inspection and customer scrutiny? The Internet has not created bad sellers of puppies. What the Internet has created is a much more informed consumer. The consumer is interested in a particular breed, looks it up on the Internet, finds out what is known about that breed, contacts breeders with websites and/or magazine ads, and asks very good questions about the breed and that breeder's own litters and philosophy of breeding.

Breeders all over the country are noticing that prospective puppy customers are much better informed than they were even ten years ago, ask tons of great questions about health screening, training, temperament, and so on. Far from evading customer scrutiny, breeders who advertise on the Internet or in magazines now find themselves subjected to very heavy customer scrutiny.

The Internet is a very easy and inexpensive way for both breeders and buyers to check out each other, and it's done all the time. Breeders and buyers on the e-mail lists are always asking breeders and buyers in other parts of the country to check out prospects, do home visits, look at the kennel or the puppies and their parents. The Internet is a great tool for connecting breeders with buyers all over the country.

Rescue organizations also use the internet through websites and the Petfinder site to sell (rehome) dogs AFTER spaying/neutering and making them healthy. Dog rescue is of critical importance in improving ownership skills and reducing shelter euthanasia. How many rescuers do you think are going to disappear if this passes?

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.

Very truly yours,

PRESIDENT
GLAPBTC

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Frank Purdy <oldsquawP@aol.com>
285 maple Ave. New Hampton, NY 10958

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Many hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than build a separate facility away from their living quarters to raise puppies and kittens like livestock.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

Please preserve my right and opportunities to acquire future pets that are raised "underfoot" in a home or "rescued" by individuals that offer their own homes as sanctuary.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Fran Cantwell <fcw1123@aol.com>
Boise, ID

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

R. Stanton Breon Jr. <rsbreon@kcnet.org>

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

My family and i ask that you oppose s. 1139
Sincerely, Jerry Harper

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Jerry W. Harper <amharper@ziggycom.net>
79 Wallace Cemetery Road
Cadiz, Ky.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Most sincerely,

John B. Ulrich <julrich@insightbb.com>
3210 Igleheart Evansville in 47712

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

What we need is less intrusion into the Private lives of US citizens, and more control of radical animal rights groups such as PETA and HUSA. Thank you.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Matthew Barton <Firemansred@hotmail.com>
333 B West 3rd Ave, Dugway Utah, 84022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

USDA has no place in the private homes of hobby breeders. Many rare breeds will become extinct because hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than be faced with the invasive requirement of federal regulation of their private homes.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

I breed Traditional Balinese and Siamese cats- these cats are already in danger of becoming an extinct breed- this ridiculous legislation will close down my breeding program as their is no way financially I could ever comply- as well as raising my cats and kittens according to USDA standards would be cruel and inhumane- it calls for no carpets, no furniture and no animals in the humans living area- that means no cats in my home- they would be isolated and kept from socialization the kittens would be ferals. I would have to stop breeding altogether - and not subject my babies to that type of life. Right now they live in comfort in my clean warm and happy home.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Bernadette McBride <bernadette.mcbride@comcast.net>
225 Route 6
Andover, CT 06232

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

William Adams <badams88@aol.com>
4751 Knifley Rd.
Elkhorn, KY 42733

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

By overburdening the breeders of the best U.S. pet dogs and cats, PAWS will force them out of their hobby. Replacement animals will come from foreign countries where there is no U.S. control over breeding conditions.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I am shocked and deeply saddened by the upcoming PAWS hearing. What a joke. There are no opposition members testifying. Only animal rights activists like reps from HSUS amd DDAl. What kind of sick joke is Senator Santorum pulling? Radical rights activists have no right to try to force us all to live according to their wishes.
This is supposed to be Americal, Land of the free. What happened to thr rights of " We the People" ? Will it only be a memory soon as we are thrown into communism?
Senator Santorum and his radical activists must be stopped.
We can only pray enough of us will be able to vote him out of office next election. he has no right to destroy the lives of hobby show breeders. These are the people working hard to raise well socialized homebred puppies for companions and to improve their breeds. We all know the adgenda of the HSUS and DDAl is to end all breeding of companion animals. But remember this is America. Who gave them the right to tell everyone we must live according to their wishes? This hearing will be a joke. So many now are sick of Senator Santorum and his radical activist groups. I am praying are numbers will be strong enough to vote him out.
Isn't there a man or woman there who supports the freedom to kake a choice to be a home breeder/ show exhibitor of purebred dogs? We are not harming anyone, but the regulations in the paws bill insure most home breeders will not be able to comply and want puppies raised under horrific conditions in USDA approved kennel buildings. Today, a vet in NJ examined one of the puppies from my Fall litter. She told the new owner I can tell this is a home raised and socialized puppy. What a big difference in this pup and what I see from pet shops and puppy farms. I felt very proud. Please tell me there are members of this commitee who have the courage to vote for what is right.
These are the kind of people we want to support. We do not want a communist country. My Grandparents rsiked their lives to flee to this

great land so their children and grandchildren could be born in a free land without Government oppression and control of our lives.
The support from AKC is a Joke too. They have become money hungry and probably got somekind of pay off for adding their support and betrtaying their breeders. Surely there are much more important ways to spend our tax dollars.
How about medical aid for the poor? Food for the poor?
Many people in this country are homeless , starving and going without much needed medical care and medicine. And Senator Santorum thinks this is where we should spend tax dollars? Is pacifying animal rights radicals that important to him that this is more important to destroy the lives of those who enjoy showing/breeding purebred dogs, than to put tax dollars to the needs of the poor and sick in this country? Have any of you ever gone hungry? Suffered in pain and dying because you had no health insurance and could not afford medicine or had to watch loved ones go through that? Lost your home and lived in boxes and old cars wit your family and praying they would not starve or freeze? I know many people who never thought it could happen to them, but they lost everything . Good people. But of course, I am sure it is much more important for Senator Santorum and the radicals to end the enjoyment of dog breeders. From what I am hearing from many dog loving voters, Senator Santorum has lost their vote. He has certainly lost ours.
Please , stop this hearing until everyone can voice their opinions. Let the people who oppose testify too. And get rid of the radicals. HSUS and DDAL. They have NO RIGHT to force their views on everyone. Who said tey ran the cvountry? They do Not represent me.
Thank you for your time.
I will now pray that Senator Santorum and is radical groups can be stopped.
Sincerely,
Michele Starkey

Sincerely yours,

Michele Starkey <starkey@ccomm.com>
RR5 Box 5064
hazleton, Pa 18201

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Please help the people with the money that would be spent on this bill.We are already regulated by the state in which we live in. So much more can be done with the money like the folks down in the gulf, Please think of them,they need our help. Please vote againts s.1139
Thank you, Glenn M. Spath Sr.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139.
Thank you.

Glenn M. Spath Sr.s <spiph@alltel.net>
272 John Deere Lane Rural Valley,Pa 16249

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I oppose the paws bill as it is worded. it is not necessary to license and inspect homes of small breeders.
I believe it will be a impossiable job to monitor all the little guys.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Betty J Curb <gbc@hcis.net>
5345 Renfro Lake Road
Mulkeytown,Il. 62865

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Josh Fisherback <fishwillard@yahoo.com>
138 cherry street new madison ohio 45346

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

to michigan rep.and congressmen please vote no on the paws bill leo simmons

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

LEO SIMMONS <leo_delma_simmons58@yahoo.com>
1797braidwood memphis mi 48041

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S. 1139 radically alters the existing Animal Welfare Act and for the first time allows federal intrusion into hobby breeders? private homes.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I do not trust some of those that are supporting this,they will use any means nessary to take what i enjoy.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Lynn Perkins <PERK_RUN_N_GUN@YAHOO.COM>
PO BOX 292 MYRA KY 41549

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Eleanora Cole <silverpoo@webtv.net>
267 Forest Drive
Mt. WAshington, Ky. 40047

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Please vote no onS. 1139, too much burden on the casuel breeder and sportsman

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Dave Sharer <davesharer@hotmail.com>
9776 Rte 954N- Creekside,Pa. 15732

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Stacey Criswell <boltaction@earthlink.net>
12030 SW 30th Dr. Webster, FL 33597

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

John Lawson <lawsonj@pemtel.net>
601 Penvir Road
Narrows, Va. 24124

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Thank you for your help!

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

kenneth moyer <kmoyer@arrowunited.com>
r.r.#1 box 68
wyalusing, pa 18853-9737

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Janet Lugo <Jlweimaraner@yahoo.com>
11406 Flallon Ave., Norwalk, Ca. 90650

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

As sportsman and breeder of coonhounds I would like to say that I oppose S. 1139.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Rev. James D. Lacey <pastor_lacey@yahoo.com>
2210 E. 55th St. Tulsa Oklahoma, 74105

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The USDA is the agency responsible for interpreting the unclear language in S. 1139. They are already overburdened with the regulation of food and agriculture and will be hard-pressed to provide interpretations or supply enforcement personnel for S 1139.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

The one sided lineup to support this action is pathic, It is understandable why they want no one with the facts to speak.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

John Connolly <jtc76@aol.com>
1925 E. Rockwood Blvd
Spokane, WA 99203

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The bill?s supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

jonathan nichols <tanker1@dejazzd,com>
320 E, Mt. Airy Rd. Stevens Pa. 17578

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Opposition to S. 1139, "PAWS" For Inclusion in the Official Record

November 1, 2005

I oppose S. 1139 "PAWS" because the bill is unnecessary since individual states already have laws which address animal cruelty, sanitation and nuisance violations. This bill is ineffective because it does not provide the Department of Agriculture any additional funds to enforce this legislation, and the Department of Agriculture does not have sufficient funding or manpower to effectively enforce the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act already enacted. This bill is harmful to the purebred dog world because it would penalize and severely restrict purebred rescue, whether by non-profit organizations or by individual breeders.

Further, promises from the American Kennel Club that changes to the original proposed legislation would be made to address fancier's concerns have not yet been made public.

Respectfully submitted by:

Georgette C. Franzoni

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I feel this bill is unjust, and unfair. It only will promote the existance of large puppy mills, and put the small hobby breeder out of business.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

William M. Ennis Jr. <Beagleman63@aol.com>
P.O. Box 69 Bowersville, OH. 45307-0069

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Anke Masters <teckelanke@comcast.net>
442 Mulberry Place
Brick, NJ 08723

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Sincerely,

Darlene Pietrzak <pietrzak@uic.edu>
3710 W. 65th Street
Chicago, IL 60629

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

USDA has no place in the private homes of hobby breeders. Many rare breeds will become extinct because hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than be faced with the invasive requirement of federal regulation of their private homes.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I have voted for Senator Santorim at every turn and vocally supported him but he will never see a vote from me again if this foolish legislation isn't dropped. I also believe most of my fellow houndsman in PA who are perdomanantly Republican will never vote for him again. Conservatives are supposed to believe in smaller government and Senator I though this was your philosophy. The AKC is a highly politically charged organization and would never support you. Also with domestic terrorists like PETA involved how can you support this.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

John E. Nickelson <enickelson@7springs.com>
115 Old Tannery Lane
Addison, PA 15411

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Robbie Spears <rspear00@pc.edu>
8675 Robinson Creek Rd.
Virgie KY, 41572

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Daniel R Vincent <d8rvc@yahoo.com>
2591 Galbraith Line Rd.
Brown City,Mi.48416

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation?s Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

John Massie <bootlegger@watervalley.net>
P O Box 246
Water Valley, MS 38965

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers? demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over stretched and under budget. They will need every available employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. This nation can not afford S. 1139.

This will hurt are sport as breeder of field trial beagles and hunting dogs.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Eric W Mahon <emahon@rochester.rr.com>
122 minnesota st
Rochester,ny 14609

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Sincerely yours,

gabe stockton <stockgp@wku.edu>
344 sandalwood dr
bowling green, ky 42101

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

TOM REEVES <TSREEVES2020@AOL.COM>
P.O Box 1012 Hampstead N.C 28443

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Tim Lovelace <timlovelace@earthlink.net>
7740 S. black River Rd
Onaway Mi. 49765

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Zoning problems will occur for many who try to obtain a USDA license.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Deborah Marshall <wdmarshall@direcway.com>
2601 West Blood Rd.
East Aurora, NY 14052

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Linda Nowack <ljnow@up.net>
Box 242
Spalding, MI 49886

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Interpreting this bill will be troublesome for the USDA. They already have many important tasks such as the regulation of food and agriculture. Adding the additional burden of supplying enforcement personnel for S 1139 will be very costly.

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

I appreciate your "No" vote for S.1139

Joseph Nowack <ljnow@up.net>
Box 242
Spalding, MI 49886

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA?s ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Garrett Nowack <ljnow@up.net>
Box 242
Spalding, MI 49886

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Interpreting this bill will be troublesome for the USDA. They already have many important tasks such as the regulation of food and agriculture. Adding the additional burden of supplying enforcement personnel for S 1139 will be very costly.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

JAMES DAVIS <jdavis@burke.k12.nc.us>
2071 nc 126
morganton, nc 28655

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Socialized, well-adjusted puppies do not come from commercial breeders, they come from hobby breeders. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Jeremiah Johnson <ride_Wchrist@yahoo.com>
1200 brown store rd
Lawrenceburg, ky 40342

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already ?stretched to the limit? federal budget.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

M.B. Stoner <divineshadow666@aol.com>
Oberlin Ohio

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

I think you need to take another look at your priorities, Mr Govt. officials.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Wendy Basehore <zipper@epix.net>
477 E Main ST
Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not neei to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

When hobby breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139 it will only increase large commercial breeders ability to raise more puppies.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Richard LaRosa <rjlarosa@alltel.net>
p.o. box 225
clarksville, Pa. 15322

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Darlene Willey <madwilley@netzero.com>
12 N. White, Anaconda, MT 59711

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

The bill?s supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Carlene Hammond <carhammond@netzero.com>
Carlene Hammond 1468 Longfellow Butte Montana 59711

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Take care of the person breaking the laws you already have don't make a new one unfair to blanket everyone.

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

John O. Nevil <jon13@chilitech.net>
571 Sones Hollow Rd. Benton, Pa.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Allison Sciullo <a_sciullo@yahoo.com>
362 South Evaline Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I have been a strong supporter of Senator Rick Santorum from the time he frist ran for the Senate. His views often mirrow my conservative views BUT not this time. This is a dirrect invasion of my personal rights. I am a beagler, I hunt and go to compition trials. I also have worked in Agriculture in Pennsylvania for 26 years. Agriculture is still this states number one employer. This bill attacks me personally in my occupation and pleasure. I do not understand why AKC has turned against the very people that have made it what it has grown to be. It started at the National Beagle Club in the 1800's. If Senator Santorum continues with this legislation I will not forget. This is a page out of the Arlin Spector play book! I have a dirrect relationship with about 1000 registured voters in PA through work and pleasure, I will be heard at election time however Senator Santorum wishes to hear from me, for or against.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Jeffrey L Sherman <silvercupk9s@gmail.com4Q6u3c>
4123 Division Hwy. East Earl, PA. 17519

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Debbie Heaney <dnd9797@hotmail.com>
1920 Banks
Butte, Montana 59701

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The bulk of the language in S.1139 is vague and open to interpretation. The USDA should not be burdened with the responsibility of doing what the authors of S. 1139 failed to do. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. It should not pass.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Linda A Dietz <hairlady728@aol.com>
1857 Sterretts Gap Avenue Carlisle Pa 17013

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

There is a distinct shortage of facts to demonstrate that alleged abuses by Internet sellers are not already subject to the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Tom Galipeau <coppurrkittypersians@netzero.com>
1208 Rickard, Anaconda, Montana 59711

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Claire Spettell <cmspettell@comcast.net>
1514 E. Willow Grove Avenue
Wyndmoor, PA 19038

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation?s Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Quinton <lilq21@aol.com>
1857 Sterretts Gap Avenue Carlisle, Pa

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Cyndi Gagleard <poodleheads@comcast.net>
51328 Nicolette Drive, Chesterfield, MI 48047

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

George W. Lewis <wirenut1957@yahoo.com>
985 colfax rd. Hillsboro, Ky. 41049

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

john hoke <begonebonnie@aol.com>
121 ridge road
carlisle,pa 17013

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

S.1139 doesn?t "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

As a person who shows and breeds dogs, I am adamantly opposed to puppy mills. I cringe at the thought of people buying from pet stores where they are enticed by cute puppies, some of which are pedigreed and some of which are expensive mixed-breeds. Consumers need to qualify their breeders the same way that we qualify the people who adopt our puppies. We pour love and money in to our litters and for the federal government to stop people who care about what they are doing is deplorable. Quality show people could easily go over the six or seven litter quota, but they should not be under the oversight of the USDA. They need to enforce the laws that will actually get the real puppy mills. We as breeders register our dogs with the AKC - why can they not monitor the people who are registering their litters. Our litters live in our bedroom until they are old enough to move to the kitchen. This is true of most breeders I know. This law will force the good, caring breeders to stop breeding and all you will be left with are the ones you were trying to stop from the beginning.

And another question, why is this bill not going after the pet stores. Aren't they the ones selling dogs supplied from these "commercial" breeders. They are often sick, provide fake papers, and are otherwise the "drug dealers" to the "suppliers."

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139.
Thank you.

Gerarda Collins <gerarda@gcc-partners.com>
2860 Country Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

RE: S. 1139 ..... OPPOSED!

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Linda Ambroz
4921 Olympia Dr
Indianapolis, IN 46228-2939

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

Any attempt to regulate Internet sales is doomed to fail. The strength of the Internet is that it allows commerce to be conducted globally. If S.1139 passes and a large, commercial facility selling at retail, one of the purported targets of the bill, had to choose between regulation and moving across the U.S. border, does anyone think that they would not simply move outside of the jurisdiction of the United States? They could then take Internet orders with impunity from any U.S. sanction or inspection of their facilities.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Please do not pass S. 1139 as I feel that it very much infringes upon my right to privacy and would take away much enjoyment that I derive from keeping and raising pigeons as a hobby. I am sure that the bill was written with the best of intentions but it really needs to be restructured so as to not affect small livestock breeders such as myself.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kerns <wildbriarfans@aol.com>
1988 Cook Road
Powhatan, VA 23139

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

This is one more thing that Sen. Santorum knows nothing about. Please oppose this bill. It is the backyard breeders and puppy mills that need to be monitored, not the professional breeders and rescue volunteers that love their breeds, for the love of the dog, not the almighty dollar.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

Robin Armstrong <paboxergirl@hotmail.com>
RR #2 Box 117A
New Milford, PA 18834

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already ?stretched to the limit? federal budget.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Della Peak <demapeak@yadtel.net>
4432 Rena Rd.
Hamptonville, NC 27020

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Stephen Lackey <pgclackey@swbell.net>
2312 Ashland St.
Houston, Texas 77

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation. Most commercial breeders are uncareing, people that keep poor dogs and cats in small cages, they never feel love or any form of emotional comfort, they are treated as badly as the poor chickens that are killed and many die and are thrown on a pile and burned, it seems you had rather have this than people that have pets that they sometimes breed to help with their up keep! I love my babies, they are fat healthy and know when mama comes out they will get attention. What is wrong with these groups that put money ahead of the real concern of the animals. Close down these nasty puppymills, that have over 100 dogs and they just are fed enough to live and produce! WHERE is the COMPASSION for these dear animals? Thank you for your vote against S.1139.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Carolyn Stuart <CStuart4@sbcglobal.net>
1403 North Spruce
Hope, Ar.
71801

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Please vote against S. 1139, Americans are entitled to privacy.

Sincerely yours,

Cass Stallings <nesa1295@aol.com>
21A Paris Olney Hopkins Rd, Foster, RI 02825

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Since hobby breeders are not keeping their puppies and kittens in horrific conditions like puppy mills do, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation of the worst offenders.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

John Bartosh <jbartosh@adelphia.net>
217 Westinghouse Road
Blairsville,Pa 15717

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Diane Dahms <racingrat@msn.com>
12587 N. 55 E.
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am opposed to S.1139.

Sincerely yours,

James Heasley <jheasley@indy.rr.com>
3912 S. Felton
Marion, IN 46953

RE: Senator, Please Oppose S. 1139

Dear Senator Machado,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

With respect,

Katherine McLeister
5701 Treosti Place
Valley Springs, CA 95252-9138

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Please ASK questions!!!
EXACTLY how is this bill going to make the lives of back yard bred and puppy mill bred dogs and cats better?
HOW will the USDA inspectors find out who is doing all the breeding??
Who on the internet is selling dogs??? ASK AKS that one as they have adds for dogs on their own web site...pay a fee and anyone who has just registered a litter can have an add!!!
If this bill passes, who is going to make a lot of money from selling microchips to identify all these dogs and cats?? As Sen Santorum..the satellite tracking microship company is in his home state and just sold a contract to Portugal for $600,000...ASK AKC how much they will make registering microchips in the CAR unit and what they intend to do with the money as they are a non profit???
Look out and find the bus that is protesting PAWS as it represents the dog and cat show hobby breeders across america and please go on the internet and read the list of groups who oppose this horrible bill....

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Vickie Haywood <oakwood1@alltel.net>
28204 n turnpike road
wagram north carolina 28396

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

S.1139 doesn?t "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Gerald Bailey <gpb2@comcast.net>
104 Davis Street
Wollaston, MA 02170-2429

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Kathy Loftus <kathy.loftus@happypawspetresort.com>
3n135 Ridgeview St.
West Chicago, IL 60185

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders? homes.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Cindy Williams <honeypothounds@aol.com>
121 Baboosic Lake RD.
Amherst, NH 03031

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

S. 1139 radically alters the existing Animal Welfare Act and for the first time allows federal intrusion into hobby breeders? private homes.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Marie Shields <awendela@msn.com>
5605 Jagger Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

GAIL E. MILLER · 111 PHEASANT PLACE SW · LEESBURG, VIRGINIA 20175
(703) 669-0756

November 7, 2005

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Attn.: Jacob Chaney, Deputy Hearing Clerk
VIA FACSIMLE: (202) 224-1725

Subject: Opposition Statement to S. 1139, "PAWS", For Inclusion in the Official Record

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee:

Please vote against S. 1139, "PAWS". This bill is unnecessary, ineffective, and harmful to the purebred dog fancy. It is unnecessary because individual states already have laws that address animal cruelty, sanitation, and nuisance violations. The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S. 1139 is ineffective because it does not provide the Department of Agriculture any additional funding to enforce this legislation, and the Department of Agriculture does not have sufficient funding/manpower to effectively enforce the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act and its amendments already enacted. In the post Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

PAWS would be harmful to the purebred dog fancy because it would penalize/severely restrict purebred rescue, whether by non-profit organizations or by individual breeders. Furthermore, USDA has no place in the private homes of breeders. Many rare breeds will become extinct because hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than be faced with the requirements of federal regulation of their private homes.

My husband and I are not dog breeders, nor are we stud dog owners. We are just purebred dog fanciers who have lawfully owned Rhodesian Ridgebacks in the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1986 and show our dogs in conformation dog shows in Virginia and adjacent states. Please vote against S 1139.

Sincerely yours,

Gail E. Miller

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY
RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

We the undersigned are OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS). PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

NAME E-MAIL	ADDRESS	PHONE
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Amy Byllard	217 Brinkley Rd Delco NC 28436	(910) 655-3184
Kathy Garrett	11 Zachary Lane Delco NC 28436	655-1209
Robert Ross 2134	Shirley Rd. Wilmington, NC 28405	910-762-0318
Teddie McLaughlin	4106 Red Road, Wilm, NC 28412	910-799-0242
Deepak Sud	4141 Heartside Drive, Wilm, NC 28412	910-637-6380
Austin Patrick	217 Brinkley Rd Delco NC 28436	
Ray Patrick	4681 Blacksmith Rd Bolton NC 28423	
Wendy Whitley	Wilmington, NC	910-6016-5565 wwhitney@ec.rr.com
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LASHAYA DUNSTON	206 Woodyard Rd.	910-655-7880
CAROL NiMetz	8116 Split Oak Dr. Bethesda, Md	301-365-5373
Dr. Allen Nimetz	8116 Split Oak Dr. Bethesda, Md.	301-365-5373
Kristina H Smith	114 Cliffside Drive Wilmington	910 232-2464
Nancy Kincaid	117 [illegible] Wilmington	910 798-7884
Bailey W. Hobgood	5503 Quick Drive Greensboro NC	28410
Gordon McLaughlin	4106 Red Road, Wilm, NC	28412 (910) 799-02
Susie Caroutas	711 Dock St., Wilmington, NC	28412 (910) 762-9148
Andy Caroutas	4506 W. Cascade, Wilmington, NC	28412 (910) 392-089
Jonathan A. 5249	Alex Ct. Wilmington, NC	28403

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
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Cathy Vernon	21 Parker Estates Delco, NC	910-619-8028
Larry Nelson	21 Parker Estates Delco, NC	910-619-8027
Mary Jackson	14174 Old Lake Rd. Riegelwood, NC	910-619-6338
Amanda Aaron	90 Jm Bordeaux Ln Delco NC	28436
Roxanne Little	1453 Swimming Hole Rd Delco NC 28436	655-8044
Shelly Thomas	11242 Rosindale Rd Carvel NC 28384	655-2383
Karen Stocks	PO Box 290 Delco, NC	655-1443
Nancy Kincaid	117 Cliffside Dr. Wilmington, NC	28401
ada rogers	11749 acolb Loop Rd. Bolton, NC	28423
Judy Kluff	318 S. GREEN SWAMP RD. BOLTON, NC	28423
Shae Woollaston	Lelah NC 28403	910-655-4359
Lisa Barr	6524 Farm Meadows Dr. Leland, NC	28451
Tiffany Freeman	105 Cornwallace Rd. Riegelwood NC	28456
Olivia Smith	853 Sandhole Road Riegelwood, NC	28456
Tammy Hill	2033 East Arcadia Road Riegelwood NC	28456
Amanda Dunham	90 Lowwoodyard Road Riegelwood NC	28456
Kristina Smith	114 Cliffside Dr. Wilmington, NC	28409
Valorie Tignor	21663 E. Arcadia Rd. Riegelwood, NC	
Telana Barrett	1150 Garretts Way Leland, NC	28457

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
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Mattie Jacobs	Greensboro, NC	336-457-6749
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642-8557 Norman Wayne	Roberts P.O. Box 938 Ringlewood, N.C.	28456
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FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

November 8, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry Committee
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry Committee
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
House Agriculture Committee
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
House Agriculture Committee
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Agriculture Committee Leadership:

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is a nonprofit association representing the interests of the State Departments of Agriculture in the 50 States and 4 Territories. NASDA members, along with many others, are concerned about the potential of avian influenza, an animal disease, to become a human pandemic here in the United States. Unfortunately, however, the emphasis of most of the concern has not focused on the animal disease potential. We are concerned that this aspect of the disease potential not be overlooked, as this shortsightedness could result in the catastrophic event we are all trying to avert.

Recent news reports have emphasized the potential for avian influenza to lead to a human health pandemic; however, little attention has been given to the fact that avian influenza is an animal disease that can be found on the farm. If avian influenza was identified on a farm and contained quickly, this swift action could prevent the virus from changing from one that primarily affects poultry and people in direct contact with flocks to one that can be transmitted quickly and efficiently from one person to another. Further, although avian influenza is primarily seen in poultry and migratory waterfowl, it can also be transferred to swine and other domestic animals. Therefore, avian influenza has the potential be become a global animal health emergency even if the virus never mutates to infect humans. As Congress responds to the recent calls for increased preparedness against a pandemic influenza outbreak, we urge you to also keep focus on the animal health implications of this disease.

States, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, have plans in place to respond to foreign animal disease outbreaks; however, sustainable funding is not available to respond to these outbreaks. These written plans include procedures to establish quarantines in affected areas, decontaminate equipment, and depopulate animals if necessary. Additional funding is needed if the plans are to be carried out for the potentially devastating outbreak of an H5N1 avian influenza virus. Over the last few years, some poultry producing states have implemented their response plans for a domestic outbreak of avian influenza strains that did not cause significant illness or death in humans. However, the spread of the avian influenza strain that is causing human mortality in Asia and bird mortality as far west as Eastern Europe now places added urgency on our planning and preparedness efforts. Our nation's current capabilities could be quickly overrun in the face of a widespread, global avian influenza outbreak, particularly if it jumps to other animal species and humans.

State departments of agriculture are the first line of defense in the event of a highly infectious and contagious livestock or poultry disease. As we face the looming threat of bird flu and a human pandemic, we must strengthen the animal disease surveillance capabilities and improve the

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
NASDA
The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
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President J. Carlton Courter, III, Virginia

response time in order to decrease the recovery period for production agriculture and agribusinesses. State departments of agriculture require surge capacity within their laboratory systems to quickly diagnose pathogens, pests and toxins. States desperately need assistance in developing personal protection programs, including training, for responders who are exposed to animal diseases that are contagious to humans, such as avian influenza. In addition, we need to assure interstate coordination plans are in place and adequately tested. We must be able to provide information to producers on federal indemnification protocols and funding.

This preparedness does not come without a cost. State departments of agriculture received little from the influx of federal dollars designated for bioterrorism, public health protection and homeland security. With the threat of animal diseases increasing worldwide, the resources made available to states for emergency preparedness and response are not keeping pace with the need.

For example, on November 1, 2005 President Bush announced a broad $7.1 billion program to deal with a potential pandemic. Within that proposal, USDA will receive $91.4 million for domestic and international programs related to the threat of an avian influenza pandemic. A significant portion of those funds is aimed at 1) production of animal vaccine, 2) survey and diagnosis of live markets, wildlife and bird flyways, smuggling and waterfowl and 3) planning and preparedness training. While these are critical funding needs, increases in routine surveillance for infected birds – normally conducted by state agricultural agencies – are lumped into the $10 million funding indicated for survey and diagnosis of live markets. Routine sampling has year-in-and-year-out been a major line of defense in early detection and eradication of normally occurring strains of avian influenza, which occur nearly every year. Increasing routine surveillance funding should not be overlooked in dealing with a zoonotic disease whose primary reservoir is birds.

We strongly urge you to address the needs of agriculture preparedness and response as you develop your plans and strategies for protecting America from avian influenza.

Sincerely,

J. Carlton Courter

J. Carlton Courter III
President, NASDA
Commissioner, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

cc:
Members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Members of the House Agriculture Committee
Secretary Michael Chertoff, Department of Homeland Security
Secretary Mike Leavitt, Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Mike Johanns, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Michael Sommers, Special Assistant to President Bush. for Food, Agriculture, and Trade Policy

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.
World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

Joan Miller
Director-At-Large
Chair, CFA Legislative Committee
CFA Legislative Coordinator
[redacted]
San Diego, CA[redacted]

November 8, 2005

Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510 FAX 202/228-8282

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S 1139 (PAWS)

On behalf of the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. I request that our views regarding the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) be made part of the official public record.

CFA is a non-profit organization founded in 1906 and the world's largest registry of pedigreed cats with over 600 member clubs throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and other areas of the world.[1] The PAWS dramatically changes the concept of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) as established by Congress in 1966. CFA is concerned that portions of this bill pose a significant threat to the preservation of pedigreed cat breeds and the very existence of our organization. I regret that CFA, as a prominent stakeholder, was not given the opportunity to provide testimony at the above hearing

The following will outline our primary concern with the PAWS bill. Federal regulation of breeders selling direct to the public will not achieve the stated goals of this bill and would result in unintended consequences including several specific to breeders of pedigreed cats.

PAWS has been promoted as a way to diminish the problems related to substandard dog breeding facilities. The legislation is actually targeted toward breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public at retail and impacts sellers of other species as well. PAWS is based on assumptions that there is huge selling of pets through mass media channels direct to the public. A

[1] *CFA participants breed, register and show pedigreed cats. Part of CFA's mission is to enhance the well-being of all cats. Fanciers are active in cat health promotion, cat breed rescue, shelter support and other animal related programs. CFA is a positive force that has helped to educate the general public about proper cat care, spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. CFA is proud of its self- regulation programs to encourage high standards of care for cats in multi-cat breeding environments. A "Breeder Code of Ethics" and breeder mentoring program are part of ongoing efforts to ensure responsible breeding programs and good feline husbandry.*

quantitative threshold method for exclusion has been established to determine an arbitrary definition of "commercial" over which all breeders/sellers would be USDA regulated.

There is no compelling reason to justify discarding the historic concept of the Animal Welfare Act. The wholesale selling of dogs and cats by breeders to brokers and pet stores or for research as well as those engaged in animal transport or animal exhibition has been long established as the activity representing commercial business that warrants federal regulation.

- **PAWS would extensively broaden federal regulation to include an unknown number of private home-based breeders who are not motivated by profit-making but instead are interested in preserving and improving upon their chosen breeds.** Home-raised pedigreed pets are desired by many in the general public who want healthy, well socialized pets with predictable characteristics. PAWS would discourage this optimum source of pets. If a large number of breeders reduce their breeding and selling activity to stay under the arbitrary threshold the public will be forced to find the breeds they desire from larger more commercial sources or through increased importing.

- **The PAWS bill uses quantitative thresholds intended to determine who is breeding/selling at a commercial level that supposedly warrants federal regulation.** These arbitrary thresholds are derived from the American Kennel Club's idea of breeders with "high volume" activity (7 litters or more or the sale of 26 or more). Because of reproductive differences in cats this concept is entirely unrealistic for cat fanciers and means breeders with as few as 4 or 5 intact females would be regulated by the federal government.[2]
- **The PAWS thresholds do not take into consideration feline husbandry issues or reproductive physiology, which differ significantly from those of dogs.** Cats come in heat year round with periods of rest every 2 to 19 days if not bred. The norm for domestic cats is to have two litters per year. Queens vary in cycling frequency and cats in some breeds do have fewer estrus cycles. [3] Generally for most breeds litters spaced every 8 to 9 months apart is optimum when considering the health of the cat. However, when female cycling is continuous, holding off cats from pregnancy can lead to health problems such as uterine infection, loss of body condition and stress-related conditions. A breeder has few choices. Side effects preclude the use of contraceptive drugs for avoiding reproduction in felines. Progressive uterine disease in an unmated female cat is also an important cause of infertility. [4]
- **The quantitative measure includes private home breeders of pedigreed cats with small or moderate breeding programs.** It is this core group of breeders that assures genetic diversity. They produce bloodlines critical to the preservation of many rare and beautiful cat breeds. They provide high quality cats with outstanding pedigrees to other smaller and more novice breeders/show exhibitors. [5] These catteries with 5 or more female cats are not sub-standard "facilities" that justify regulation. CFA registration records for 2004 show that 1136 breeders registered 7 or more litters (1248 in 2003). Moderate sized catteries with serious breeding programs fall in this range.
- **CFA is unaware of any demonstrated need for federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public.** Claims by supporters of PAWS that there is a growing problem of dogs or cats sold through mass media channels or the Internet are anecdotal and not verified by any facts, examples or data. This is especially true for cats. Several studies show

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[2] *Five female cats may have 1.5 to 2 litters per year with an average of 4.2 kittens per litter – this can easily mean 7 or more litters and more than 26 kittens to sell.*
[3] *"Feline Reproduction and Breeding Management" (2005), Susan Little, DVM, Dip.ABVP, Certified Feline Practice.*
[4] *Feline Husbandry; Niels Pedersen, DVM, Ch.3 "Reproduction and Reproductive Disorders, pg.134, pg. 144,pg. 147*
[5] *Feline Husbandry; N. Pedersen and Joan (Wastlhuber) Miller. Ch.8 Cattery Design and Management.*

that over 90% of all cats in American households are random-bred and not pedigreed. At least 34% of cats arrive as strays. Most owned cats are spayed/neutered (85% to 87%), few are obtained from pet stores other than through adoption events and only 3% of owned cats are obtained from breeders.[6] Large commercial breeding of cats simply does not exist to any great extent either at the wholesale level or retail. Commercial cat breeding on a large scale is neither a viable nor profitable business venture because of the well known vulnerability of cats to infectious diseases and stress-related factors.

This legislation asserts that it is necessary to federalize the breeding of dogs and cats sold directly to the public because there is an increase in selling through mass media channels such as the Internet.

- **The advertising of cats through the Internet has no inherent relationship to large commercial selling nor does this imply inhumane conditions for animals.** Cat breeds are rare and almost all hobby breeders have websites to reach a desiring public throughout the US. Because of the many excellent Internet sources for educational material, including those of CFA and AKC, cat and dog buyers are more aware than ever concerning the informed selection of a breed to meet their expectations and how to find a reputable breeder.[7] The Internet is merely a newer, more efficient, method of communication between buyer and seller. The Internet is also widely accepted as a way for shelters to reach potential pet owners. Utilizing this means of communication has no relationship to a need for federal licensing.

- **The market for rare breeds has always necessitated interstate communication, advertising and transportation**. Dogs and cats have traditionally been sold through newspaper ads and national magazines and often shipped sight unseen to the new pet owner following lengthy communication/phone calls. Often there will be in-person meetings arranged or references provided.

Cat and dog breeders who are over the thresholds established by PAWS and raise their kittens/puppies in a home environment would be seriously discouraged from continuing.

- **The USDA standards of care are not appropriate for residential environments.** Federal housing facility standards emphasize hard surfaces and regular sanitizing. We question the feasibility or possibility of creating special "residential" standards for home based breeders. There will not be two "classes" of Class A Dealers. Compromising on the regulations in order to accommodate the newly added home breeder-dealers may potentially lessen the enforcement of the AWA standards of care for existing Class A wholesaler-broker-dealers. This is not in the best interests of animals.

- **Self-regulation of cat breeders selling at retail is accomplished by the Cat Fanciers' Association.** CFA has a successful Voluntary Cattery Environment Inspection Program. Veterinary inspection enables breeders to proudly advertise a CFA approved or "Cattery of Excellence".[8] CFA considers catteries that register litters representing 75 kittens or more in a

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[6] *American Pet Product Manufacturers Association National Pet Owners Surveys.*
[7] *http://www.cfa.org/cbrs.html*
www.akc.org

[8] http://www.cfa.org/articles/cattery-inspection.html

year to be "high volume", which triggers a required veterinary inspection. In the year 2004 there were only 66 catteries that registered more than 20 litters with CFA (21 litters x 3.6 kittens average would = 75) in the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and elsewhere.

There are numerous unknown or unintended consequences of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 that could affect both the USDA and individual breeders.

- **The PAWS could greatly overextend the enforcement capacity of the USDA**. The numbers of facilities/homes that would be added cannot be accurately determined but a reasonable estimate is 4000 or 5000 AKC dog breeders and 1200 CFA cat breeders, plus those of other registries, added to the existing 3000 Class A Dealers. When the "facility" is the entire residence and breeding cats are in bedrooms or wandering throughout mingling with spayed and neutered household pets USDA inspectors would face unanticipated challenges. Since most home-based breeders work at a job elsewhere inspectors would experience many "call-backs". All of this is a waste of taxpayers' money and diverts the resources of the USDA from focusing on the business motivated and truly large sub-standard facilities as intended by the AWA. There is no authority in the current AWA to allow non-governmental organizations to take on kennel/cattery inspections.

- **Federal regulation of breeders selling at retail from their homes may mean individuals could face unintended problems.** Zoning laws in local jurisdictions would consider a USDA licensed facility or activity to be a commercial business and individuals could be forced to move or to apply for difficult-to-obtain variances. Extensive record keeping, health certificates, fees and unknown penalties for violations would be a substantial burden for most small/moderate private home breeders. Public availability of information concerning the names/addresses of breeders or buyers would be a privacy and security concern for residential breeders.

- **Factors related to those who rescue cats/dogs have not been considered.** Cat breeders sometimes take in, neuter, advertise and sell stray cats, rescued cats or cats bred by co-owners living elsewhere. Clubs and breeders are rarely entities exempt under IRC Sec. 501 (c)(3). Breeders of pedigreed cats may have fewer than 6 litters yet they could sell over 25 kittens/cats in a year including strays or rescues not "bred or raised on the premises" and would have to be licensed as a dealer. Rescuers charging "adoption fees" are selling animals "for compensation or profit" – there is no distinction in the AWA. The AWA currently does not regulate any direct retail sellers, including shelters or rescue groups/individuals. With the broadening of the AWA through SB 1139, and considering many rescuers are involved in interstate activities including transporting of cats/dogs, it is unlikely that these groups could reasonably be exempted, while breeders would be licensed. Many individuals would be forced to discontinue accepting rescued cats in order to stay under the threshold of 25 sales or less.

The Pet Animal Welfare Statute is not sufficiently thought out and is entirely too broad. The negative consequences are not balanced by worthy benefits for cats. There is a growing demand for well bred healthy pedigreed cats by those who appreciate their predictable personalities and appearance. This bill will discourage the public's best source of home-raised, well socialized kittens/cats.

All states have animal cruelty laws properly targeted to inhumane conditions for animals whether in a commercial or home setting. In some states there may be commercial breeding of dogs at a level that warrants facility licensing but safeguarding the welfare of these dogs can and has been accomplished on the state level. Whenever there are reports of animal neglect or abuse involving large numbers of cats it

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

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PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.

PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home -based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well-socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Brian T. Breikss (registered voter) Signature: _____

Address: 13148 Haughton Lane SW Port Orchard, WA 98367

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

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Name: Anthony Brown Signature: Anthony Brown

Address: 1548 S. Ringgold St Phila, PA 19146

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION
AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.

PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home –based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Jennifer Johnson Signature: Jennifer Johnson

Address: P.O. Box 1268 Maurinville, Tx 77626

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

November 01, 2005

Honorable, Senator Rich Santorm

Please oppose SB1139 and HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statue of 2005 (PAWS). It will not improve the welfare of dogs and cats. It would greatly expand the USDA regulation of small scale dog and cat breeders by requiring that thousands of these breeders meet commercial standards of care, inspections and record keeping. This would greatly overextend the capacity of the USDA. By regulating the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. Paws will diminish the best source of healthy home-raised, well socialized dogs and cats.

Please leave the scrutinizing of the hobby and small scale breeder to the local and state agencies, not the federal government. We urge you to vote against the (PAWS) bill.

Sincerely

Chris Smith

Gail Smith

Classic PhoneTools

BVRP software

Phone:

Fax:

Message :

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

I would like the following to be made part of the OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD of the PAWS hearing.

Please OPPOSE PAWs S1139/HB2669. PAWS is a badly written bill that will regulate thousands of hobby rabbit breeders. I breed Netherland Dwarf rabbits as a hobby and PAWS will either force me out of rabbits or become a criminal. Either way PAWS will destroy one of the few things left in my life that I enjoy doing as a hobby.

As written PAWs states that those who gross over $500 in sales of "other animals" (rabbits, cavies, etc) need to be regulated by the USDA. The average price of a pet rabbit is $19 (Rabbit Education Society breeder survey), the average number of rabbits a hobby show breeder sells per year is 68 (RES survey 2004) includes breeding stock to other show breeders as well as pets. Using these numbers we can say the average amount a hobby rabbit breeder grosses per year is $1,292. So obviously the majority of hobby rabbit breeders are grossing more than $500 per year and will require to be licensed by the USDA if PAWs passes. 25 rabbits sold at $20 each equals $500. 12.5 rabbits sold at $40 each equals $500. We are talking about a very small number of animals sold. In the Suburban Advertiser 7/14/05 Senator Santorum is quoted as saying "The intent of this legislation (PAWs) is not to cover people who are hobby breeders or breed small numbers of animals". If this is true then why has the senator drafted a bill which severely limits the number of rabbits a hobby rabbit breeder can breed?

Currently hobby rabbit breeders are exempt from USDA licensing if they sell direct to pet owners or gross less than $500 in sales to pet stores. I believe this is how it should stay. Although the $500 in wholesales is an amount that has not been updated and probably should be increased to reflect inflation. There is no evidence that there is a need to regulate hobby rabbit breeders.

It is important to exempt hobby rabbit breeders because you can't make money selling pet rabbits and there isn't a way to increase sales to be able to cover the license fees and cost of compliance. If one regulates hobby rabbit breeders we will be faced with the choice of operating illegally or getting out of rabbits and that is terribly unfair to us taxpaying voters.

From:	**To:**
Corinne Fayo	**Senate Ag Subcommittee**

Date: 11/8/2005 **Page(s):** 5

In addition those who have drafted and support PAWS are allowing dog breeders a much more generous licensing threshold than rabbit breeders. Rabbits are not in demand as much as dogs are. Rabbits also have reproductive issues unique to dogs so that they start breeding younger and must be bred more often and have a shorter breeding lifespan. According to industry estimates there are currently 74 million dogs kept as pets, 90 million cats, and only 5.3 million rabbits. And if PAWs passes the number of pet rabbits will likely drop dramatically as hobby rabbit breeders are forced out. Or large rabbit mills will take over leading to inhumane treatment of animals as well as a loss of our carefully bred purebreeds and the diversity of breeds and colors.

According to the AKC's website under PAWs FAQ a dog breeder can whelp 6 litters and sell 40 dogs and still be exempt from USDA regulation. I checked newspaper classified ads last year for dog sales and found the average price of a dog was $500. So using that number a dog breeder can gross $20,000 in sales and be exempt while a rabbit breeder with the average price of a pet rabbit only $19 is limited to $500 in gross sales per year. This is grossly unfair and if PAWs passes I for one intend to sue the USDA over the unfairness of the licensing threshold. What logical reason exists that dog breeders can gross $20,000 and more while a rabbit breeder is limited to $500 or less?

In addition information has been posted on internet lists that Senator Santorum owns an AKC registered German Shepard bitch that he bred and presumably sold the puppies. I would like to know how much did each puppy cost and how much money did Senator Santorum gross from those puppy sales? Was it more than $500? If so why he is he supporting legislation that limits hobby rabbit breeders to only $500 gross sales per year while he can gross over that in selling dogs he breeds? In addition since the senator is just a pet owner breeding his dog I highly doubt he has any understanding of the issues surrounding serious show breeders of any species.

There are nearly 30,000 members of the American Rabbit Breeders Assoc so this represents the base number of hobby rabbit breeders. The USDA in their impact sheet for RHD stated that it is estimated that only 1 in 10 people who raise rabbits are members of the ARBA. How will the USDA be able to regulate thousands and thousands of hobby rabbit breeders? The AKC estimates 5,000 new dog breeders will be regulated while the CFA estimates 1,200 new cat breeders will be added. As written PAWs may add close to 300,000 new rabbit breeders. Currently there are only 174 licensed commercial pet rabbit breeders regulated by the USDA. There is simply no way the USDA can handle all these new regulated entities. This illustrates the insanity of PAWs.

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) was intended to regulate breeders selling at the wholesale level, not those who sell direct to pet owners. Many states regulate commercial breeding and include those who sell direct to pet owners. For example in NY anyone who sells 9 or more animals for profit requires a pet dealer license and this includes dog and cat breeders who sell 25 or more per year. GA's state law is set-up so that nearly everyone selling any number of animals including shelters and "rescuers" require a state license. Even PA where Senator Santorum is from regulates breeders-those who sell 26 or more are required to be state licensed and inspected. I haven't been able to look up all state laws to get a complete list of states regulating commercial breeding but I know CO has it as well as other northeastern states, CA, and some of the midwest states. Also the nature of hobby breeding includes a built in system of regulation, pet owners coming to the breeder's house can report them if conditions aren't satisfactory. Every state has cruelty laws which set out basic requirements for adequate care. Also in most cases of reported animal cruelty by breeders it was either their buyers or neighbors who

reported them. The current system works to regulate hobby breeders and ensure animals receive proper care. There is simply no need to redefine the AWA to regulate those selling at retail-direct to pet owners.

Another hidden danger with PAWs is that it redefines the scope of the AWA and will open the USDA up to lawsuits from animal rights activists groups who wish to see all breeders regulated (although they want shelters and rescuers exempted which is unfair regulation of the activity of providing pets to pet owners). In 2002 the Doris Day Animal League sued the USDA over how it defines retail pet store in an effort to require regulation of all hobby breeders. The lawsuit was lost on appeal because it was ruled there was no legislative intent to regulate breeders selling direct to pet owners. PAWs will show clear legislative intent to regulate breeders selling direct to pet owners and the next time the animal rights fanatics sue the USDA every hobby breeder in the US will require regulation.

The problem with regulating hobby breeding is that by it's nature hobby breeding is not a commercial or profitable undertaking. The vast majority of hobby breeders lose money, so that the cost of a license becomes a problem plus the cost to comply with regulations. In addition the USDA regulations were written for regulation of commercial breeding, not hobby breeding. Many of the regulations will be difficult and costly if not impossible to implement for the hobbyist. Also the added burden of paperwork, reporting, and the inspection process will further burden a hobbyist. Hobby breeders usually do it as a hobby for fun because they have no desire to run a business. Federal regulation will turn our hobby into a burdensome business. It would be likely that many hobby breeders will just quit not only because it will cost them money they don't have to comply with commercial regulations but also because of the added work of record keeping and paperwork that doesn't further their breeding program. Many others will be forced out due to zoning issues. It seems clear that many local governments will view a hobby breeder licensed by the USDA as a "commercial kennel" and will prohibit that activity.

In addition how is a person breeding as a hobby suppose to handle unannounced USDA inspections? I read a USDA document that they consider business hours M-F 7 am to 7 pm. I don't get up in the morning before 8 am and 6-7 pm is when we eat dinner. How do I handle leaving my house to do things like shop or vacation or whatever and be sure someone is available if the USDA drops by for an inspection? I don't have employees or anyone else because I breed show rabbits as a hobby. I don't have "business hours" because I don't have many to sell per year. However thanks to PAWS I will be defined as needing USDA regulation even though I breed for show as a hobby and have never made any money doing this.

Hobby breeders provide an important service in the pet industry. They perpetuate purebred breeds of animals and are the ones who determine what any particular breed is suppose to look like. They spend time assisting pet owners with problems as well providing quality animals. They contribute to the economy by actively participating in organized animal shows. They are important to small businesses such as feed and equipment stores. Once we start regulating hobby breeding on the federal level we're going to lose hobbyists and there will be a trickle down effect that will end up hurting the economy. It isn't easy breeding rabbits for show and PAWS will make it that much harder. Most rabbit show breeders got their start by buying a pet rabbit. Now with PAWs limiting rabbit breeders so drastically we may not have new breeders entering the hobby. PAWs will likely result in less availability of quality show stock for breeders to purchase to improve their herds. 4-H and youth breeders will also be negatively impacted as many will require USDA licensing and then will have problems finding show breeders who can legally sell show/breeding stock to them. PAWs will destroy the rabbit show world.

Those supporting PAWs say it will stop "puppymills" but it does nothing about stopping them, if anything it will encourage illegal breeding as hobbyists cut back or get out. Local laws and state laws address so called "puppymills". The only thing PAWs does is expand who needs a USDA license. And it expands it so much so that the resources of the USDA will be stretched too thin to properly enforce the original intent of the AWA. And we will not be able to provide enough funding to the USDA with all the thousands and thousands of new hobby breeders who will need regulation. Where will the extra money come from? Homeland security? Healthcare? More taxes?

So Please oppose PAWs, this bill will negatively impact many good people who are doing nothing wrong. It will not solve the problem of substandard breeding facilities nor will it ensure pet owners have access to animals raised in a healthy environment. It will only hurt hobby breeders and encourage more commercial breeding. Bills like PAWs will only lead to a society where the only people breeding animals will be businesses and the rich because they will be the only ones who can afford it.

And I'd like to add some complaints about this hearing. This is like some kind of sick joke where the only ones invited to attend are those who support PAWS and stand to gain financially from it. Where is the American Rabbit Breeders Assoc? Apparently Senator Santorum hasn't seen fit to even contact them about how PAWS affects rabbits even though I have been sending numerous letters and made phone calls telling his office the rabbit community is being left out of the whole process. I just heard that PIJAC was invited last minute, about time although I suspect only because of the outcry about the unfairness of this hearing. The AVMA doesn't represent breeders, they represent the interests of veterinarians. Since part of the USDA regs mandate a breeder has a formal contract with a veterinarian and said vet will treat all their animals it is obvious that the AVMA membership will benefit financially from PAWS so what do you expect them to say about it. And why have an organization that isn't involved in breeding testify at this hearing?

AKC represents a purebreed registry and it is becoming painfully clear that they do not represent dog breeders. They also stand to gain financially if PAWS passes if they end up becoming contractors for USDA to do inspections. So again what do you think they are going to tell you about PAWS? Of course the CFA is being totally ignored and left out despite the bill creating problems for them due to the difference in reproductive issues with dogs.

HSUS and the DDAL are hard core animal rights groups that have come out against breeding especially commercial breeding and represent the interests of animal shelters. Also again, not breeding organizations just anti-breeding organizations. Animal shelters are in competition with all breeders for pet owners. I can't for the life of me understand why a group would be allowed to help draft and then testify for a bill that will help them eliminate their competition. I can't believe this is what the founding fathers had in mind for how our system would work. Obviously if PAWS passes shelters and groups like HSUS will financially benefit as more breeders must be USDA licensed and then will go out due to the burdensome expenses or increase the price of their animals in which case more people will go to the cheaper priced shelter animals.

With the exception of PIJAC everyone else testifying at this hearing has come out in support of PAWS. There will be no fact finding in this hearing, it's like some joke where only the good parts of PAWS will be discussed and the very negative aspects totally ignored. At least PIJAC is there, but then again they mainly represent the pet store industry. So where are the groups representing the rabbit breeders? The bird breeders? The CFA? The cavy breeders? etc. We are all being left out and ignored and PAWS has the real potential of ending our hobby breeding

days. I'm outraged that this is happening. I feel like I have no voice in our government, that only those who stand to profit from bad laws do. I feel frustrated and helpless.

I hope PAWS will go nowhere but to the trash can where it belongs. And I hope legislators like Sanotrum are voted out of office as they are examples of the problem in our system of government.

Thanks for your time
Corinne Fayo
91 Whitney dr
Valatie NY 12184
518-758-2419
ranger18@capital.net

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

November 01, 2005

Honorable, Senator Rich Santorm

Please oppose SB1139 and HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statue of 2005 (PAWS). It will not improve the welfare of dogs and cats. It would greatly expand the USDA regulation of small scale dog and cat breeders by requiring that thousands of these breeders meet commercial standards of care, inspections and record keeping. This would greatly overextend the capacity of the USDA. By regulating the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. Paws will diminish the best source of healthy home-raised, well socialized dogs and cats.

Please leave the scrutinizing of the hobby and small scale breeder to the local and state agencies, not the federal government. We urge you to vote against the (PAWS) bill.

Sincerely

Elizabeth Upkoff

LINDA ANNE CHANCE
335 Beaver Lake Road
Purvis, MS 39475
601 818 2781
lhasasbychance@yahoo.com

November 7, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
FAX (202) 228-8282

Dear Members:

As a lifelong pet owner, member of a family who hunts and fishes, a small hobby dog breeder and fancier, the founder and director of Lhasa Apso Southern Rescue, Inc., a non profit regional dog breed rescue group based in the state of Mississippi, and an officer of the Mississippi Canine Coalition, Inc, an AKC recognized state federation, the PAWS bill being considered in your committee impacts many aspects of my life. I have reviewed the list of participants being allowed to testify in the PAWS hearing on November 8, and while I have the utmost respect for members of the AKC and AVMA, I feel that in this issue they do not represent my best interests. Please consider this letter as part of the official hearing record. I strongly OPPOSE PAWS in its entirety because of its unclear, ambiguous wording and for the following specific reasons:

1) The use of numbers to determine whether a kennel should be USDA licensed is not valid criteria. One breeder could have multiple litters per year of healthy, temperament sound puppies raised in a clean environment and another could have one litter per year of puppies that are substandard, sick, and raised in filth Under the PAWS amendment that first breeder would now be required to be licensed and regulated, requirements that would most likely force many of our country's best hobby breeders out of the sport. The second breeder, under the PAWS amendment, would be free of any regulation and could sell those puppies in the local newspapers or at flea markets. PAWS will even more severely impact purebred cat fanciers at the hobby breeding level with the use of these numbers than it does purebred dog fanciers.

2) Many hobby breeders producing the healthiest puppies in the country in their kitchens and bedrooms would be forced to cut back on breeding in order to avoid the expense of building special kennels to comply with USDA regulations. Those living in areas where zoning requirements prohibit commercial kennels would be forced to stop breeding totally. Citizens participating in other hobbies are not subject to federal regulations and inspections. The invasion of the privacy of a person who participates in this hobby is totally unacceptable.

3) This amendment to the AWA will very likely impose federal regulation on any person that buys or sells any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes. Hunting is very popular in many states as well as mine and this will certainly impact a large number of our citizens.

4) Nonprofit rescue organizations charging a small adoption fee to cover a portion of their expenses provide a great service to this country's unwanted and abandoned pets. Even small rescue organizations "sell" over 25 dogs and or cats per year. PAWS would completely eliminate most of us because we could not afford to comply with commercial type breeding facilities required by USDA regulations nor would we continue to have the support of foster home volunteers who will not be willing to open their private homes to federal or third party inspectors.

5) Healthy, good quality purebred dogs and cats are already expensive. Adding unnecessary federal regulations would make owning such animals as pets completely out of the realm of possibility to many families who deserve the opportunity to do so.

While I would surely support legislation that helps animals, I do not believe PAWS does that in spite of its stated intent. I believe the enforcement of existing state and local cruelty laws would make much more impact in improving conditions and would not federalize the small scale breeding of dogs and cats as would PAWS. As you consider this bill in your committee, I ask that you consider the views of an ordinary citizen just as seriously as you do those of members of this country's large animal interest and animal rights organizations.

Sincerely,

Linda Anne Chance

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

November 01, 2005

Honorable, Senator Rich Santorm

Please oppose SB1139 and HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statue of 2005 (PAWS). It will not improve the welfare of dogs and cats. It would greatly expand the USDA regulation of small scale dog and cat breeders by requiring that thousands of these breeders meet commercial standards of care, inspections and record keeping. This would greatly overextend the capacity of the USDA. By regulating the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. Paws will diminish the best source of healthy home-raised, well socialized dogs and cats.

Please leave the scrutinizing of the hobby and small scale breeder to the local and state agencies, not the federal government. We urge you to vote against the (PAWS) bill.

Sincerely

Francine Barnes.

I am writing to oppose S.1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005. For the first time, retail sales of dogs and cats by breeders of those animals would be covered.

Senator Santorum states: "Because AWA only covers breeders and others who sell at wholesale, many puppy mill owners have successfully avoided AWA requirements by selling directly to the public." "The ability to use the Internet as a marketing tool for direct sales has only made selling directly to the public more prevalent and popular. Because USDA can only regulate wholesalers under the AWA, it has very limited authority to oversee the care and conditions of animals in these facilities. PAWS addresses this growing problem."

On what basis do you say kennels that advertise on the Internet or in national magazines evade inspection and customer scrutiny? The Internet has not created bad sellers of puppies. What the Internet has created is a much more informed consumer. The consumer is interested in a particular breed, looks it up on the Internet, finds out what is known about that breed, contacts breeders with websites and/or magazine ads, and asks very good questions about the breed and that breeder's own litters and philosophy of breeding.

Breeders all over the country are noticing that prospective puppy customers are much better informed than they were even ten years ago, ask tons of great questions about health screening, training, temperament, and so on. Far from evading customer scrutiny, breeders who advertise on the Internet or in magazines now find themselves subjected to very heavy customer scrutiny.

The Internet is a very easy and inexpensive way for both breeders and buyers to check out each other, and it's done all the time. Breeders and buyers on the e-mail lists are always asking breeders and buyers in other parts of the country to check out prospects, do home visits, look at the kennel or the puppies and their parents. The Internet is a great tool for connecting breeders with buyers all over the country.

Rescue organizations also use the internet through websites and the Petfinder site to sell (rehome) dogs AFTER spaying/neutering and making them healthy. Dog rescue is of critical importance in improving ownership skills and reducing shelter euthanasia. How many rescuers do you think are going to disappear if this passes?

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.

Very truly yours,

PRESIDENT
GLAPBTC

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Frank Purdy <oldsquawP@aol.com>
285 maple Ave. New Hampton, NY 10958

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Many hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than build a separate facility away from their living quarters to raise puppies and kittens like livestock.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

Please preserve my right and opportunities to acquire future pets that are raised "underfoot" in a home or "rescued" by individuals that offer their own homes as sanctuary.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Fran Cantwell <fcw1123@aol.com>
Boise, ID

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

R. Stanton Breon Jr. <rsbreon@kcnet.org>

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

My family and i ask that you oppose s. 1139
Sincerely, Jerry Harper

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Jerry W. Harper <amharper@ziggycom.net>
79 Wallace Cemetery Road
Cadiz, Ky.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Most sincerely,

John B. Ulrich <julrich@insightbb.com>
3210 Igleheart Evansville in 47712

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

What we need is less intrusion into the Private lives of US citizens, and more control of radical animal rights groups such as PETA and HUSA. Thank you.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Matthew Barton <Firemansred@hotmail.com>
333 B West 3rd Ave, Dugway Utah, 84022

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

USDA has no place in the private homes of hobby breeders. Many rare breeds will become extinct because hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than be faced with the invasive requirement of federal regulation of their private homes.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

I breed Traditional Balinese and Siamese cats- these cats are already in danger of becoming an extinct breed- this ridiculous legislation will close down my breeding program as their is no way financially I could ever comply- as well as raising my cats and kittens according to USDA standards would be cruel and inhumane- it calls for no carpets, no furniture and no animals in the humans living area- that means no cats in my home- they would be isolated and kept from socialization the kittens would be ferals. I would have to stop breeding altogether - and not subject my babies to that type of life. Right now they live in comfort in my clean warm and happy home.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Bernadette McBride <bernadette.mcbride@comcast.net>
225 Route 6
Andover, CT 06232

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

William Adams <badams88@aol.com>
4751 Knifley Rd.
Elkhorn, KY 42733

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

By overburdening the breeders of the best U.S. pet dogs and cats, PAWS will force them out of their hobby. Replacement animals will come from foreign countries where there is no U.S. control over breeding conditions.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I am shocked and deeply saddened by the upcoming PAWS hearing. What a joke. There are no opposition members testifying. Only animal rights activists like reps from HSUS amd DDAl. What kind of sick joke is Senator Santorum pulling? Radical rights activists have no right to try to force us all to live according to their wishes.
This is supposed to be Americal, Land of the free. What happened to thr rights of " We the People" ? Will it only be a memory soon as we are thrown into communism?
Senator Santorum and his radical activists must be stopped.
We can only pray enough of us will be able to vote him out of office next election. he has no right to destroy the lives of hobby show breeders. These are the people working hard to raise well socialized homebred puppies for companions and to improve their breeds. We all know the adgenda of the HSUS and DDAl is to end all breeding of companion animals. But remember this is America. Who gave them the right to tell everyone we must live according to their wishes? This hearing will be a joke. So many now are sick of Senator Santorum and his radical activist groups. I am praying are numbers will be strong enough to vote him out.
Isn't there a man or woman there who supports the freedom to kake a choice to be a home breeder/ show exhibitor of purebred dogs? We are not harming anyone, but the regulations in the paws bill insure most home breeders will not be able to comply and want puppies raised under horrific conditions in USDA approved kennel buildings. Today, a vet in NJ examined one of the puppies from my Fall litter. She told the new owner I can tell this is a home raised and socialized puppy. What a big difference in this pup and what I see from pet shops and puppy farms. I felt very proud. Please tell me there are members of this commitee who have the courage to vote for what is right.
These are the kind of people we want to support. We do not want a communist country. My Grandparents rsiked their lives to flee to this

great land so their children and grandchildren could be born in a free land without Government oppression and control of our lives.
The support from AKC is a Joke too. They have become money hungry and probably got somekind of pay off for adding their support and betrtaying their breeders. Surely there are much more important ways to spend our tax dollars.
How about medical aid for the poor? Food for the poor?
Many people in this country are homeless , starving and going without much needed medical care and medicine. And Senator Santorum thinks this is where we should spend tax dollars? Is pacifying animal rights radicals that important to him that this is more important to destroy the lives of those who enjoy showing/breeding purebred dogs, than to put tax dollars to the needs of the poor and sick in this country? Have any of you ever gone hungry? Suffered in pain and dying because you had no health insurance and could not afford medicine or had to watch loved ones go through that? Lost your home and lived in boxes and old cars wit your family and praying they would not starve or freeze? I know many people who never thought it could happen to them, but they lost everything . Good people. But of course, I am sure it is much more important for Senator Santorum and the radicals to end the enjoyment of dog breeders. From what I am hearing from many dog loving voters, Senator Santorum has lost their vote. He has certainly lost ours.
Please , stop this hearing until everyone can voice their opinions. Let the people who oppose testify too. And get rid of the radicals. HSUS and DDAL. They have NO RIGHT to force their views on everyone. Who said tey ran the cvountry? They do Not represent me.
Thank you for your time.
I will now pray that Senator Santorum and is radical groups can be stopped.
Sincerely,
Michele Starkey

Sincerely yours,

Michele Starkey <starkey@ccomm.com>
RR5 Box 5064
hazleton, Pa 18201

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Please help the people with the money that would be spent on this bill.We are already regulated by the state in which we live in. So much more can be done with the money like the folks down in the gulf, Please think of them,they need our help. Please vote againts s.1139
Thank you, Glenn M. Spath Sr.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139.
Thank you.

Glenn M. Spath Sr.s <spiph@alltel.net>
272 John Deere Lane Rural Valley,Pa 16249

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I oppose the paws bill as it is worded. it is not necessary to license and inspect homes of small breeders.
I believe it will be a impossiable job to monitor all the little guys.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Betty J Curb <gbc@hcis.net>
5345 Renfro Lake Road
Mulkeytown,Il. 62865

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Josh Fisherback <fishwillard@yahoo.com>
138 cherry street new madison ohio 45346

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

to michigan rep.and congressmen please vote no on the paws bill leo simmons

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

LEO SIMMONS <leo_delma_simmons58@yahoo.com>
1797braidwood memphis mi 48041

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S. 1139 radically alters the existing Animal Welfare Act and for the first time allows federal intrusion into hobby breeders? private homes.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I do not trust some of those that are supporting this,they will use any means nessary to take what i enjoy.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Lynn Perkins <PERK_RUN_N_GUN@YAHOO.COM>
PO BOX 292 MYRA KY 41549

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Eleanora Cole <silverpoo@webtv.net>
267 Forest Drive
Mt. WAshington, Ky. 40047

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Please vote no onS. 1139, too much burden on the casuel breeder and sportsman

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Dave Sharer <davesharer@hotmail.com>
9776 Rte 954N- Creekside,Pa. 15732

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Stacey Criswell <boltaction@earthlink.net>
12030 SW 30th Dr. Webster, FL 33597

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

John Lawson <lawsonj@pemtel.net>
601 Penvir Road
Narrows, Va. 24124

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Thank you for your help!

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

kenneth moyer <kmoyer@arrowunited.com>
r.r.#1 box 68
wyalusing, pa 18853-9737

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Janet Lugo <Jlweimaraner@yahoo.com>
11406 Flallon Ave., Norwalk, Ca. 90650

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

As sportsman and breeder of coonhounds I would like to say that I oppose S. 1139.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Rev. James D. Lacey <pastor_lacey@yahoo.com>
2210 E. 55th St. Tulsa Oklahoma, 74105

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The USDA is the agency responsible for interpreting the unclear language in S. 1139. They are already overburdened with the regulation of food and agriculture and will be hard-pressed to provide interpretations or supply enforcement personnel for S 1139.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

The one sided lineup to support this action is pathic, It is understandable why they want no one with the facts to speak.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

John Connolly <jtc76@aol.com>
1925 E. Rockwood Blvd
Spokane, WA 99203

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The bill?s supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

jonathan nichols <tanker1@dejazzd,com>
320 E, Mt. Airy Rd. Stevens Pa. 17578

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Opposition to S. 1139, "PAWS" For Inclusion in the Official Record

November 1, 2005

I oppose S. 1139 "PAWS" because the bill is unnecessary since individual states already have laws which address animal cruelty, sanitation and nuisance violations. This bill is ineffective because it does not provide the Department of Agriculture any additional funds to enforce this legislation, and the Department of Agriculture does not have sufficient funding or manpower to effectively enforce the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act already enacted. This bill is harmful to the purebred dog world because it would penalize and severely restrict purebred rescue, whether by non-profit organizations or by individual breeders.

Further, promises from the American Kennel Club that changes to the original proposed legislation would be made to address fancier's concerns have not yet been made public.

Respectfully submitted by:

Georgette C. Franzoni

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I feel this bill is unjust, and unfair. It only will promote the existance of large puppy mills, and put the small hobby breeder out of business.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

William M. Ennis Jr. <Beagleman63@aol.com>
P.O. Box 69 Bowersville, OH. 45307-0069

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Anke Masters <teckelanke@comcast.net>
442 Mulberry Place
Brick, NJ 08723

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Sincerely,

Darlene Pietrzak <pietrzak@uic.edu>
3710 W. 65th Street
Chicago, IL 60629

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

USDA has no place in the private homes of hobby breeders. Many rare breeds will become extinct because hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than be faced with the invasive requirement of federal regulation of their private homes.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I have voted for Senator Santorim at every turn and vocally supported him but he will never see a vote from me again if this foolish legislation isn't dropped. I also believe most of my fellow houndsman in PA who are perdomanantly Republican will never vote for him again. Conservatives are supposed to believe in smaller government and Senator I though this was your philosophy. The AKC is a highly politically charged organization and would never support you. Also with domestic terrorists like PETA involved how can you support this.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

John E. Nickelson <enickelson@7springs.com>
115 Old Tannery Lane
Addison, PA 15411

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Robbie Spears <rspear00@pc.edu>
8675 Robinson Creek Rd.
Virgie KY, 41572

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Daniel R Vincent <d8rvc@yahoo.com>
2591 Galbraith Line Rd.
Brown City,Mi.48416

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation?s Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

John Massie <bootlegger@watervalley.net>
P O Box 246
Water Valley, MS 38965

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers? demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over stretched and under budget. They will need every available employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. This nation can not afford S. 1139.

This will hurt are sport as breeder of field trial beagles and hunting dogs.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Eric W Mahon <emahon@rochester.rr.com>
122 minnesota st
Rochester,ny 14609

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Sincerely yours,

gabe stockton <stockgp@wku.edu>
344 sandalwood dr
bowling green, ky 42101

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

TOM REEVES <TSREEVES2020@AOL.COM>
P.O Box 1012 Hampstead N.C 28443

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Tim Lovelace <timlovelace@earthlink.net>
7740 S. black River Rd
Onaway Mi. 49765

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Zoning problems will occur for many who try to obtain a USDA license.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Deborah Marshall <wdmarshall@direcway.com>
2601 West Blood Rd.
East Aurora, NY 14052

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Linda Nowack <ljnow@up.net>
Box 242
Spalding, MI 49886

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Interpreting this bill will be troublesome for the USDA. They already have many important tasks such as the regulation of food and agriculture. Adding the additional burden of supplying enforcement personnel for S 1139 will be very costly.

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

I appreciate your "No" vote for S.1139

Joseph Nowack <ljnow@up.net>
Box 242
Spalding, MI 49886

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA?s ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Garrett Nowack <ljnow@up.net>
Box 242
Spalding, MI 49886

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Interpreting this bill will be troublesome for the USDA. They already have many important tasks such as the regulation of food and agriculture. Adding the additional burden of supplying enforcement personnel for S 1139 will be very costly.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

JAMES DAVIS <jdavis@burke.k12.nc.us>
2071 nc 126
morganton, nc 28655

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Socialized, well-adjusted puppies do not come from commercial breeders, they come from hobby breeders. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Jeremiah Johnson <ride_Wchrist@yahoo.com>
1200 brown store rd
Lawrenceburg, ky 40342

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already ?stretched to the limit? federal budget.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

M.B. Stoner <divineshadow666@aol.com>
Oberlin Ohio

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

I think you need to take another look at your priorities, Mr Govt. officials.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Wendy Basehore <zipper@epix.net>
477 E Main ST
Middletown, PA 17057

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not neei to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

When hobby breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139 it will only increase large commercial breeders ability to raise more puppies.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Richard LaRosa <rjlarosa@alltel.net>
p.o. box 225
clarksville, Pa. 15322

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Darlene Willey <madwilley@netzero.com>
12 N. White, Anaconda, MT 59711

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

The bill?s supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Carlene Hammond <carhammond@netzero.com>
Carlene Hammond 1468 Longfellow Butte Montana 59711

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Take care of the person breaking the laws you already have don't make a new one unfair to blanket everyone.

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

John O. Nevil <jon13@chilitech.net>
571 Sones Hollow Rd. Benton, Pa.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Allison Sciullo <a_sciullo@yahoo.com>
362 South Evaline Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15224

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I have been a strong supporter of Senator Rick Santorum from the time he frist ran for the Senate. His views often mirrow my conservative views BUT not this time. This is a dirrect invasion of my personal rights. I am a beagler, I hunt and go to compition trials. I also have worked in Agriculture in Pennsylvania for 26 years. Agriculture is still this states number one employer. This bill attacks me personally in my occupation and pleasure. I do not understand why AKC has turned against the very people that have made it what it has grown to be. It started at the National Beagle Club in the 1800's. If Senator Santorum continues with this legislation I will not forget. This is a page out of the Arlin Spector play book! I have a dirrect relationship with about 1000 registured voters in PA through work and pleasure, I will be heard at election time however Senator Santorum wishes to hear from me, for or against.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Jeffrey L Sherman <silvercupk9s@gmail.com4Q6u3c>
4123 Division Hwy. East Earl, PA. 17519

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Debbie Heaney <dnd9797@hotmail.com>
1920 Banks
Butte, Montana 59701

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The bulk of the language in S.1139 is vague and open to interpretation. The USDA should not be burdened with the responsibility of doing what the authors of S. 1139 failed to do. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. It should not pass.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Linda A Dietz <hairlady728@aol.com>
1857 Sterretts Gap Avenue Carlisle Pa 17013

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

There is a distinct shortage of facts to demonstrate that alleged abuses by Internet sellers are not already subject to the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Tom Galipeau <coppurrkittypersians@netzero.com>
1208 Rickard, Anaconda, Montana 59711

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Claire Spettell <cmspettell@comcast.net>
1514 E. Willow Grove Avenue
Wyndmoor, PA 19038

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation?s Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Quinton <lilq21@aol.com>
1857 Sterretts Gap Avenue Carlisle, Pa

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Cyndi Gagleard <poodleheads@comcast.net>
51328 Nicolette Drive, Chesterfield, MI 48047

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

George W. Lewis <wirenut1957@yahoo.com>
985 colfax rd. Hillsboro, Ky. 41049

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

john hoke <begonebonnie@aol.com>
121 ridge road
carlisle,pa 17013

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

S.1139 doesn?t "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

As a person who shows and breeds dogs, I am adamantly opposed to puppy mills. I cringe at the thought of people buying from pet stores where they are enticed by cute puppies, some of which are pedigreed and some of which are expensive mixed-breeds. Consumers need to qualify their breeders the same way that we qualify the people who adopt our puppies. We pour love and money in to our litters and for the federal government to stop people who care about what they are doing is deplorable. Quality show people could easily go over the six or seven litter quota, but they should not be under the oversight of the USDA. They need to enforce the laws that will actually get the real puppy mills. We as breeders register our dogs with the AKC - why can they not monitor the people who are registering their litters. Our litters live in our bedroom until they are old enough to move to the kitchen. This is true of most breeders I know. This law will force the good, caring breeders to stop breeding and all you will be left with are the ones you were trying to stop from the beginning.

And another question, why is this bill not going after the pet stores. Aren't they the ones selling dogs supplied from these "commercial" breeders. They are often sick, provide fake papers, and are otherwise the "drug dealers" to the "suppliers."

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139.
Thank you.

Gerarda Collins <gerarda@gcc-partners.com>
2860 Country Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

RE: S. 1139 ..... OPPOSED!

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Linda Ambroz
4921 Olympia Dr
Indianapolis, IN 46228-2939

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

Any attempt to regulate Internet sales is doomed to fail. The strength of the Internet is that it allows commerce to be conducted globally. If S.1139 passes and a large, commercial facility selling at retail, one of the purported targets of the bill, had to choose between regulation and moving across the U.S. border, does anyone think that they would not simply move outside of the jurisdiction of the United States? They could then take Internet orders with impunity from any U.S. sanction or inspection of their facilities.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Please do not pass S. 1139 as I feel that it very much infringes upon my right to privacy and would take away much enjoyment that I derive from keeping and raising pigeons as a hobby. I am sure that the bill was written with the best of intentions but it really needs to be restructured so as to not affect small livestock breeders such as myself.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kerns <wildbriarfans@aol.com>
1988 Cook Road
Powhatan, VA 23139

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

This is one more thing that Sen. Santorum knows nothing about. Please oppose this bill. It is the backyard breeders and puppy mills that need to be monitored, not the professional breeders and rescue volunteers that love their breeds, for the love of the dog, not the almighty dollar.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

Robin Armstrong <paboxergirl@hotmail.com>
RR #2 Box 117A
New Milford, PA 18834

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already ?stretched to the limit? federal budget.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Della Peak <demapeak@yadtel.net>
4432 Rena Rd.
Hamptonville, NC 27020

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Stephen Lackey <pgclackey@swbell.net>
2312 Ashland St.
Houston, Texas 77

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation. Most commercial breeders are uncareing, people that keep poor dogs and cats in small cages, they never feel love or any form of emotional comfort, they are treated as badly as the poor chickens that are killed and many die and are thrown on a pile and burned, it seems you had rather have this than people that have pets that they sometimes breed to help with their up keep! I love my babies, they are fat healthy and know when mama comes out they will get attention. What is wrong with these groups that put money ahead of the real concern of the animals. Close down these nasty puppymills, that have over 100 dogs and they just are fed enough to live and produce! WHERE is the COMPASSION for these dear animals? Thank you for your vote against S.1139.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Carolyn Stuart <CStuart4@sbcglobal.net>
1403 North Spruce
Hope, Ar.
71801

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Please vote against S. 1139, Americans are entitled to privacy.

Sincerely yours,

Cass Stallings <nesa1295@aol.com>
21A Paris Olney Hopkins Rd, Foster, RI 02825

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Since hobby breeders are not keeping their puppies and kittens in horrific conditions like puppy mills do, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation of the worst offenders.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

John Bartosh <jbartosh@adelphia.net>
217 Westinghouse Road
Blairsville,Pa 15717

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Diane Dahms <racingrat@msn.com>
12587 N. 55 E.
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am opposed to S.1139.

Sincerely yours,

James Heasley <jheasley@indy.rr.com>
3912 S. Felton
Marion, IN 46953

RE: Senator, Please Oppose S. 1139

Dear Senator Machado,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

With respect,

Katherine McLeister
5701 Treosti Place
Valley Springs, CA 95252-9138

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Please ASK questions!!!
EXACTLY how is this bill going to make the lives of back yard bred and puppy mill bred dogs and cats better?
HOW will the USDA inspectors find out who is doing all the breeding??
Who on the internet is selling dogs??? ASK AKS that one as they have adds for dogs on their own web site...pay a fee and anyone who has just registered a litter can have an add!!!
If this bill passes, who is going to make a lot of money from selling microchips to identify all these dogs and cats?? As Sen Santorum..the satellite tracking microship company is in his home state and just sold a contract to Portugal for $600,000...ASK AKC how much they will make registering microchips in the CAR unit and what they intend to do with the money as they are a non profit???
Look out and find the bus that is protesting PAWS as it represents the dog and cat show hobby breeders across america and please go on the internet and read the list of groups who oppose this horrible bill....

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Vickie Haywood <oakwood1@alltel.net>
28204 n turnpike road
wagram north carolina 28396

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

S.1139 doesn?t "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Gerald Bailey <gpb2@comcast.net>
104 Davis Street
Wollaston, MA 02170-2429

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Kathy Loftus <kathy.loftus@happypawspetresort.com>
3n135 Ridgeview St.
West Chicago, IL 60185

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders? homes.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Cindy Williams <honeypothounds@aol.com>
121 Baboosic Lake RD.
Amherst, NH 03031

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

S. 1139 radically alters the existing Animal Welfare Act and for the first time allows federal intrusion into hobby breeders? private homes.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Marie Shields <awendela@msn.com>
5605 Jagger Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

GAIL E. MILLER · 111 PHEASANT PLACE SW · LEESBURG, VIRGINIA 20175
(703) 669-0756

November 7, 2005

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Attn.: Jacob Chaney, Deputy Hearing Clerk
VIA FACSIMLE: (202) 224-1725

Subject: Opposition Statement to S. 1139, "PAWS", For Inclusion in the Official Record

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee:

Please vote against S. 1139, "PAWS". This bill is unnecessary, ineffective, and harmful to the purebred dog fancy. It is unnecessary because individual states already have laws that address animal cruelty, sanitation, and nuisance violations. The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S. 1139 is ineffective because it does not provide the Department of Agriculture any additional funding to enforce this legislation, and the Department of Agriculture does not have sufficient funding/manpower to effectively enforce the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act and its amendments already enacted. In the post Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

PAWS would be harmful to the purebred dog fancy because it would penalize/severely restrict purebred rescue, whether by non-profit organizations or by individual breeders. Furthermore, USDA has no place in the private homes of breeders. Many rare breeds will become extinct because hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than be faced with the requirements of federal regulation of their private homes.

My husband and I are not dog breeders, nor are we stud dog owners. We are just purebred dog fanciers who have lawfully owned Rhodesian Ridgebacks in the Commonwealth of Virginia since 1986 and show our dogs in conformation dog shows in Virginia and adjacent states. Please vote against S 1139.

Sincerely yours,

Gail E. Miller

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY
RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

We the undersigned are OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS). PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

NAME E-MAIL	ADDRESS	PHONE
Jimmy Britt P.O.	Box 176 Delco, NC	910 655-9283
Amy Byllard	217 Brinkley Rd Delco NC 28436	(910) 655-3184
Kathy Garrett	11 Zachary Lane Delco NC 28436	655-1209
Robert Ross 2134	Shirley Rd. Wilmington, NC 28405	910-762-0318
Teddie McLaughlin	4106 Red Road, Wilm, NC 28412	910-799-0242
Deepak Sud	4141 Heartside Drive, Wilm, NC	28412 910-637-6380
Austin Patrick	217 Brinkley Rd Delco NC 28436	
Ray Patrick	4681 Blacksmith Rd Bolton NC 28423	
Wendy Whitley	Wilmington, NC	910-6016-5565 wwhitney@ec.rr.com
Carra Miscovich	Walker Ave. Greensboro, NC	336-299-1541
LASHAYA DUNSTON	206 Woodyard Rd.	910-655-7880
CAROL NiMetz	8116 Split Oak Dr. Bethesda, Md	301-365-5373
Dr. Allen Nimetz	8116 Split Oak Dr. Bethesda, Md.	301-365-5373
Kristina H Smith	114 Cliffside Drive Wilmington	910 232-2464
Nancy Kincaid	117 [illegible] Drive Wilmington	910 798-7884
Bailey W. Hobgood	5503 Quick Drive Greensboro NC	28410
Gordon McLaughlin	4106 Red Road, Wilm, NC	28412 (910) 799-02
Susie Canoutas	711 Dock St., Wilmington, NC	28412 (910) 762-9148
Andy Canoutas	4506 W. Cascade, Wilmington, NC	28412 (910) 392-089
Jonathan A. 5249	Alex Ct. Wilmington, NC	28403

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY
RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
E-MAIL		
Cathy Vernon	21 Parker Estates Delco, NC	910-619-8028
Larry Nelson	21 Parker Estates Delco, NC	910-619-8027
Mary Jackson	14174 Old Lake Rd. Riegelwood, NC	910-619-6338
Amanda Aaron	90 Jm Bordeaux Ln Delco NC 28436	
Roxanne Little	1453 Swimming Hole Rd Delco NC 28436	655-8044
Shelly Thomas	11242 Rosindale Rd Carvel NC 28384	655 2383
Karen Stocks	PO Box 290 Delco, NC	655-1443
Nancy Kincaid	117 Cliffside Dr. Wilmington, NC 28401	
ada rogers	11749 acola Loop Rd. Bolton, NC 28423	
Judy Kluff	318 S. GREEN SWAMP RD. BOLTON, NC 28423	
Shae Woollaston	Lolin NC 28403	910-655-4359
Lisa Barr	6524 Farm Meadows Dr. Leland, NC 28451	
Tiffany Freeman	105 Cornwallace Rd. Riegelwood NC 28456	
Olivia Smith	853 Sanshole Road Riegelwood, NC 28456	
Tammy Hall	2063 East Arcadia Road Riegelwood NC 28456	
Amanda Dunham	90 Lowwoodyard Road Riegelwood NC 28456	
Kristina Smith	114 Cliffside Dr. Wilmington, NC 28409	
Valorie Tignor	21663 E. Arcadia Rd. Riegelwood, NC	
Telana Barrett	1150 Garretts Way Leland, NC 28457	

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY
RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

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NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
E-MAIL		
Mattie Jacobs	Greensboro, NC	336-457-6749
Ira Hines	Oleander Dr. Wilmington, NC	910-799-3783
Nacly Torres	70 Fulton Dr. Bolton	910-655-2220
642-8557 Norman Wayne	Roberts P.O. Box 938 Ringlewood, N.C.	28456
Cynthia Hall	108 S Palm Dr. Winnabow, NC	
Agnes Little Lena	Dale Rd Delco, NC	910-655-3737
Bonita Powell 64	Lena Dale Rd. Delco, NC	910-655-3142
Jon Nimetz	Los Angeles, CA	415-577-1745 jonnimetz@aol.com

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

November 8, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry Committee
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition
and Forestry Committee
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
House Agriculture Committee
2240 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Collin Peterson
House Agriculture Committee
2159 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Agriculture Committee Leadership:

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) is a nonprofit association representing the interests of the State Departments of Agriculture in the 50 States and 4 Territories. NASDA members, along with many others, are concerned about the potential of avian influenza, an animal disease, to become a human pandemic here in the United States. Unfortunately, however, the emphasis of most of the concern has not focused on the animal disease potential. We are concerned that this aspect of the disease potential not be overlooked, as this shortsightedness could result in the catastrophic event we are all trying to avert.

Recent news reports have emphasized the potential for avian influenza to lead to a human health pandemic; however, little attention has been given to the fact that avian influenza is an animal disease that can be found on the farm. If avian influenza was identified on a farm and contained quickly, this swift action could prevent the virus from changing from one that primarily affects poultry and people in direct contact with flocks to one that can be transmitted quickly and efficiently from one person to another. Further, although avian influenza is primarily seen in poultry and migratory waterfowl, it can also be transferred to swine and other domestic animals. Therefore, avian influenza has the potential be become a global animal health emergency even if the virus never mutates to infect humans. As Congress responds to the recent calls for increased preparedness against a pandemic influenza outbreak, we urge you to also keep focus on the animal health implications of this disease.

States, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, have plans in place to respond to foreign animal disease outbreaks; however, sustainable funding is not available to respond to these outbreaks. These written plans include procedures to establish quarantines in affected areas, decontaminate equipment, and depopulate animals if necessary. Additional funding is needed if the plans are to be carried out for the potentially devastating outbreak of an H5N1 avian influenza virus. Over the last few years, some poultry producing states have implemented their response plans for a domestic outbreak of avian influenza strains that did not cause significant illness or death in humans. However, the spread of the avian influenza strain that is causing human mortality in Asia and bird mortality as far west as Eastern Europe now places added urgency on our planning and preparedness efforts. Our nation's current capabilities could be quickly overrun in the face of a widespread, global avian influenza outbreak, particularly if it jumps to other animal species and humans.

State departments of agriculture are the first line of defense in the event of a highly infectious and contagious livestock or poultry disease. As we face the looming threat of bird flu and a human pandemic, we must strengthen the animal disease surveillance capabilities and improve the

The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
NASDA
The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
1156 15th Street, N.W., Suite 1020, Washington D.C. 20005
202-296-9680 *e-mail* nasda@nasda.org http://www.nasda.org/
President J. Carlton Courter, III, Virginia

response time in order to decrease the recovery period for production agriculture and agribusinesses. State departments of agriculture require surge capacity within their laboratory systems to quickly diagnose pathogens, pests and toxins. States desperately need assistance in developing personal protection programs, including training, for responders who are exposed to animal diseases that are contagious to humans, such as avian influenza. In addition, we need to assure interstate coordination plans are in place and adequately tested. We must be able to provide information to producers on federal indemnification protocols and funding.

This preparedness does not come without a cost. State departments of agriculture received little from the influx of federal dollars designated for bioterrorism, public health protection and homeland security. With the threat of animal diseases increasing worldwide, the resources made available to states for emergency preparedness and response are not keeping pace with the need.

For example, on November 1, 2005 President Bush announced a broad $7.1 billion program to deal with a potential pandemic. Within that proposal, USDA will receive $91.4 million for domestic and international programs related to the threat of an avian influenza pandemic. A significant portion of those funds is aimed at 1) production of animal vaccine, 2) survey and diagnosis of live markets, wildlife and bird flyways, smuggling and waterfowl and 3) planning and preparedness training. While these are critical funding needs, increases in routine surveillance for infected birds – normally conducted by state agricultural agencies – are lumped into the $10 million funding indicated for survey and diagnosis of live markets. Routine sampling has year-in-and-year-out been a major line of defense in early detection and eradication of normally occurring strains of avian influenza, which occur nearly every year. Increasing routine surveillance funding should not be overlooked in dealing with a zoonotic disease whose primary reservoir is birds.

We strongly urge you to address the needs of agriculture preparedness and response as you develop your plans and strategies for protecting America from avian influenza.

Sincerely,

J. Carlton Courter

J. Carlton Courter III
President, NASDA
Commissioner, Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

cc:
Members of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Members of the House Agriculture Committee
Secretary Michael Chertoff, Department of Homeland Security
Secretary Mike Leavitt, Department of Health and Human Services
Secretary Mike Johanns, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Michael Sommers, Special Assistant to President Bush. for Food, Agriculture, and Trade Policy

The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.
World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

Joan Miller
Director-At-Large
Chair, CFA Legislative Committee
CFA Legislative Coordinator
[redacted]
San Diego, CA[redacted]

November 8, 2005

Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510 FAX 202/228-8282

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S 1139 (PAWS)

On behalf of the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. I request that our views regarding the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) be made part of the official public record.

CFA is a non-profit organization founded in 1906 and the world's largest registry of pedigreed cats with over 600 member clubs throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and other areas of the world.[1] The PAWS dramatically changes the concept of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) as established by Congress in 1966. CFA is concerned that portions of this bill pose a significant threat to the preservation of pedigreed cat breeds and the very existence of our organization. I regret that CFA, as a prominent stakeholder, was not given the opportunity to provide testimony at the above hearing

The following will outline our primary concern with the PAWS bill. Federal regulation of breeders selling direct to the public will not achieve the stated goals of this bill and would result in unintended consequences including several specific to breeders of pedigreed cats.

PAWS has been promoted as a way to diminish the problems related to substandard dog breeding facilities. The legislation is actually targeted toward breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public at retail and impacts sellers of other species as well. PAWS is based on assumptions that there is huge selling of pets through mass media channels direct to the public. A

[1] *CFA participants breed, register and show pedigreed cats. Part of CFA's mission is to enhance the well-being of all cats. Fanciers are active in cat health promotion, cat breed rescue, shelter support and other animal related programs. CFA is a positive force that has helped to educate the general public about proper cat care, spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. CFA is proud of its self- regulation programs to encourage high standards of care for cats in multi-cat breeding environments. A "Breeder Code of Ethics" and breeder mentoring program are part of ongoing efforts to ensure responsible breeding programs and good feline husbandry.*

quantitative threshold method for exclusion has been established to determine an arbitrary definition of "commercial" over which all breeders/sellers would be USDA regulated.

There is no compelling reason to justify discarding the historic concept of the Animal Welfare Act. The wholesale selling of dogs and cats by breeders to brokers and pet stores or for research as well as those engaged in animal transport or animal exhibition has been long established as the activity representing commercial business that warrants federal regulation.

- **PAWS would extensively broaden federal regulation to include an unknown number of private home-based breeders who are not motivated by profit-making but instead are interested in preserving and improving upon their chosen breeds.** Home-raised pedigreed pets are desired by many in the general public who want healthy, well socialized pets with predictable characteristics. PAWS would discourage this optimum source of pets. If a large number of breeders reduce their breeding and selling activity to stay under the arbitrary threshold the public will be forced to find the breeds they desire from larger more commercial sources or through increased importing.

- **The PAWS bill uses quantitative thresholds intended to determine who is breeding/selling at a commercial level that supposedly warrants federal regulation.** These arbitrary thresholds are derived from the American Kennel Club's idea of breeders with "high volume" activity (7 litters or more or the sale of 26 or more). Because of reproductive differences in cats this concept is entirely unrealistic for cat fanciers and means breeders with as few as 4 or 5 intact females would be regulated by the federal government.[2]
- **The PAWS thresholds do not take into consideration feline husbandry issues or reproductive physiology, which differ significantly from those of dogs.** Cats come in heat year round with periods of rest every 2 to 19 days if not bred. The norm for domestic cats is to have two litters per year. Queens vary in cycling frequency and cats in some breeds do have fewer estrus cycles. [3] Generally for most breeds litters spaced every 8 to 9 months apart is optimum when considering the health of the cat. However, when female cycling is continuous, holding off cats from pregnancy can lead to health problems such as uterine infection, loss of body condition and stress-related conditions. A breeder has few choices. Side effects preclude the use of contraceptive drugs for avoiding reproduction in felines. Progressive uterine disease in an unmated female cat is also an important cause of infertility. [4]
- **The quantitative measure includes private home breeders of pedigreed cats with small or moderate breeding programs.** It is this core group of breeders that assures genetic diversity. They produce bloodlines critical to the preservation of many rare and beautiful cat breeds. They provide high quality cats with outstanding pedigrees to other smaller and more novice breeders/show exhibitors. [5] These catteries with 5 or more female cats are not sub-standard "facilities" that justify regulation. CFA registration records for 2004 show that 1136 breeders registered 7 or more litters (1248 in 2003). Moderate sized catteries with serious breeding programs fall in this range.
- **CFA is unaware of any demonstrated need for federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public.** Claims by supporters of PAWS that there is a growing problem of dogs or cats sold through mass media channels or the Internet are anecdotal and not verified by any facts, examples or data. This is especially true for cats. Several studies show

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[2] *Five female cats may have 1.5 to 2 litters per year with an average of 4.2 kittens per litter – this can easily mean 7 or more litters and more than 26 kittens to sell.*
[3] *"Feline Reproduction and Breeding Management" (2005), Susan Little, DVM, Dip.ABVP, Certified Feline Practice.*
[4] *Feline Husbandry; Niels Pedersen, DVM, Ch.3 "Reproduction and Reproductive Disorders, pg.134, pg. 144,pg. 147*
[5] *Feline Husbandry; N. Pedersen and Joan (Wastlhuber) Miller. Ch.8 Cattery Design and Management.*

that over 90% of all cats in American households are random-bred and not pedigreed. At least 34% of cats arrive as strays. Most owned cats are spayed/neutered (85% to 87%), few are obtained from pet stores other than through adoption events and only 3% of owned cats are obtained from breeders.[6] Large commercial breeding of cats simply does not exist to any great extent either at the wholesale level or retail. Commercial cat breeding on a large scale is neither a viable nor profitable business venture because of the well known vulnerability of cats to infectious diseases and stress-related factors.

This legislation asserts that it is necessary to federalize the breeding of dogs and cats sold directly to the public because there is an increase in selling through mass media channels such as the Internet.

- **The advertising of cats through the Internet has no inherent relationship to large commercial selling nor does this imply inhumane conditions for animals.** Cat breeds are rare and almost all hobby breeders have websites to reach a desiring public throughout the US. Because of the many excellent Internet sources for educational material, including those of CFA and AKC, cat and dog buyers are more aware than ever concerning the informed selection of a breed to meet their expectations and how to find a reputable breeder.[7] The Internet is merely a newer, more efficient, method of communication between buyer and seller. The Internet is also widely accepted as a way for shelters to reach potential pet owners. Utilizing this means of communication has no relationship to a need for federal licensing.

- **The market for rare breeds has always necessitated interstate communication, advertising and transportation**. Dogs and cats have traditionally been sold through newspaper ads and national magazines and often shipped sight unseen to the new pet owner following lengthy communication/phone calls. Often there will be in-person meetings arranged or references provided.

Cat and dog breeders who are over the thresholds established by PAWS and raise their kittens/puppies in a home environment would be seriously discouraged from continuing.

- **The USDA standards of care are not appropriate for residential environments.** Federal housing facility standards emphasize hard surfaces and regular sanitizing. We question the feasibility or possibility of creating special "residential" standards for home based breeders. There will not be two "classes" of Class A Dealers. Compromising on the regulations in order to accommodate the newly added home breeder-dealers may potentially lessen the enforcement of the AWA standards of care for existing Class A wholesaler-broker-dealers. This is not in the best interests of animals.

- **Self-regulation of cat breeders selling at retail is accomplished by the Cat Fanciers' Association.** CFA has a successful Voluntary Cattery Environment Inspection Program. Veterinary inspection enables breeders to proudly advertise a CFA approved or "Cattery of Excellence".[8] CFA considers catteries that register litters representing 75 kittens or more in a

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[6] *American Pet Product Manufacturers Association National Pet Owners Surveys.*
[7] *http://www.cfa.org/cbrs.html*
www.akc.org

[8] http://www.cfa.org/articles/cattery-inspection.html

year to be "high volume", which triggers a required veterinary inspection. In the year 2004 there were only 66 catteries that registered more than 20 litters with CFA (21 litters x 3.6 kittens average would = 75) in the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and elsewhere.

There are numerous unknown or unintended consequences of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 that could affect both the USDA and individual breeders.

- **The PAWS could greatly overextend the enforcement capacity of the USDA**. The numbers of facilities/homes that would be added cannot be accurately determined but a reasonable estimate is 4000 or 5000 AKC dog breeders and 1200 CFA cat breeders, plus those of other registries, added to the existing 3000 Class A Dealers. When the "facility" is the entire residence and breeding cats are in bedrooms or wandering throughout mingling with spayed and neutered household pets USDA inspectors would face unanticipated challenges. Since most home-based breeders work at a job elsewhere inspectors would experience many "call-backs". All of this is a waste of taxpayers' money and diverts the resources of the USDA from focusing on the business motivated and truly large sub-standard facilities as intended by the AWA. There is no authority in the current AWA to allow non-governmental organizations to take on kennel/cattery inspections.

- **Federal regulation of breeders selling at retail from their homes may mean individuals could face unintended problems.** Zoning laws in local jurisdictions would consider a USDA licensed facility or activity to be a commercial business and individuals could be forced to move or to apply for difficult-to-obtain variances. Extensive record keeping, health certificates, fees and unknown penalties for violations would be a substantial burden for most small/moderate private home breeders. Public availability of information concerning the names/addresses of breeders or buyers would be a privacy and security concern for residential breeders.

- **Factors related to those who rescue cats/dogs have not been considered.** Cat breeders sometimes take in, neuter, advertise and sell stray cats, rescued cats or cats bred by co-owners living elsewhere. Clubs and breeders are rarely entities exempt under IRC Sec. 501 (c)(3). Breeders of pedigreed cats may have fewer than 6 litters yet they could sell over 25 kittens/cats in a year including strays or rescues not "bred or raised on the premises" and would have to be licensed as a dealer. Rescuers charging "adoption fees" are selling animals "for compensation or profit" – there is no distinction in the AWA. The AWA currently does not regulate any direct retail sellers, including shelters or rescue groups/individuals. With the broadening of the AWA through SB 1139, and considering many rescuers are involved in interstate activities including transporting of cats/dogs, it is unlikely that these groups could reasonably be exempted, while breeders would be licensed. Many individuals would be forced to discontinue accepting rescued cats in order to stay under the threshold of 25 sales or less.

The Pet Animal Welfare Statute is not sufficiently thought out and is entirely too broad. The negative consequences are not balanced by worthy benefits for cats. There is a growing demand for well bred healthy pedigreed cats by those who appreciate their predictable personalities and appearance. This bill will discourage the public's best source of home-raised, well socialized kittens/cats.

All states have animal cruelty laws properly targeted to inhumane conditions for animals whether in a commercial or home setting. In some states there may be commercial breeding of dogs at a level that warrants facility licensing but safeguarding the welfare of these dogs can and has been accomplished on the state level. Whenever there are reports of animal neglect or abuse involving large numbers of cats it

is usually related to the mental illness of "hoarding" and almost always the animals on the premises include stray or rescued cats. This addiction-related phenomenon can occur whether or not there is any breeding or sales of cats. The PAWS would have no impact on this particular animal welfare problem.

CFA encourages better enforcement of the AWA to protect the welfare of animals in facilities that breed and sell dogs and cats to the pet trade. We request that you consider limiting this bill to language that would increase the ability of the USDA to better enforce regulation of existing licensees. Should the PAWS be amended to exclusively address these matters CFA would reconsider our opposition.

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Miller
[redacted]
[redacted]m

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

From: Theresa "Terrie" Griffith
17214 FAA Road
Alvin, TX 77511

Subject: Protect Hobby Breeders/Exhibitors Do Not Support S. 1139

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S. 1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Few puppy mills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill and protect my personal freedom and privacy. The favor of a reply is requested. Thank you.

Theresa Griffith

FROM: Ann Adair
22 Broad St. Apt. #310
Marlboro, MA 01752
508-460-6487

Title submittals as: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282
Email: Jeff_Stoltzfoos@santorum.senate.gov

Dear Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen,

I am against S1139, and I urge you to vote against it. It is not in the best interest of this country, and I will explain my reasoning to you.

1. S.1139 will do Nothing to change the situation for those animals which are homeless or unspayed/unneutered. If offers no money or incentives to the individuals who do not alter their animals. It offers no low cost spay/neuter clinics. It offers no educational clinics to help teach those who do not alter their animals. It offers no money to shelters to help innovate their procedures. It is not the responsible people who are the problem, it is those who are irresponsible. It is not the responsible pet owner who is the problem, it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of spaying or neutering a pet, and it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of caring for those animals when they are born as a result of the owners not be able to afford to spay/neuter the pets. It is a fallacy to believe otherwise.

2. In 2003, the USDA won a hard fought court case against the DDAL that has protected hobby breeders from USDA Regulations. (DDAL v Venneman Appellate Decision) The AKC was another organization who fought along with the USDA to protect hobby breeders. PAWS will negate this ruling, and the DDAL will be back in court to revisit this ruling before the ink is dry on S. 1139. PAWS is just another version of the law which the USDA and the AKC fought to vehemently against those few years ago.

3. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

4. WE have had significant losses of life in the various wars we are involved in overseas. These wars are costing millions of dollars of taxpayers' money per day. Additionally, damages range in the billions of dollars, thanks to the hurricanes. The USA can NOT afford such a piece of legislation, especially when there are laws all ready in existence to enforce the protection of animals, if only they would be utilized in the appropriate manners.

5. S. 1139 does Not "close a loophole" in the AWA, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of animals in a home environment.

6. PAWS does NOT , will Not, change the conditions where the animal is bred, if it is done so in another country. This bill on prescribes that someone importing over a certain number of dogs/cats would have to be licensed and regulated. If importation of disease is a concern, enforcing quarantine is the way to go, but this is not a USDA function. If one is worried about how the animals are raised in the country of origin, PAWS does nothing. If one is against the importation of a large number of pets, and there is little evidence that a large proportion of pets are imported, this will not "prevent" the importation, except by making the process onerous, which affects the people who do it the right way at least as much as those who do it wrong. The animal smugglers in border areas will not bother with the new regulations anymore than they do with the existing ones, while anyone who actually declares the imports and takes good care of quality animals will get wound up in Red Tape.

7. The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at NO COST to the taxpayers. Short – and long-term foster homes are one or the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel or animal shelter. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated.

8. The citizens of the USA have the right to choose where they want to get their pets. The animal rights agenda is more concerned about people adopting from shelters or rescue organizations, but many people do not want a pet that way. Millions would prefer to have a puppy or a kitten. Millions would prefer a pure breed puppy or kitten. It is their rights, in our country, to have this right, but PAWS, as well as the HSUS, DDAL and PETA are threatening to take this right away. Would Senator Santorum give up his dog, which had a litter of pups? By the way, this is the same dog he bought from a dog breeder.

9. Our senators and representatives in Washington, DC must be held responsible and accountable. There can be no more "canned responses" of how the "Majority" are for PAWS. The USA is not a Majority rule nation. If it were, we would still have segregation and anti-discrimination laws. Why are our senators and representatives catering to Santorum and the AR movement? Why are they ignoring us and believing the rhetoric of the AR movement. Do any of them really and truly know what the Animal Rights movement is about? Do they care? How many of them have been to a dog show? Cat Show? How many of them have seen what a monkey or rabbit can do to help a senior citizen or child? Will goldfish breeders have to adhere to these impossible standards, too?

Finally,

10. The following email is from an Animal Rights activist and this shows the agenda, written and unwritten, for most Animal Rights organizations.

Thank you for permitting me to have my say against this awful proposal S.1139.

Sincerely,

Ann Adair

TO: Senate Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
FROM: Lisa Pinto, Registered Voter
SUBJECT: S1139/HR2669 PET ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTE, NOV. 8 HEARING - OPPOSITION

Dear Senators,

I am writing to voice my extreme opposition to S1139, 'PAWS'. I also strongly object to the one-sided hearing to take place on November 8.

I am very dismayed that there seems to be no speakers scheduled to present an educated, rational opposition to the bill. All you have before you that day are Animal Rights groups, (HSUS, DDAL), an animal rights shelter worker (Norma Worley), the AKC (toady of the HSUS and DDAL) and a hand-picked (by the AKC) so-called representative of the dog fancy (Mr. Hoffman, I believe is his name).

I am appalled at the lack of MY representation in this important legislative hearing.

PAWS is a bad bill, and more than 400 animal clubs of all stripes (dog clubs, cat clubs, other animal clubs, animal rescues and hunting and sportsman's groups) have come out as formally opposed to this VERY BAD BILL.

Please, I urge you, do your research and once you have done your research you will see how harmful this law will be.

I am vehemently opposed to a bill touted by an individual like Wayne Pacelle, who has gone on record saying he has no problem with the extinction of domestic animals, and that he intends to eradicate all hunting.

How can you let groups with these types of philosophies to set policy regarding animals, agriculture, hunting, etc.? It would be a travesty.

S1139/HR2669 does not 'close a loophole' in the Animal Welfare Act. Proponents clain there are large, substandard commercial breeders 'eluding' the law and 'abusing' animals. Large, wholesale commercial facilities ARE ALREADY REGULATED by the AWA. Any other substandard breeder falls under local animal welfare and cruelty statutes. Don't pass more laws, enforce the ones we already have!

The USDA never intended to regulate retail sales of pets and this is what S1139/HR2669 intends to do - remove the distinction between wholesale and retail.

It has already been decided in court that the separation stands. S1139/HR2669 is yet another attempt to negate this ruling.

PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN - VOTE 'NO' ON PAWS!

The favor of a reply is requested.

Respectfully,

Lisa Pinto
6959 Orchard Station Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-792-9288

Tidewater Bichon Frise Rescue

P.O. Box 8084
Suffolk, VA 23438
www.virginiabichonrescue.org
email: whitedogresq@yahoo.com

October 28, 2005

I am making my opposition to S.1139 "PAWS" known and wish it included in the Official Record.

S. 1139 Will Devastate Animal Rescue

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S. 1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subjected to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working home-based, volunteer, animal rescue groups across the nation, while doing nothing to curb the national disgrace of "puppy mills".

Roberta J. Gray

Roberta J Gray, Director and President

Elaine M. Robertson
501 V.E.S. Road
Lynchburg, VA 24503

Date: October 28, 2005

Deliver to: Jacob Chaney,
Deputy Hearing Clerk

Firm: U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee **OPPOSITION to S. 1139, PAWS.**

Facsimile Number: (202) 224-1725

From: Elaine M. Robertson

I am making my opposition to S.1139 "PAWS" known and wish it included in the Official Record. S. 1139 Will Devastate Animal Rescue

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S. 1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subjected to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working home-based, volunteer, animal rescue groups across the nation, while doing nothing to curb the national disgrace of "puppy mills" that only care about making a dollar for profit. Animal rescue groups care about the animals and go to great lengths to save them from neglect, abuse, often times unnecessary death, and find homes for them where they are loved and cared for.

SHREVEPORT KENNEL CLUB
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

8675 Grover Place
Shreveport, LA 71115

October 31, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282

Dear Senators,

S1139/HR2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005, has been introduced as a bill to "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act. This bill is being misrepresented by the animal rights groups and allows them to use government to further their extremist agenda.

It is the opinion of our club members that PAWS is a direct attack on U. S. hobby breeders, animal rescuers, sportsmen, etc. At the August, 2006 meeting of the Shreveport Kennel Club, it was voted on unanimously to go on record in opposition to PAWS in its present form.

Please do not burden USDA with additional legislation that they have neither the funds nor the manpower to enforce.

Please vote NO to PAWS.

Respectfully,

Joan R. Morehead
President

TO: Senate Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
FROM: Lisa Pinto, Registered Voter
SUBJECT: S1139 PET ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTE - PAWS - OPPOSITION

Dear Sentaors,

I am strongly opposed to S1139 and I am extremely distressed to read about the patently one-sided hearing the bill is scheduled to receive on November 8.

This is a no-good bill. It will harm hobby breeders, rescuers, hunters, and retail sellers of dogs, cats and other pets.

This bill is being relentlessly pushed by DDAL, HSUS, and inexplicably, the AKC, none of which represent me or the more than 400 animal related rescues and clubs who are formally opposed to S1139.

Please do your homework on DDAL and HSUS. Their goal is to end breeding of pets and in the case of the HSUS, to end all hunting, and end all use of domestic animals.

Please don't be fooled by the term 'Animal Welfare' when applied to groups like this. They are not animal welfare, they are Animal Rights.

In light of the shocking revelations during the eco-terrorism hearings this week (actually it isn't shocking to those of us battling animal rights groups, we have been aware of this violent philosophy for years), I urge you to take a closer look at Animal Welfare vs. Animal Rights, and to learn what the HSUS, DDAL, and other radical animal rights groups really stand for.

Terrorists like those at the hearings this week, and groups like PETA only serve to make DDAL and HSUS look harmless and mainstream. They are not.

Wayne Pacelle, scheduled to speak at the so-called S1139 hearing has been quoted saying his organization's goal is to end all hunting, one state at a time. He has also been quoted as saying he has no problem with the extinction of domestic animals.

Please do not let these groups set animal, livestock, agriculture or hunting policy. Our rights as citizens are at risk.

S1139 does nothing to 'close a loophole' in the AWA; What it will do is remove the distinction between wholesale and retail sales. It is not the intent of the AWA to regulate retail pet sales, and this has been supported in court (DDAL vs. Veneman USDA). Groups represented by the speakers at the hearing wish very badly to regulate every breeding and every sale and the day-to-day care of every pet in the USA. I and many others will not stand for that.

PLEASE VOTE 'NO' ON S1139 PAWS!

Respectfully,

Lisa Pinto

Lisa Pinto
6959 Orchard Station Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-792-9288

SOUTHEAST BLOODHOUND RESCUE, INC

% JOYCE DILLON
280 SALT MEADOW COVE
KIAWAH ISLAND, SC 29455
843-768-8913
Fax 843-768-0210
Web address WWW.SOUTHEASTBLOODHOUNDRESCUE..ORG
E-MAIL: bloodhiesrescue@aol.com

To:	Senate Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Subcommittee	From:	Joyce Dillon, SEBR
Fax:	1202-228-8282	Pages:	1
Phone:		Date:	10/29/2005 11:30 PM
Re:	Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)	cc:	

Comments:

Please consider the above bill with the utmost caution. It is detrimental to rescue organization such as our and will virtually put us out of business in our pursuit for save unwanted and abandoned bloodhounds. We will not be able to receive reimbursement for expenses. Under our current operating procedure, adoption fees are charged in order to pay for the spaying/neutering of these dogs, bring them up to date on their vaccinations and rabies and test and treat if necessary for heart worm. Under this bill, we become dealers.....

Many of the dogs that we currently house with foster families will have to end up in the gas chambers of the shelters or with a needle in their paws, because our fosters will be restricted to the number of dogs that they can have on their property. Most of our foster families have dogs of their own and they will be restricted on taking any more dogs on the property...no homes, no fosters, DEAD DOGS....we will have no way to help them as we do now.

My van would not be considered big enough even for my own two dogs under this bill much less big enough to transport rescue dogs to their foster homes.

Bedding in closed containers....come on be realistic. Our dogs use their beds all day long, sometimes this is the only stability our foster dogs have is their own bed and to keep it in a sealed container?

We try to save as many of these great hounds as we can, we have a volunteer staff that gives much more of themselves then they get in return. Our return: knowing that a homeless dog is now safe and will find a forever home where he/she will be loved and cared for. Your passing this bill will end all of this.

As the Director of Southeast Bloodhound Rescue, Inc. I have been authorized to voice the consensus of opinion of our membership and Board of Director. Our membership is from Virginia South to Florida, West to Louisiana, North to Tennessee and back east again to the coast and with all the states in between. Our objective is to ask you not to support this bill. The AKC does not have our backing or the backing of the entire membership, many of the breed clubs, rescues and federations are against this bill and very few of us, if any, agree with the methods and goals of the Animal Rights Extremists (PETA). Left to them, there would be no dog ownership in this country.

Please, regulate the commercial dog breeders, the dog sellers that supply laboratories and other illegal activities. The Hobby Breeder, fancier of the breed and rescues will only be hurt by this bill and the commercial dog breeders and sellers will continue doing exactly what they are doing right now.

Thank you,

Joyce E. Dillon, Director

October 30, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

From: Lester Pinkard
301 Desert Willow Court
League City, Texas 77573

Subject: Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances. Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

PAWS is in direct conflict with the present position of the USDA in regards to regulating small-scale breeders. Please note that in the Doris Day Animal League lawsuit against the USDA, the US Court of Appeals decision of January, 2003, clearly recognizes and upholds the intent of Congress in the AWA to regulate commercial breeding operations that use middlemen to distribute their puppies and kittens in interstate commerce, and **not** to regulate the private residences of small-scale or hobby breeders. PAWS changes the basic AWA position of regulating wholesale operations to including the regulation of home-based retail operations, which will be an intrusion into private residences.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Lester Pinkard

October 30, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing
on S1139 (PAWS)
FAX: 202-228-8282

From: Robert Pinkard
301 Desert Willow Court
League City, TX 77573

Subject: Oppose S. 1139 (PAWS). Protect hobby breeders/exhibitors and rescuers.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances. Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139

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This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

PAWS doesn't just "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as supporters claim. PAWS is against individuals selling cats, dogs and other animals directly to the pet owning public. PAWS is a step to end breeding pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting. This is a dramatic change in the fundamental concept of the Animal Welfare Act, which was to license and regulate dealers who sell to the pet trade (pet stores and brokers), not hobby breeders!

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma, we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the post of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

Please protect hobby breeder/exhibitors and volunteer animal rescuers by opposing S. 1139 (PAWS). Thank you for all your help in defeating this unnecessary bill.

Robert Pinkard

Date: October 26, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
FAX: 202-228-8282

From: Emily Pinkard
301 Desert Willow Court
League City, Texas 77573
281-334-4046

Subject: **Vote "NO" to S. 1139**
S. 1139 Jeopardizes Volunteer Animal Rescuers
And In-home Hobby Breeders

S. 1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Rescue organizations will be in all probability eliminated, as they will never be able to comply with USDA care regulations, which are written to regulate commercial-scale-breeding facilities. Even the smallest of rescue organizations sell, or place 25 dogs/cats in one year, making them "dealers." Also, rescuers cannot 'just buy a license,' because if they are licensed they must keep all animals in a kennel. A 'kennel' with rescues is an 'animal shelter.' There is no structural way to change the rules to allow non-licensed rescue without creating enforcement loopholes.

It is not the role of the federal government to be a national humane agency or a control agency but to strike a balance between public oversight and individual freedom that is appropriate for the federal government.

PAWS is in direct conflict with the present position of the USDA in regards to regulating small-scale breeders. Please note that in the Doris Day Animal League lawsuit against the USDA, the US Court of Appeals decision of January, 2003, clearly recognizes and upholds the intent of Congress in the AWA to regulate commercial breeding operations that use middlemen to distribute their puppies and kittens in interstate commerce, and **not** to regulate the private residences of small-scale or hobby breeders. PAWS changes the basic AWA position of regulating wholesale operations to including the regulation of home-based retail operations, which will be an intrusion into private residences.

PAWS would dramatically alter the concept of the AWA as established by Congress many years ago. PAWS expands the AWA beyond its intended purpose of regulating wholesale breeders who use middlemen, to regulating retail sellers, including hobby dog and cat fanciers who sell more than 25 dogs or cats a year, or more than 6 litters a year. Please use the USDA's resources to focus on the large scale, high risk breeding operations that Congress intended the AWA to regulate. If there is a need to scrutinize the hobby and small scale breeders, please leave this to the local and state agencies, not the federal government.

Vote NO to this unnecessary bill (S1139) and save the taxpayer's money. A response to this letter is requested. Thank you for your consideration to my request.

October 28, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
FAX: 202-228-8282

From: C. E. Small
16709 County Road 191
Alvin, TX 77511

Subject: S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' and rescuers' homes.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already "stretched to the limit" federal budget.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Rescue operations are virtually always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employee comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

If U.S. hobby breeders and rescuers are burdened with federal regulation it will be creating an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in internet sales, which many are already complaining about. Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S. 1139 wipes out the 2003 Court of Appeals decision that is was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

In summary S. 1139 is an unnecessary uncalled-for law that will result in a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars not to mention an unprecedented intrusion of personal freedom and privacy in hobby breeders' and rescuers' homes. The favor of a reply is requested. Thank you. .

October 27, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
FAX: 202-228-8282

From: Guana Small
16709 County Road 191
Alvin, Texas 77511

Subject: **Oppose S1139** – Protect Hobby Breeders/Exhibitors and Animal Rescuers

Home breeders and volunteer animal rescuers do not need to be subject to federal regulations. Existing local and state laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139(PAWS) when enforced.

PAWS doesn't just "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as supporters claim. PAWS is against individuals selling cats, dogs and other animals directly to the pet owning public. PAWS is a step to end breeding purebred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting. This is a dramatic change in the fundamental concept of the Animal Welfare Act, which was to license and regulate dealers who sell to the pet trade (pet stores and brokers) not hobby breeders.

PAWS federalizes the breeding of home-raised animals - the optimum source of well socialized pets. If fanciers and hobby breeders are forced to discontinue or reduce their breeding programs, the public demand for well socialized pets will not be met. Fewer enthusiasts will result in the loss of genetic diversity, and many rare breeds will become extinct.

PAWS does not benefit the welfare of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. In fact, adding thousands of cat and dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly overburden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Animal Welfare Act at all. Where will the additional money come from to enforce S1139?.

PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." Please protect hobby breeders/exhibitors and animal rescuers by opposing S1139 (PAWS).

Please oppose this unnecessary bill and protect my personal freedom and privacy. The favor of a reply is requested. Thank you.

G Small

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing
on S1139 (PAWS
Fax: 202-228-8282

Subject: **Oppose S. 1139 (PAWS)**

Please **oppose S. 1139**. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

By overburdening the breeders of the best U.S. pet dogs and cats, PAWS will force them out of their hobby. Replacement animals will come from foreign countries where there is no U.S. control over breeding conditions.

Few puppy millers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to **vote against S.1139.** Please acknowledge receipt of this fax.

Respectfully,

Margaret Small

Margaret Small
16709 County Road 191
Alvin, TX 77511

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing
on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

Subject: Oppose S. 1139 PAWS

Please **oppose S.1139** and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

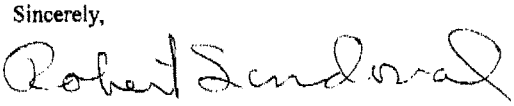
Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

S. 1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Please **vote against S.1139** and protect our freedom and privacy rights. The favor of a reply is requested.

Sincerely,



Robert Sandoval
7814 Leaning Oak Drive
Texas City, TX 77591

183 Prospect Hill Road
Harvard, MA 01451
August 29, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S.1139 (PAWS)
VIA Facsimile: (202) 228-8282
Re: OPPOSE PAWS (S.1139 / HR.2669)

Dear Senate Subcommittee Members:

I am writing to ask that you OPPOSE the proposed Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005, known as PAWS (S.1139 / H.R. 2669). Please make my comments part of the hearing's official record.

I am a registered voter and a pet owner who enjoys competing with my dogs in AKC obedience and agility activities. I bred one litter 10 years ago and don't intend to breed any more, but I know the issues. After reading S.1139, an amendment increasing the types of pet breeders required to be regulated by the USDA under the Animal Welfare Act, I can see that **PAWS would not do what its sponsors say it would do.**

Then why is it proposed? Because, strange as it may seem to normal people, **there are people out there who think that animals are better off dead than having to live with humans.** Those people are leaders of HSUS (Humane Society of the United States), ASPCA, PETA, Doris Day Animal League, and many other "animal rights" groups. Most of their contributors and even many of their followers don't understand the organizations' true intent, although the leaders have repeatedly and publicly declared their beliefs and their intention to use any means available, including domestic terrorism, to force them on the rest of our country. These are the groups that wrote the PAWS legislation.

The main effects of PAWS would be to regulate smaller pet breeders out of existence, resulting in a lower quality of all types of pets available to the public, and to immediately eliminate all purebred cat breeding. Cats have different health issues from dogs and cannot be bred in commercial facilities. In addition to dogs and cats, **PAWS would also federally regulate and thus harm breeders of rabbits, birds, and all small, warm-blooded pets. It would also eliminate private nonprofit pet rescue.**

PAWS would not close down "puppy mills" (as commercial breeders are often called) because "puppy mills" are legal and have been under federal Animal Welfare Act regulation and inspection for 30 years. As a result, most of the abusive commercial breeders have been cleaned up. The few that are still abusive would not be affected by PAWS because PAWS has no provisions about animal abuse.

And, by the way, the reason "puppy mill" animals are pictured in depressing rows of cement or wire cages is that the federal regulations require it. PAWS would make almost all pet breeders subject to these regulations.

It does not address the quality or health of pets in any way. Many people assume that simply requiring government inspections will have that result, but because the regulations are too rigid and "one-size-fits-all," and because they are interpreted and enforced erratically by fallible and frequently ignorant bureaucrats and often used to harass breeders, that is not true.

It would not affect most animal abusers in our society, because now that commercial breeders have been cleaned up, most abusers are either hoarders (who rarely breed and never sell), backyard breeders (who don't breed enough to qualify under the new or old licensing rules), or simply ignorant owners of one or a few pets. These and all types of animal abuse are already well covered by state and local humane, nuisance, and health laws. If these laws are not being enforced, start an enforcement campaign! More federal laws are not needed.

It is not limited to breeders/sellers of more than 6 litters / 25 dogs or cats. There are several exceptions and convoluted rules lowering the threshold down to one animal for many breeders, and the animal rights coalition intends to file a federal suit to bring the threshold numbers down to one for everyone. They have already done so more than once (*Doris Day Animal League vs. USDA*). They have also successfully campaigned for similar changes in some state and local laws.

It would not prevent deceptive selling of imported dogs and cats. The bill contains no import control provisions, and there is no documented proof that the problem is major enough to require additional intervention, anyway.

It would not improve the quality of pets sold through the Internet, because the internet is just an advertising method. The Internet has also given the consumer more opportunity to learn what to look for, find out about breeders' reputations, and decide among many choices of puppies or kittens, as well as providing a breeder with many more choices of good homes for her puppies or kittens.

The reason PAWS would not stop puppy mills and abuse or improve importing, internet sales, or quality of pets is that PAWS has no provisions regarding any of those issues. **In fact, PAWS would actually make all those things WORSE.**

All PAWS does is increase the types of breeders and sellers of dogs and cats who require licensing -- by adding smaller, in-home hobby breeders to the larger commercial kennels that are already covered. These smaller breeders already have cleaner, healthier, kinder facilities, producing better quality puppies, than the commercial breeders.

PAWS would not "close loopholes." The so-called loopholes consist of only one thing, the retail exclusion from USDA licensing – and that is not a loophole, but a safety valve for the whole pet industry and a protection for the constitutional freedoms of people pursuing a private hobby (not a business) in their own homes without making a profit. PAWS changes the criteria for requiring licensing from (1) whether the animals are sold wholesale or retail, to (2) how many are sold. The effect of this change would be to add only smaller breeders, because all the larger breeders are already commercial. This is because no one can sell large numbers of purebred, high-priced puppies or kittens directly to the public-- it simply takes too much time, 1 to 2 hours per buyer every time they come to see the animals, and much more than that in on-line or telephone time per puppy, not to mention driving to the airport to ship those going long distances. Nobody could do that with very many puppies -- there aren't enough hours in the day! That's why commercial breeders sell through dealers and pet shops. Maybe a very few mid-sized breeders would be added, but mostly it would be small ones.

What's more, **this so-called loophole is in fact the safety valve of the whole purebred pet supply system.** The presence of so many people learning and studying and competing and breeding for the love of it (in many cases with money as no object) produces much higher quality animals than commercial breeders, improves pets' overall health and welfare, increases our knowledge about all aspects of animal care, and educates the general public about pets. It keeps pet prices in reach of ordinary middle class citizens and forces commercial breeders to do a better job or lose sales to the home breeders. It also creates a lot more interest in owning pets, as well as a multi-billion-dollar industry in pet care products and services – vets, trainers, groomers, boarding kennels, training classes, private research funding, food, equipment, shows, travel (including hotels, restaurants, transportation, use of convention facilities), insurance, and so on.

Small breeders and hobbyists would be regulated out of existence because PAWS would require them to pay expensive fees, have their homes invaded for surprise inspections, do onerous paperwork, and, worst of all, build expensive new facilities. The USDA regulations do not allow pet breeding in a home, but only in a factory-style building, nor is there any way to change this rule without creating loopholes for commercial breeders. Most smaller breeders currently breed as a money-losing hobby -- for fun. It would not be fun any more, nor would it be affordable, and most would quit.

In the case of dogs, their departure would increase the current shortage and thus the price of purebred puppies available, because most purebreds in the US are bred by small, home breeders (commercial breeders only breed about 10 percent), and because all that talk you hear about "pet overpopulation" is simply a myth. It may have been true in the 1960s, but is no longer true. Educating dog owners to spay and neuter their dogs has been very successful. Shelters in many parts of the country are now importing feral strays from third-world countries to fill the need. PAWS would increase the demand for imports, both purebred and mixed, and the US cannot control how these imports would be bred and treated.

In the case of cats and the other types of pets that would be affected by PAWS there is, in fact, virtually no commercial breeding for pet sales and PAWS would make many of these species unavailable except to the very rich.

The PAWS bill is not a breeder issue -- it is an owner issue. If the best breeders are regulated out of existence, there will be nowhere for us pet owners to get the pets we want, well socialized to live in a home, bred to look and act like the breeds we now know, healthy and screened for genetic diseases, and affordably priced. Everyone who wants to own a pet is affected by this legislation.

Although I am a lifelong competitor in AKC events, AKC does not speak for me, and I DO NOT support the AKC's support of PAWS.

Please vote NO on PAWS. It would irrevocably damage all pet breeding in this country.
Sincerely, Bonnie J. Chandler

Bonnie Chandler
183 Prospect Hill Road, Harvard, MA 01451
978-456-3169 jbchandler@verizon.net

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing
on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

Subject: Oppose S. 1139

I ask that you **oppose S.1139**. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

S. 1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Please **vote against S.1139** and protect our privacy rights. Please favor me with a reply.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Karen MacLeod

Karen MacLeod
210 Smith Village Drive #13
Alvin, TX 77511

Tracey A Johnston
N93 W17291 Devon Wood Rd.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
262-255-3858
Crzy1ess@execpc.com

October 27, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282

Dear committee members;

I would like this letter included in the record of opposition to S1139. The hearing scheduled for November 8, 2005, is being chaired by the bills sponsor – Senator Rick Santorum. The people testifying on behalf of animal interest groups include Ronald Menaker from the American Kennel Club, John E Hoffman, dog fancier and Dr. Henry E. Childers, President of the American Veterinary Medical Association . None of these gentlemen represent my interests or concerns regarding this bill. None of these gentlemen represent the over 300 animal organizations and thousands of individuals that have sent letters of opposition to congress.

As briefly as possible, the following are my main objections to this bill:

- The bill is so poorly written, it will take years and thousands of tax payer dollars to actually clarify the bill's intent.
- Numerical limits can always be changed.
- The bill will effectively kill pure bred animal rescue organizations due to the numerical limits stated.
- AKC keeps telling the dog fanciers that this bill will clarify who is a dealer and who is a hobbyist. That is not true. In the Supreme Court case of DDAL vs. Ann Veneman, the clarification was already given.
- As a breeder/hobbyist, I will not allow my pups to be raised in a sterile kennel and abide by AWA rules and regulations. My puppies are raised in my home, on fleece (not concrete) and spend time with other adult dogs other than their dam. If I were to follow the AWA rules and regulations, my puppies would not be raised in the manner necessary to fulfill their potential.
- AKC is also telling the dog fanciers that there is a problem with inferior dogs being imported. They have yet to produce hard evidence that this is a problem. The only problems that we (the fancy) are aware of are the dogs that are imported by some Local Animal Rescues as a publicity stunt. Most importantly, this bill does not even address this so called problem.

This bill has effectively torn the dog hobbyists apart. There are some that chose to believe what they've been told by AKC, others who are aware of the inherent problems with the bill. There are even AKC board members who voted against the support of this bill.

Again, this hearing does not represent the majority of animal fanciers of the United States as every person giving testimony is in support of this bill. If the chairman of the committee hearing refuses to acknowledge the opposition, should he not excuse himself from the hearing due to conflict of interest?

Respectfully,

Tracey A Johnston

SUBJECT: "Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

REQUEST THAT OUR VIEWS BE MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD.

The Florida Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (FAOA) is a political lobbying group dedicated to protecting animal owners, users and enthusiasts against proposed legislation, harassment and propaganda put forth by animal rights activists. Our membership includes hunters, fishermen, trappers, gun enthusiasts, research scientists, rodeo enthusiasts, working ranches and farms, horsemen, cattlemen, pork and poultry producers, dog sportsmen, obedience trainers, and dog and cat producers, both professional and hobbyists. We support proper care and treatment of animals but do not believe that animals are superior or equal to humans. The FAOA Executive Board is STRONGLY opposed to S. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 for the following reasons:

- *S. 1139 will have absolutely no affect whatsoever on sub-standard kennels in foreign countries as the USDA will have no authority to inspect these facilities.*
- *The use of numbers to define whether or not a breeder's premises should be inspected is arbitrary and capricious. Some breeders can raise more than seven litters in state-of-the-art facilities – others raise one litter (no licensing required) in conditions that are sub-standard.*
- *The Animal Welfare Act originally intended to regulate commercial breeders who sold at wholesale. Breeders who sell directly to the public have public oversight of their operations.*
- *There is no substantive evidence that breeders who sell via the internet are producing puppies/kittens raised in sub-standard facilities or puppies/kittens with health/temperament issues. The internet has produced opportunities for consumers to become more informed before making a purchase.*
- *The cost of the federalization of breeding programs will be cost-prohibitive. In an era where our Government has to deal with terrorism, the costs of natural disasters such as Katrina and Rita, health and welfare issues, etc/ – surely the United States government has better things to spend tax dollars on than the inspection of kitten/puppy breeders' facilities.*

While the American Kennel Club has in the past always supported reasonable legislation for the protection and welfare of purebred dogs, they certainly do not speak for ALL animal welfare groups. We feel they are severely misguided in their support of this legislation and certainly do NOT speak for FAOA's constituency.

For the above reasons, FAOA asks that you vote NO on S. 1139.

Sincerely,

Pat Hawk
President
Florida Animal Owners Alliance, Inc.

SUBJECT: **"Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)**

REQUEST THAT OUR VIEWS BE MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD.

The Florida Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (FAOA) is a political lobbying group dedicated to protecting animal owners, users and enthusiasts against proposed legislation, harassment and propaganda put forth by animal rights activists. Our membership includes hunters, fishermen, trappers, gun enthusiasts, research scientists, rodeo enthusiasts, working ranches and farms, horsemen, cattlemen, pork and poultry producers, dog sportsmen, obedience trainers, and dog and cat producers, both professional and hobbyists. We support proper care and treatment of animals but do not believe that animals are superior or equal to humans. The FAOA Executive Board is STRONGLY *opposed to S. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 for the following reasons:*

- *S. 1139 will have absolutely no affect whatsoever on sub-standard kennels in foreign countries as the USDA will have no authority to inspect these facilities.*
- *The use of numbers to define whether or not a breeder's premises should be inspected is arbitrary and capricious. Some breeders can raise more than seven litters in state-of-the-art facilities – others raise one litter (no licensing required) in conditions that are sub-standard.*
- *The Animal Welfare Act originally intended to regulate commercial breeders who sold at wholesale. Breeders who sell directly to the public have public oversight of their operations.*
- *There is no substantive evidence that breeders who sell via the internet are producing puppies/kittens raised in sub-standard facilities or puppies/kittens with health/temperament issues. The internet has produced opportunities for consumers to become more informed before making a purchase.*
- *The cost of the federalization of breeding programs will be cost-prohibitive. In an era where our Government has to deal with terrorism, the costs of natural disasters such as Katrina and Rita, health and welfare issues, etc/ – surely the United States government has better things to spend tax dollars on than the inspection of kitten/puppy breeders' facilities.*

While the American Kennel Club has in the past always supported reasonable legislation for the protection and welfare of purebred dogs, they certainly do not speak for ALL animal welfare groups. We feel they are severely misguided in their support of this legislation and certainly do NOT speak for FAOA's constituency.

For the above reasons, FAOA asks that you vote NO on S. 1139.

Sincerely,

Pat Hawk
President
Florida Animal Owners Alliance, Inc.

To: Senator Santorum and Committee members

From: Members of Seacoast Cat Club
Marilyn Conde, Secretary

Date: Ocotber 27, 2005

Subject: Senate Bill 1139 Pet Animal Welfare Statute 2005 - OPPOSITION
We would like this to be made part of the Official Public Record.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Seacoast Cat Club, a New England based organization of twenty-six cat fanciers. We are opposed to "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) as it is written.

We believe that portions of this bill pose a definite threat to the preservation of pedigreed cat breeds and the very existence of out parent organization, the Cat fanciers' Association (CFA).

Some of our objections include:

- Federal regulation of breeders selling cats directly to the general ,public at retail as required by the PAWS is not appropriate. There is no reason to extensively broaden federal regulation to include an unknown number of private home-based breeders who are not motivated by profit-making but instead the goals of preserving and improving upon their chosen breeds.

- CFA is unaware of any demonstrated need for federal regulation of breeders selling cats to the general public. Studies show that over 90% of all cats in American households are random-bred strays. Only about 3% of owned cats are obtained from breeders. Large commercial breeding of cats does not exist because of the vulnerability of cats to stress-related factors.

- Self-regulation of cat breeders selling at retail is already accomplished by CFA.

- This legislation would hinder those who do rescue work. Many individuals who now are involved in rescue programs would discontinue accepting rescued cats for placement in order to stay under the threshold of 25 sales or less.

We support CFA's stand that there should be better enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act as established by Congress in 1966 to protect the welfare of animals. We are opposed to the passage of the PAWS legislation.

MC

October 24, 2005

Dear Legislator:

I am a breeder of Labrador Retrievers in the state of Pennsylvania and I am concerned. Once again, Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) is sponsoring legislation to try to impose additional restrictions on people who breed purebred dogs. In my state of Pennsylvania, anyone who houses more than 25 dogs in one calendar year is already subject to state licensing requirements and yearly kennel inspections. Buyers are further protected by the PA Puppy Lemon Law which states:

The buyer has 10 days to return the puppy/dog if it is diagnosed with, or dies from, a contagious or infectious disease, and 30 days to return the animal if it is diagnosed as having a congenital or hereditary defect. The purchaser can return the puppy/dog for a refund, return the dog for a replacement, provided one is available, or keep the dog and receive veterinary expenses not exceeding the purchase price.

Most states in the US have similar laws.

The Federal Animal Welfare Act was enacted to regulate high volume breeders. In Pennsylvania as well as every other state that I know of, large commercial breeders are already subject to their state's licensing requirements and yearly inspections program. They are also required to hold a license and be inspected by the USDA and if they register seven or more litters with the American Kennel Club (AKC), they are also subject to AKC inspections.

I believe that all puppy buyers want to be assured that they will receive a healthy pet. I also believe that there are already adequate laws on the books to ensure that this will happen. The puppy mill problem is not a problem that will be fixed by enacting more legislation. Current regulations are already on the books which can put puppy mills out of business. The problem lies in the fact that most puppy mills do not operate legally. They do not apply for licenses and they are not inspected by the state dog wardens or by the USDA. This new legislation will not affect puppy mills because they do not follow current laws. This is just another example of punishing those that follow the current laws while the law breakers, in this case the puppy mills, will still continue with business as usual.

There are some good points to this legislation such as the requirements for pet stores to keep records of where puppies are obtained, and to provide that information to the USDA when requested. This can help the USDA and state officials track down puppy mills and high volume breeders that are not operating legally and make them apply for licenses and participate in inspections. However, there are so many bad points of this proposed legislation, it is imperative that it be defeated. First and foremost, this legislation calls for the USDA to start inspecting all breeders who breed seven or more litters per year and

sell 25 or more dogs per year without increasing the USDA's funding. This will be a sharp increase in the number of kennels and catteries that will have to be USDA inspected every year. The AKC claims that this will only affect an additional 4% of breeders, but they are not taking into account all of the breeders of dogs that are not AKC registered such as Labradoodle, Cockapoos and any other crossbreed dog breeder. It also does not take into account the large number of cat breeders in the US.

Even though this law would have no effect upon me or my kennel because I breed fewer than 7 litters per year, I do not want to see the USDA's limited resources used to inspect every relatively small hobby breeder who breeds 7 or 8 litters per year. I would much rather see the USDA's resources used to inspect the large commercial breeders that currently hold federal licenses and also to track down all of the ones that are evading licensing requirements and bring them into compliance. That will never happen when the USDA is bogged down by inspecting every kennel that produces 7 or more litters per year. Breeders at this small of a scale are not the problem. The problems arise when breeders have 200 dogs of differing breeds living in small, dirty wire cages and they breed the dogs to death to try to turn a profit.

Additionally, there are questions about whether USDA regulations would allow for puppies to be raised in your home. I would hate to see a small scale breeder forced to build a kennel and move their litters out to the kennel due to some USDA stipulation when the puppies had been raised in the breeder's home prior to the new regulations. There are also a lot of questions about whether shelters will fall under these new regulations. The wording is so vague concerning the definition of "dealer", that a shelter that receives compensation for placement of animals that they did not breed might be considered a "dealer" and subject to USDA licensing. Do we really want to burden the shelters more than they already are?

Although the AKC is backing this new regulation, they do not have the support of the majority of their members. Please see:

http://www.saova.org/1139opponents.html

As this web site shows, member clubs representing nearly 60% of AKC registrations have come out in opposition to this bill. Many more AKC clubs are opposed, but don't want to "rock the boat", which is the case with two clubs with which I am a member. So even amongst the 40% that have not officially opposed this legislation, there is little support for it. To date, over 300 dog clubs and rescue groups have come out in opposition to this bill. This is astounding considering AKC's support of the bill. Many have alluded to the fact that the AKC has a financial motive for backing this bill and they are not looking out for the best interests of their members. They are certainly not listening to the pleas from the majority of their members to drop their support for this bill.

Senator Santorum will be holding hearings on this bill in November and he is not allowing any opponents to speak. Is that really a hearing? Is that how America should

operate? Don't give your opponents the chance to voice their opinions. Try to push through legislation that the majority opposes by locking them out?. And if you can't get enough votes to have the legislation passed, then try to attach it as a rider to a larger bill that you think will be passed? What has become of majority rule in this country?

We are a country at war. Do we really want to spend our limited tax dollars on inspecting every dog breeder that breeds seven litters of puppies per year? That is really an insignificant number if you know anything about puppy mills and the number of puppies that they produce. That is where the USDA needs to focus its attention. That is where the problem lies. Not on breeders that are already operating within the scope of their current state and local regulations. The USDA has bigger, more important issues on its agenda, like protecting our food supply from terrorist attacks and keeping major health risks such as mad cow disease and bird flu out of this country. I do not want to see their limited resources used to rework the entire dog breeding inspection program, and going to waste by inspecting small hobby dog breeders.

I believe that the answer to the puppy mill issue is enforcement of current laws and regulations, not expanding them.

Please oppose S1139/HR2669 (PAWS).

Respectfully,

Gail Cayce-Adams
13843 Mount Olivet Rd.
Stewartstown, PA 17363

** OPPOSE S1139/HR2669 (PAWS) **

TO: Senate Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
FROM: Lisa Pinto, Registered Voter
SUBJECT: S1139 PET ANIMA WELFARE STATUTE- PAWS- November 8 Hearing - OPPOSITION

Dear Senators,

I am writing to express my strong OPPOSITION to S1139, AND my outrage at the fact that this hearing has no scheduled speakers to present the opposition view.

This is a bad bill. It is not a 'puppy mill' bill, or a bill that will 'close a loophole' in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Large commercial wholesale facilities are already covered under the AWA, so the buzzwords are merely used by proponents of the bill to misinform well-meaning but unknowledgable citizens.

S1139 in the main, removes the distinction between retail and wholesale pet sales, something that the HSUS and DDAL with the help of Senator Santorum, and now the AKC, have been trying to do for years. But the courts have upheld the distinction (DDAL vs Veneman- USDA), and more than 400 dog clubs, cat clubs, pet resue groups, sportsman's groups and hunting groups agree.

S1139 needs to be stopped.

It will harm hobby breeders of dogs and cats and other pet animals. It will harm rescues and hunting dog breeders and sellers. It does not matter that proponents 'say' it will not harm these groups - what matters is the language of the bill, and that language is deadly to us, the majority of fanciers, breeders, hunters, rescuers.

The speakers scheduled for the so-called hearing are mainly from groups who are seeking to end all breeding and in the case of the HSUS, all hunting, and all use of domestic animals. This quote from Wayne Pacelle, one of the speakers is VERY scary:

"We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding. ...ONE GENERATION AND OUT. We have no problems with the extinction of domestic animals. They are the creations of human selective breeding." (Wayne Pacelle, in 'Animal People', 1993)

We need to monitor groups like this very carefully, not consult them for animal and agriculture and hunting legislation!

Please educate yourselves on the difference between Animal Welfare and Animal Rights. The speakers you have scheduled are NOT Welfare. They seek to give animals rights on a level with humans. The AKC seems to have aligned themselves with these groups, and they no longer speak for me or the 400+ other animal groups opposed. Neither does their hand-picked speaker, represent the 'dog fancy'. Most of the dog fancy had never heard of him prior to his support of PAWS

PLEASE VOTE 'NO' ON S1139 PAWS.

Respectfully,

Lisa Pinto
6959 Orchard Station Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-792-9288

DACHSHUND CLUB OF AMERICA, INC.

ANDRA O'CONNELL, SECRETARY
1793 BERME ROAD
KERHONKSON, NEW YORK 12446
845-626-4137 / AMTEKEL@HVC.RR.COM

October 27, 2005

RE: PAWS LEGISLATION

Dear Senators:

The Dachshund Club of America board of directors is in unanimous agreement to strongly oppose Senators Santorum and Durbin's PAWS legislation S1139.

Classifying individual breeders, as "retail" sellers will prove to be dangerous as time goes on. Regulations such as this are also not enforceable. The USDA cannot effectively manage to control the deplorable conditions in many of this country's puppy mills. The good senator should try to influence the legislators in his own home state of Pennsylvania to clean up the puppy mill problem there before he takes aim at the entire country.

The hobby breeder seldom if ever earns a profit on the litters that they breed. To the contrary, they tend to lose money or if lucky break-even. Abuse and neglect laws in each state, in addition to the puppy lemon laws that most states have in effect protect the consumer and regulate hobby breeders. Regulating the hobby breeder with "numbers" is simply faulty and not well thought out. It does however play directly into the hands of PETA, the DDAL, HSUS and other radical animal rights groups. Be aware of the wolves in sheep's clothing! They would like nothing more than to see AKC together with all breeders, hobby and otherwise be eliminated. This type of legislation gives them the foot in the door and once inside the battle will be lost.

This bill must to be rewritten with much more thought involved. Please hear the voices of the many purebred dog organizations that are for the betterment of their respective breeds.

Very truly yours,

Andra O'Connell

Andra O'Connell

October 27, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139

Re: S1139 – "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 PAWS"

Dear Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

There in NO One IN OPPOSITION TO PAWS who has been scheduled at the hearing for PAWS on November 8, 2005. This is an outrages and a totally disrespectful to organizations and individual who oppose PAWS. The Indy Cat Club as well as I does not support PAWS.

As a representative of the Indy Cat Club, Indianapolis, IN http://www.indycatclub.com/ . I have been appointed to submit this letter in an effort to stress that we, the undersigned, ***DO NOT*** support S1139, "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 PAWS".

The general reasons:

1. States rights in this matter should not be over ridden by excessive Federal Regulations. There are already existing local and state legislation for controlling hobby breeders. The dog and cat registries provide for kennel and cattery regulations and inspections.

2. Hobby breeders do not have intent to make a profit and thus are not commercial businesses. The IRS does not consider cat breeding as a viable business and they define it as a hobby. How can one governmental regulating department define the same activity as a hobby and another as a commercial enterprise? Most hobby breeders do it at a considerable loss of money to themselves in order to preserve and protect various lines of purebred animals. They should not be penalized for this activity with numerous permits and inspections. The intent to make a profit is absent so this activity can not be considered a business. To be a business you must show a profit. The IRS says you must show a profit three out of five years.

3. The United States Department of Agriculture is not the appropriate agency to be monitoring hobby breeders. Most hobby breeders live in residential areas and cannot be a commercial agricultural business in an area zoned residential. This violates the individuals' right to privacy in their homes.

Your proposed PAWS Legislation will mean that only large breeders living in areas zoned for Agricultural Business will be permitted to breed cats. Our local Cat Club will not have enough members for general actives such as organizing cat shows and other promotional activities. The number of pedigreed cats will be decreased to a point where the gene pool will be too small for healthy breeding. Please reconsider the ramifications of your proposed legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Janet Marr
Member of Indy Cat Club

October 27, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, Forestry Subcommittee on S1139 (PAWS)

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a cat breeder. I am opposed to PAWS. I have already written my congressman. I did not write anyone else as someone else was handling that. PAWS will negatively impact breeders of pedigreed cats with small or moderate sized catteries and breeding programs. I wish my views to be made a matter of the official public record. Please be sure that my opposition to this bill is included in the appropriate members' briefing book.

People of my hobby contribute to the United States economy in various ways. We require countless supplies – pet food, litter, cages, bedding, tools, vaccines, etc. When we are showing our cats we utilize several other industries – hotel, travel, restaurant and food, oil (gas), auto, etc. And sadly, we also contribute when our cats and kittens become ill – veterinarians, medicines, supplies.

If PAWS is passed, I will discontinue this hobby I feel so passionately about. I will take up a different cause. I am into big cats right now. I would join WWF (World Wildlife Fund) or CATT. I would send my resources to India. Whatever cause I choose to take up, I would make sure my money is being spent there and not here. And I do spend a lot on my hobby. I would also work to make sure whoever voted for PAWS never served me again.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. You may reach me at my home if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jane F. Manly
13888 W. 57th St.
Shawnee, KS 66216
(913)962-9106

Jeffrey P. Helsdon
Legislative Director
Doberman Pinscher Club of America

October 28, 2005

Jacob Chaney
Deputy Hearing Clerk
U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry

Via Facsimile (202) 224-1725

Re: Our Opposition to S.1139 – Please Include in Official Record

Dear Mr. Chaney:

I write to you today to ask that you include the attached written testimony of the Doberman Pinscher Club of America in the official record of S.1139, reflecting our opposition to the legislation.

Cordially,

Jeffrey P. Helsdon
Legislative Director
Doberman Pinscher Club of America

JPH:ej
enclosure

October 28, 2005

TESTIMONY OF THE DOBERMAN PINSCHER CLUB OF AMERICA IN OPPOSITION TO S.1139

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Senators.

The Doberman Pinscher Club of America (DPCA) is recognized by pure-breed dog fanciers and clubs throughout the United States as one of the most important American Kennel Club (AKC) member clubs in the country. It may be a surprise to many of you that organized dog clubs even exist. Yet the AKC is really a registry body and sanctioner of dog shows. The AKC is made up of a Delegate Body that consists of one Delegate from each of AKC's member clubs. The Delegate Body elects the AKC Board of Directors.

This background is important for you to know, as you will hear from a representative of the AKC that the AKC supports S.1139. That support, however impressive it may appear to you at first blush, pales in comparison to the intense opposition to S.1139 among many, many member clubs of the AKC, which account for the majority of the dogs registered with AKC, according to reports that I have seen recently. Therefore, do not assume the support of AKC to be a reflection of any united position taken by hobby breeders and dog fanciers throughout your respective states.

The DPCA opposes S.1139. Many reasons have been advanced by many intelligent commentators about this bill. You should not vote for S.1139 in any form that it takes during mark-up unless no reference is made to numerical standards for determining that hobby breeders – who breed dogs and cats out of our own homes – are subject to licensing and other regulation by the USDA under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Under no circumstances can we accept that we are subject to federal oversight for breeding high quality family pets at retail. When the Doris Day Animal League (DDAL), an animal extremist organization, petitioned the USDA for a rule-making change in 1995 to exclude hobby breeders from the "retail pet store" exemption under the AWA, the

Secretary of Agriculture, in stating his opposition to the petition, said this about why the USDA should not be in the business of regulating people in their home activities:

> First, we believe that our current definition of "retail pet store" conforms with Congress' intention that the AWA focus primarily on dealers who sell wholesale. . . Therefore, we are confident that our current definition accurately reflects the original and continuing intent of Congress. . .
>
> Second, we have determined that retail dealers, especially those who sell from their homes, are already subject to a degree of self-regulation and oversight by persons who purchase animals from the retailers' homes, as well as by breed and registry organizations. . .
>
> Third . . . If we were to amend the definition of "retail pet store," it is conceivable that a significant portion of our annual personnel and financial resources would be used to regulate a very small fraction of the animals covered under our regulations. This disproportionate expenditure of funds would not be in the best interest of animal welfare. . .
>
> Fourth, retail outlets are not unregulated. There are already many State and local laws and ordinances in place to monitor and respond to allegations of inhumane treatment of and inadequate housing for animals owned by private retail dealers. If we were to regulate these dealers along with State and local officials, it would clearly not be the most efficient use of our resources.
>
> Fifth, our inspectors would have to enforce cleaning, sanitation, handling, and other regulatory requirements in private homes, because most small retail dealers operate from their homes. Many commenters stated that they would regard this as an unnecessary intrusion by the Federal Government and a serious invasion of privacy.

The DPCA agrees with the Secretary of Agriculture. Inclusion of hobby breeders under the AWA would be antithetical to the purpose of Congress in passing it in the first place, is unnecessary as buyers at retail can inspect the breeder's facilities and the care the puppies or kittens have received, and would lead to a regulatory nightmare whose expense does not justify the invasion of privacy into private homes.

No matter what numbers are used as a threshold, moving away from a qualitative distinction between wholesale vs. retail sellers to a quantitative threshold of numbers of litters or puppies sold brings with it an inherently arbitrary standard. There is nothing magical about 25 puppies sold or 6 litters. Future years could see an amendment buried in the Farm Bill to reduce the threshold to 10 puppies and 2 litters. No number is more defensible than any other – which is exactly why animal extremist organizations like Humane Society of the United States and DDAL support the bill.

There are many strong policy reasons why S.1139 in its present form is unacceptable. The position of the DPCA as outlined above is designed to help you understand that, no matter what changes are made to the bill, numerical standards are not subject to negotiation. They must be removed. Qualitative distinctions must be retained to protect your constituents who choose to breed safely and responsibly without federal intervention, and whose interests we believe are not represented by the groups who have been hand-selected to speak at the hearing on November 8, 2005.

Please vote to send S.1139 to the scrap-heap of history. We urge you to further ensure that the language of S.1139 – or any equivalent language – does not get amended to any other bill.

Thank you.

Jeffrey P. Helsdon
Legislative Director
Doberman Pinscher Club of America

C/O Deputy Hearing Clerk, Jacob Chaney
Via facsimile (202) 224-1725
Subject: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the official record

We are Airedale Terrier lovers, and we are members of the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA). We urge you to vote "No" to the bills known as PAWS, Senate Bill 1139 and House Bill 2669.

We subscribe to the objectives of the ATCA to encourage and promote the quality breeding and rearing of purebred Airedale Terriers. We adhere to the standard of excellence that the club sets for our breed. Through the Airedale Terrier Official Standard, the ATCA Constitution and By-Laws, and the ATCA Code of Ethics, the ATCA holds us and all ATCA members responsible for improving our breed, preserving its breed characteristics through responsible breeding and puppy socialization, and protecting the health and well being of our dogs.

Why do we oppose this legislation?

- PAWS would bring a dramatic increase in the number of licenses and a constant shift in individual licensees as many breeders do not breed every year.
- The need to inspect private homes would change the USDA focus from the commercial facilities that pose the greatest risk to residential sellers of dogs that are already subject to a high degree of oversight by buyers, AKC, national breed clubs, and local and state authorities.
- Most complaints about deplorable conditions are already violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).
- It is an unwarranted invasion of privacy to go into breeders' homes. The care standards established for wholesale dealers of dogs under the AWA are not appropriate for residences. These standards address care for high numbers of dogs; include specifications and procedures for large-scale facilities; and require materials and procedures that are difficult, unnecessary, and virtually impossible for small breeders to follow.
- Currently covered commercial facilities are certain to resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class, and the USDA will likely be unable to justify more lenient regulations or standards for any group of regulated breeders like in-home hobby breeders.
- The changes mandated by PAWS will in fact hurt consumers by driving small breeders out of the hobby and forcing consumers to turn to dealers who are interested solely in profit. The changes will thereby encourage the puppy mills and scurrilous breeders the AWA was designed to prevent and thus undermine the basic purpose of the Act.
- The entire 30-year legislative history of AWA supports including residential sellers of dogs under the "retail pet store" exclusion.
- PAWS reverses a United States Court of Appeals 2003 decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders
- PAWS establishes the precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescuers, all sellers of intact, breedable dogs, and for discrimination against certain types of dogs (such as hunting and security breeds).
- USDA does not have the resources to enforce PAWS: it seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should the USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with one of the dog registries or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership V. animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the federal government should not undertake

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Warren

Mary Jo Warren
1401 N Devon Ave.
East Wenatchee, WA 98802
509 670-0092

To: Members of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
C/O Deputy Hearing Clerk, Jacob Chaney
Via facsimile (202) 224-1725
Subject: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the official record

We are Airedale Terrier lovers, and we are members of the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA). We urge you to vote "No" to the bills known as PAWS, Senate Bill 1139 and House Bill 2669.

We subscribe to the objectives of the ATCA to encourage and promote the quality breeding and rearing of purebred Airedale Terriers. We adhere to the standard of excellence that the club sets for our breed. Through the Airedale Terrier Official Standard, the ATCA Constitution and By-Laws, and the ATCA Code of Ethics, the ATCA holds us and all ATCA members responsible for improving our breed, preserving its breed characteristics through responsible breeding and puppy socialization, and protecting the health and well being of our dogs.

Why do we oppose this legislation?

- PAWS establishes federal authority to regulate a personal hobby conducted within the privacy of our personal residences.
- PAWS supporters have submitted no documentation verifying their claim that federal legislation is needed to ensure animal welfare among pure-breed hobby breeders.
- We strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), a group that is on record as wanting to ban all pet breeding and pet ownership, the Doris Day Animal League (DDAL), an anti-breeding animal rights organization, and the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), a group that sponsors terrorist attacks on behalf of animal rights, to use the federal government to further their extremist agenda to redefine all breeders as commercial breeders and to restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners.
- PAWS reverses a United States Court of Appeals 2003 decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders (Doris Day Animal V Veneman Ann).
- PAWS establishes the precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescuers, all sellers of intact, breedable dogs, and for discrimination against certain types of dogs (such as hunting and security breeds).
- If PAWS is enacted, strong pressure will further decrease the numerical "dealer" criteria in the current bill.
- Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. There is no way that raising a litter of puppies or kittens in your home can be compliant with established USDA regulations for hosedown/sanitize facilities, and it is not clear that any new regulations for in-home hobby breeders will be materially different than those already in place. Currently covered commercial facilities are certain to resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class, and USDA will likely be unable to justify more lenient regulations or standards for any group of regulated breeders like in-home hobby breeders.
- USDA does not have the resources to enforce PAWS: it seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should the USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with one of the dog registries or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership V. animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the federal government should not undertake.

Sincerely,

Joyce Miller E R Wolfe

Dr. Joyce Miller and Eugene R. Wolfe
6001 Blue Bay Dr.
Dallas TX 75248
972-248-2128

To: Members of the U.S. Senate
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
C/O Deputy Hearing Clerk, Jacob Chaney
Via facsimile (202) 224-1725

Subject: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the official record

I am an Airedale Terrier lover. While I am not a member of the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA) yet, I urge you to vote "No" to the bills known as PAWS, Senate Bill 1139 and House Bill 2669.

I encourage and promote the quality breeding and rearing of purebred Airedale Terriers. I believe The ATCA preserves are breed, characteristics through responsible breeding and puppy socialization, and protects the health and well being of our dogs. These can be viewed at www.airedale.org . I have two beautiful purebred Airedales from an ATCA breeder.

I oppose this legislation for the same reasons a lot of us are.

Ø PAWS would bring a dramatic increase in the number of licenses and a constant shift in individual licensees as many breeders do not breed every year.

Ø The need to inspect private homes would change the USDA focus from the commercial facilities that pose the greatest risk to residential sellers of dogs that are already subject to a high degree of oversight by buyers, AKC, national breed clubs, and local and state authorities.

Ø Most complaints about deplorable conditions are violations of the existing federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Ø It is an unwarranted invasion of privacy to go into breeders' homes. The care standards established for wholesale dealers of dogs under the AWA are not appropriate for residences. These standards address care for high numbers of dogs; include specifications and procedures for large-scale facilities; and require materials and procedures that are difficult, unnecessary, and virtually impossible for small breeders to follow. They are also impossible to implement in residential neighborhoods.

Ø Currently covered commercial facilities are certain to resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class, and the USDA will likely be unable to justify more lenient regulations or standards for any group of regulated breeders like in-home hobby breeders.

Ø The changes mandated by PAWS will in fact hurt consumers by driving small breeders out of the hobby and forcing consumers to turn to dealers who are interested solely in profit. The changes will thereby encourage the puppy mills and the scurrilous breeders that the AWA was

designed to prevent and thus undermine the basic purpose of the Act.

Ø The entire 30-year legislative history of AWA supports including residential sellers of dogs under the "retail pet store" exclusion.

Ø PAWS reverses a United States Court of Appeals 2003 decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Ø PAWS establishes the precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescuers, all sellers of intact, breedable dogs, and discrimination against certain types of dogs (such as hunting and security breeds).

Ø USDA does not have the resources to enforce PAWS: it seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should the USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with one of the dog registries or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership vs animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the federal government should not undertake

Sincerely,

Wendy Stehle
2550 Colonel Ford Drive
Lakeland, FL 33813
863-712-0293

...the voice for Texas pet owners

October 28, 2005

TO: The U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

RE: Opposition to S. 1139 Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS)

Responsible Pet Owners Alliance is an American Kennel Club State Federation for Texas. But AKC doesn't speak for us! PAWS is being pushed by Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Doris Day Animal League, two "animal rights" organizations who are opposed to breeding any animal whether you eat it, wear it or pet it. Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) President Wayne Pacelle has publicly stated: "We have no problem with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding." (Animal People, May 1993)

The November 8th hearing before you is a mockery. Since no opponent or critic of this devastating anti-hobby breeder legislation will be permitted to testify, this letter is to register our official opposition. Only six speakers are scheduled to appear at the Washington, DC hearing, all of them well-established PAWS supporters. This bill doesn't address "puppy mills" as they are already USDA licensed.

We don't need the overworked and under funded federal government regulating dog and cat breeders in their homes when local laws do this. We especially don't need animal rights organizations like HSUS and PETA who have been involved in writing this legislation telling us what is good for our pets. Whatever happened to a fair hearing with both sides equally represented? This hearing is a farce and an insult to democracy.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Duerler

Mary Beth Duerler
Executive Director
Responsible Pet Owners Alliance, Inc.

900 NE Loop 410 #205-D • San Antonio, Texas 78209
Tel: 210-738-2273 • Fax: 210-822-9038 • www.responsiblepetowners.org

Canine Capers

October 31, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

Dear Senators:

Canine Capers requests that you oppose PAWS.

S.1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005, has been introduced by Senator Rick Santorum 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. We are opposed to S.1139 for the following reasons:

- The use of numbers to determine whether a kennel should be licensed is not valid criteria. To our knowledge, no supporting data has been introduced as justification for relevance of the proposed numbers to actual need for regulation. Numbers have no bearing on conditions or quality and the proposed numbers appear arbitrary. Numbers can be too easily changed and should not be written into law.

- PAWS establishes federal authority to regulate a personal hobby conducted in the privacy of one's residence. Once this is established it could easily lead to the socialization standards and breeding restrictions called for in the prior versions of Senator Santorum's bill known as the Puppy Protection Act (PPA).

- PAWS supporters proclaim it to be the benefactor to puppy mill dogs and cats. Puppy mill is a much overworked and overused term to arouse emotion and sympathy and cloud sound judgment where the law is concerned. On a national level – if two real puppy mills are "busted" a year – this does not constitute grounds for millions of breeders, hunters and fanciers to be regulated by USDA or driven out of their hobby by impossible regulatory demands.

- PAWS is over-regulation by the federal government which will surely lead to unintended consequences

- As established by Doris Day Animal League vs Venneman Ann the federal government does not intend to regulate and license breeders to the extreme level of personal residences. The USDA current AWA regulations were written to provide humane care for animals in commercial and research facilities.

- The language of the proposed bill is unclear and in some cases conflicting. A law must be clear and not interpretive

Please be aware that although the American Kennel Club has reversed their prior position on the PPA and is now in support of this lesser version known as PAWS – the AKC does NOT speak for its entire membership of clubs or the tens of thousands of dog breeders that register with AKC.

Respectfully,

HDRemaley
Helen D. Remaley
Training Director
Canine Capers
770-934-5935

Siroyale Siberians

Chuck and Sandy Squires

Post Office Box 878
Lyman, SC 29365-0664
Telephone (864) 877-8906

WE OPPOSE SENATE BILL 1139, PAWS

November 1, 2005
REFERENCE: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 PAWS

Dear Senators,

Please help preserve our right to continue in a hobby that we enjoy so much - the loving, breeding and showing of our AKC Champion line of Siberian Huskies. Although in over 25 years with our Siberians my husband and I have not bred the numbers that would put us under USDA licensing following the *dealer* guidelines *currently* proposed in S1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS), we are **strongly opposed to this badly written and ill conceived piece of legislation.**

"PAWS" would wipe out the USDA's historic interpretation of the Animal Welfare Act as only requiring licensing and regulation of breeders selling at wholesale and would bring under its jurisdiction hobby breeders selling directly to the public. **Wholesale vs. retail is a simple, qualitative measure. The use of numbers to determine USDA *dealer* licensing serves no valid purpose.** One breeder might be capable of properly caring for many litters per year and to the contrary some who breed only one litter a year may produce unhealthy pets raised in unsanitary conditions. **State and local animal laws already cover conditions under which animals must be kept.** Also, **most hobby breeders do not breed at the same level every year.** One year they might fall within the licensing numbers and many other years would not. **Equitable *dealer* determination and enforcement under those discrepancies would be impossible.**

Most hobby breeders raise litters in their homes. Current USDA licensing regulations (90 pages) require *commercial kennel* facilities. **The simple requiring of a USDA license would force many hobby breeders to shut down** as local zoning restrictions usually prohibit commercial kennels in residential areas.

A major point of opposition to PAWS is the Animal Rights influence. HSUS, DDAL and PETA are major supporters, with HSUS claiming on its website to be a co-author. **These Animal Rights organizations follow an agenda which strives to stop ALL breeding of animals.** The use of an arbitrary numbers criteria weighs heavily in their ability to do so. **HSUS has stated PAWS is merely a FIRST STEP.** Once in place **numbers can and will easily be lowered.** If passed, PAWS will ultimately be deadly to most hobby/show breeders - including us. This bill is not about animal welfare, it is about the Animal Rights Movement eliminating breeders.

Please protect our rights as law-biding taxpayers and voters. Please VOTE NO ON PAWS. Please help convince your fellow Senators that PAWS should not become law.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Squires

Sandra M. Squires

WE OPPOSE SENATE BILL 1139, PAWS

To: Members of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
C/O Deputy Hearing Clerk, Jacob Chaney
Via facsimile (202) 224-1725
Subject: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the official record

We are Airedale Terrier lovers, and we are members of the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA). We urge you to vote "No" to the bills known as PAWS, Senate Bill 1139 and House Bill 2669.

We subscribe to the objectives of the ATCA to encourage and promote the quality breeding and rearing of purebred Airedale Terriers. We adhere to the standard of excellence that the club sets for our breed. Through the Airedale Terrier Official Standard, the ATCA Constitution and By-Laws, and the ATCA Code of Ethics, the ATCA holds us and all ATCA members responsible for improving our breed, preserving its breed characteristics through responsible breeding and puppy socialization, and protecting the health and well being of our dogs.

Why do we oppose this legislation?

Ø PAWS would bring a dramatic increase in the number of licenses and a constant shift in individual licensees as many breeders do not breed every year.

Ø The need to inspect private homes would change the USDA focus from the commercial facilities that pose the greatest risk to residential sellers of dogs that are already subject to a high degree of oversight by buyers, AKC, national breed clubs, and local and state authorities.

Ø Most complaints about deplorable conditions are already violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Ø It is an unwarranted invasion of privacy to go into breeders' homes. The care standards established for wholesale dealers of dogs under the AWA are not appropriate for residences. These standards address care for high numbers of dogs; include specifications and procedures for large-scale facilities; and require materials and procedures that are difficult, unnecessary, and virtually impossible for small breeders to follow.

Ø Currently covered commercial facilities are certain to resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class, and the USDA will likely be unable to justify more lenient regulations or standards for any group of regulated breeders like in-home hobby breeders.

Ø The changes mandated by PAWS will in fact hurt consumers by driving small breeders out of the hobby and forcing consumers to turn to dealers who are interested solely in profit. The changes will thereby encourage the puppy mills and scurrilous breeders the AWA was designed to prevent and thus undermine the basic purpose of the Act.

Ø The entire 30-year legislative history of AWA supports including residential sellers of dogs under the "retail pet store" exclusion.

Ø PAWS reverses a United States Court of Appeals 2003 decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders

Ø PAWS establishes the precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescuers, all sellers of intact, breedable dogs, and for discrimination against certain types of dogs (such as hunting and security breeds).

Ø USDA does not have the resources to enforce PAWS: it seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should the USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with one of the dog registries or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership V. animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the federal government should not undertake

Sincerely,

Lydia J. Ross
13239 3rd Ave. NW
Seattle, WA 98177
206-963-4729

To: Members of the U.S. Senate
Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
C/O Deputy Hearing Clerk, Jacob Chaney
Via facsimile (202) 224-1725
Subject: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the official record

I am a member of the Airedale Terrier Club of America, Lone Star Airedale Club, the National Chow Chow Club, Oklahoma Canine Search Council, & Oklahoma Search & Rescue Dogs. I'm a practicing critical care RN in the process of completing my graduate studies as a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner. I urge you to vote "No" to the bills known as PAWS, Senate Bill 1139 and House Bill 2669.

We have rigid rules & guidelines already in place in reference to breedings & certainly do not need any federal regulations regarding such. We adhere to the standard of excellence that the various clubs set & there is nothing remotely similar available through needless & unenforceable legislation.

Why do I oppose this legislation?

Ø PAWS would bring a dramatic increase in the number of licenses and a constant shift in individual licensees as many breeders do not breed every year.

Ø The need to inspect private homes would change the USDA focus from the commercial facilities that pose the greatest risk to residential sellers of dogs that are already subject to a high degree of oversight by buyers, AKC, national breed clubs, and local and state authorities. **PUPPY MILLS CONTINUE TO BE THE PROBLEM & NOT THE SMALL, RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS.**

Ø Most complaints about deplorable conditions are violations of the existing federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

Ø It is an unwarranted invasion of privacy to go into breeders' homes. The care standards established for wholesale dealers of dogs under the AWA are not appropriate for residences. These standards address care for high numbers of dogs; include specifications and procedures for large-scale facilities; and require materials and procedures that are difficult, unnecessary, and virtually impossible for small breeders to follow. They are also impossible to implement in residential neighborhoods.

Ø Currently covered commercial facilities are certain to resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class, and the USDA will likely be unable to justify more lenient regulations or standards for any group of regulated breeders like in-home hobby breeders.

Ø The changes mandated by PAWS will in fact hurt consumers by driving small breeders out of the hobby and forcing consumers to turn to dealers who are interested solely in profit. The changes will thereby encourage the puppy mills and the scurrilous breeders that the AWA was designed to prevent and thus undermine the basic purpose of the Act.

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Ø PAWS establishes the precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescuers, all sellers of intact, breedable dogs, and discrimination against certain types of dogs (such as hunting and security breeds).

Ø USDA does not have the resources to enforce PAWS: it seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should the USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with one of the dog registries or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership vs animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the federal government should not undertake.

Sincerely,

Carol McGhee Walker
1902 N. Midwest Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73141
PH: 405-424-4870

10-29-2005

To: Members of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
C/O Deputy Hearing Clerk, Jacob Chaney
Via facsimile (202) 224-1725
Subject: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the official record

We are Airedale Terrier lovers, and we are members of the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA). We urge you to vote "No" to the bills known as PAWS, Senate Bill 1139 and House Bill 2669.

We subscribe to the objectives of the ATCA to encourage and promote the quality breeding and rearing of purebred Airedale Terriers. We adhere to the standard of excellence that the club sets for our breed. Through the Airedale Terrier Official Standard, the ATCA Constitution and By-Laws, and the ATCA Code of Ethics, the ATCA holds us and all ATCA members responsible for improving our breed, preserving its breed characteristics through responsible breeding and puppy socialization, and protecting the health and well being of our dogs.

Why do we oppose this legislation?

- PAWS would bring a dramatic increase in the number of licenses and a constant shift in individual licensees as many breeders do not breed every year.
- The need to inspect private homes would change the USDA focus from the commercial facilities that pose the greatest risk to residential sellers of dogs that are already subject to a high degree of oversight by buyers, AKC, national breed clubs, and local and state authorities.
- Most complaints about deplorable conditions are already violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).
- It is an unwarranted invasion of privacy to go into breeders' homes. The care standards established for wholesale dealers of dogs under the AWA are not appropriate for residences. These standards address care for high numbers of dogs; include specifications and procedures for large-scale facilities; and require materials and procedures that are difficult, unnecessary, and virtually impossible for small breeders to follow.
- Currently covered commercial facilities are certain to resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class, and the USDA will likely be unable to justify more lenient regulations or standards for any group of regulated breeders like in-home hobby breeders.
- The changes mandated by PAWS will in fact hurt consumers by driving small breeders out of the hobby and forcing consumers to turn to dealers who are interested solely in profit. The changes will thereby encourage the puppy mills and scurrilous breeders the AWA was designed to prevent and thus undermine the basic purpose of the Act.
- The entire 30-year legislative history of AWA supports including residential sellers of dogs under the "retail pet store" exclusion.
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- PAWS establishes the precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescuers, all sellers of intact, breedable dogs, and for discrimination against certain types of dogs (such as hunting and security breeds).
- USDA does not have the resources to enforce PAWS: it seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should the USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with one of the dog registries or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership V. animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the federal government should not undertake

Sincerely,

Name Patricia M. Herndon
Address 2462 Hamstrom Rd.
Phone Number Portage, In 46368
(219) 763-2952

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

Dear Sir and Committee Members,

In just two weeks, Senator Santorem will be hosting his "sham" of a hearing RE: PAWS. It is clear that we won't have anyone testifying on behalf of those actually impacted by this legislation which leaves us with the only other alternative, Lobbying on behalf of our own interests.

Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) has scheduled a November 8, 2005 hearing before the Senate Agriculture Research, Nutrition and General Legislation Subcommittee, which he chairs, to take testimony on his own S1139 "Animal Welfare Act of 2005" (PAWS) bill. No opponent or critic of this devastating anti-hobby breeder legislation will be permitted to testify. Only six speakers are scheduled to appear at the Washington, DC hearing, all of them well-established PAWS supporters. Formal speaking requests by others have been ignored, effectively silencing and excluding from the legislative process the tens of thousands of pet owners and organizations opposed to this legislation.
PAWS has virtually nothing to do with animal welfare or closing Animal Welfare Act "loopholes." It's a direct attack on U.S. hobby breeders, hunting dog owners and animal rescuers. PAWS federalizes hobby pet breeding. Rick Santorum and the animal rights lobby failed to enact such a law in 2002 and they're back, trying again. Other PAWS supporters testifying have a financial interest in seeing S1139, or its House equivalent HR2669, passed.
A substantial majority of U.S. pet owners opposes PAWS, including over 30 American Kennel Club parent breed clubs and 300 - 400 other organizations nationwide. Their voices won't be heard on November 8, 2005.
The hearing will consist of two panels of witnesses, one representing Animal Interest Groups, on which the AKC has been invited to appear, and the other representing Animal Welfare Groups. Chairman of the Board Ron Menaker will represent and testify on
behalf of the AKC at the hearing. The complete witness list appears below:
Panel 1: Animal Interest Groups
Witness 1: Ron Menaker, Chairman - American Kennel Club
Witness 2: Dr. Henry E. Childers, President - American Veterinary Medical Association
Witness 3: John E. Hoffman, Esq. - Dog Fancier (a BIG contributor to the AKC ? - is he the same John E. Hoffman who is listed as a Millenium Founder of the AKC Canine Health Foundation in recognition of $25,000 to $49,999?)

Panel 2: Animal Welfare Groups (How is it that animal rights groups are now repackaged & remarketed as "animal welfare" groups?)
Witness 1: Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO - Humane Society of the United States
Witness 2: Sara Amundson, Legislative Director -Doris Day Animal League
Witness 3: Norma Worley, Director - Animal Welfare Program, Maine Department of Agriculture
Does the AKC speak for all dog groups? Not.
How about HSUS - hardly. And now we have the AMVA on board. That still leaves a whole lotta people out of the process.
Are they speaking on behalf of the cat fanciers? Not.
Bird Fanciers? Not. Not even close.

Why are none of these people who are adamantly opposed to PAWS being allowed to testify?

Sincerely,
Ernest N. Duffey
Jacksonville Fl

Animal Advocacy Organizations Opposing S1139/HR2669 (PAWS)
This opponent list has been verified by receipt from the organizations below of their communications to Congress. Beware of unverified information circulated and publicized for other purposes.
American Kennel Club Member, Licensed and Affiliated Organizations.
Groups verified opposed to PAWS - 323 as of 10/26/2005

National Groups
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance
Cat Fanciers' Association
The Animal Council
National Animal Interest Alliance
American Dog Owners' Association
United Kennel Club - UKC
Master of Fox Hounds Association
The International Cat Association
The International Bengal Cat Society
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
National Birman Fanciers (CFA)
White Shetland Sheepdog Association
Ocicats International
The Devon Rex Breed Club
The Rabbit Education Society
On-Line Feline Fanciers
National Pet Alliance
The Polish Tatra Sheepdog Club of America
Tonkinese Breed Association
National Red Setter Field Trial Club
North American Teckel Club
International Havana Brown Society
American Association of Caucasian Ovtcharka Owners
Field Dog Stud Book
American Field Publishing Company
Japanese Bobtail Fanciers (CFA)
Abyssinian Breeders International
Oriental Shorthairs of America
Global Egyptian Mau Society
United Poodle Breeds Association (UKC)
National American Eskimo Dog Association (UKC)
National Norwegian Forest Cat Breed Club
Zero Population Growth All Breed Club
Egyptian Mau Breeders' and Fanciers' Club
Worldwide European Burmese Society
Breeders Alliance & Sphynx Trust
CFA Havana Brown Breed Council
Organization of Professional Aviculturists
International Scottish Fold Association
Avicultural Society of America
National Alliance of Burmese Breeders
Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association
American Cat Fanciers Association
Exotic Pet Owners Uniting
American Dog Breeders Associated, Inc.

National Plott Hound Association (UKC)
Bluetick Breeders Of America (UKC)

National - AKC Parent Breed Clubs
The clubs shown above represent 57.8% of AKC's registrations.

American Brittany Club
American Shetland Sheepdog Association
American Chesapeake Club
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America
American Pomeranian Club
Papillon Club of America
Dachshund Club of America
Pug Dog Club of America
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association
Yorkshire Terrier Club of America
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
American Spaniel Club
American Boxer Club
Saluki Club of America
Saint Bernard Club of America
Scottish Terrier Club of America
American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club
Labrador Retriever Club of America
American Brussels Griffon Association
Golden Retriever Club of America
German Shepherd Dog Club of America
American Miniature Schnauzer Club
Spinone Club of America
Great Pyrenees Club of America
Weimaraner Club of America
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club
American Lhasa Apso Club
American Pointer Club
Collie Club of America

Statewide Organizations
Virginia Hunting Dog Owners' Association
Dog Federation of Wisconsin
California Federation of Dog Clubs
Missouri Federation of Animal Owners

Field Trial Clubs of Illinois
Hoosier State Chinese Shar-Pei Club (IN)
Montana State Houndsmen Association (UKC)
Illinois Regional Brittany Club
Illinois Brittany Championship Association
Alaska Winds Coursing Club
Tonkinese East Cat Club (Southeastern U.S.)
Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs
Michigan Hunting Dog Federation
Responsible Dog Owners of the Western States
Seacoast Cat Club (New England)
West Virginia Sporting Dog Association (UKC)
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Georgia
Carolina Lure Coursing Society (SC & GA, NC, VA)
Wisconsin English Springer Spaniel Association
Pekingese Club of New Jersey
Ragdolls of America Group (Eastern U.S.)
Ragdoll Breed Club (Western U.S.)
Mass. Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Breeders
Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders
Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club
Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan
Mississippi Canine Coalition
Collie Club of New Hampshire
New Hampshire Feline Fanciers
Association of South Carolina Field Trial Clubs - 12 clubs (SC)
Poodle Club of Alabama
Garden State Mastiff Fanciers (NJ)
Tonks West (Western U.S.)
North Carolina Federation of Dog Clubs
Garden State Cat Club of New Jersey
Minn-Kota Feline Club (ND)
Kentuckiana Cat Club (KY)
Arizona Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Ohio State Sportsmen & Sporting Dog Association (UKC)

Local Organizations
Alliance of Responsible Pet Owners of N.E. Florida
Greater Clark County Kennel Club (WA)
Schooley's Mountain Kennel Club (NJ)
Jacksonville North Carolina Kennel Club

Memphis International Cat Enthusiasts (TN)
East of Eden Cat Fanciers (CA)
Colonial Shetland Sheepdog Club (MA)
Western Massachusetts Shetland Sheepdog Club
Greater Fort Myers Dog Club (FL)
Capitol City Cocker Club (DC)
Sunshine Dachshund Club of Jacksonville (FL)
Absolutely Abyssinians Cat Club (FL)
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club (GA)
Eugene Kennel Club (OR)
Salt Lake Doberman Pinscher Club (UT)
Cochise Bird Dog Club (AZ)
Blue Ridge P.E.T.S.(Pets in Education and Therapy Service) (VA)
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of Central Virginia
Sacramento Bird Dog Club (CA)
Triangle Shetland Sheepdog Club of North Carolina
Harmony Bay Chinese Shar-Pei Club (WA)
Sussex Hills Kennel Club (NJ)
Ohio Valley Dog Owners, Inc.
Hudson Valley Brittany Club (NY)
Garden State Siberian Husky Club (NJ)
Burlington Obedience Training Club, Inc. (VT)
Raritan River Akita Club (NJ)
Kittyhawk Felines, Inc. (OH)
Centennial Chinese Shar-Pei Club (CO)
Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club (VA)
Walkfar Coonhunter's Coon Club (NC-UKC)
Rocky Mountain Mastiff Fanciers (CO)
ILLOWA Chinese Shar-Pei Club (IL & IA)
Shasta Kennel Club (CA)
Golden Retriever Club of Western New York
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Greater Detroit (MI)
German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater Kansas City
Clackamas Kennel Club (OR)
Doberman Pinscher Club of Northern California
Northern Washington Chinese Shar Pei Club
Idaho Capital City Kennel Club
Chicago Miniature Schnauzer Club
Emerald Empire Shetland Sheepdog Club (OR)
Toledo Kennel Club (OH)
Pointer Club of Central New Jersey
Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado
Memphis Kennel Club (TN)
Greater Sierra Vista Kennel Club (AZ)

Keestone Katz (DE)
Fluffy Foo Foo Feline Fanciers (DE)
Quad County Houndsman Association (VA-UKC)
German Shepherd Dog Club of Western Pennsylvania (PA)
Greater Pittsburgh Labrador Retriever Club (PA)
San Gabriel Valley Cat Fanciers (CA)
Tabby Fanciers of America (AZ)
All Seasons Cat Club (TN)
Gulf Shore Siamese Fanciers (NM)
Green Bay Shetland Sheepdog Club (WI)
Pug Dog Club of Maryland
Tejas Siamese Cat Fanciers (OK)
Central Carolina Cat Fanciers (NC)
Diablo Valley German Shepherd Dog Club (CA)
Heart of Dixie American Bulldog Club (AL)
Delaware River Cats Club (NJ)
Torrey Pines Cat Club (CA)
Carolina Top Cats (NC)
Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac (MD-VA)
Greater Portland Dachshund Club (OR)
Emerald Obedience Club (OR)
Phoenix Feline Fanciers (AZ)
The Crafty Cat (NC)
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Greater Baltimore (MD)
Great Dane Club of San Diego (CA)
Delaware Valley Chinese Crested Club (PA)
Lone Star Miniature Schnauzer Club of Dallas, Texas
Rutherford County Animal Owners Association (NC)
Franciscan Silver & Golden Fanciers (CA)
Lewis & Clark Long Haired Specialty Cat Club (OR & WA)
Greater St. Louis Brittany Club
Keeshond Club of Southern California
Bushy Run Kennel Club (PA)
Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of Delaware Valley (PA)
Ladies' Dog Club (MA)
Wachusett Kennel Club (MA)
Burlington County Kennel Club (NJ)
Pointer Club of Central New Jersey
North Texas Cat Club

Eyes of Texas Cat Club (TX)
Houston Cat Club (TX)
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Southeast Florida
Ramapo Kennel Club (NJ)
Foothills Felines (SC)
York Kennel Club (PA)
Lehigh Valley Afghan Hound Association (PA)
Greater Charlotte Shetland Sheepdog Club (NC)
Treasure Coast Cat Club (FL)
Seward County Kennel Club (NE)
Albuquerque Whippet Fanciers Association (NM)
Choctaw Country Cat Club (TX)
Colorpoint Shorthair Internationale (TX)
Rocky Mountain German Shepherd Dog Club (CO)
Mount Rainier Yorkshire Terrier Club (WA)
Inter-State Shetland Sheepdog Club (PA)
Paumanok Cat Fanciers (NY)
Make Mine Mink Cat Fanciers (NY)
Toy Dog Club of Puget Sound (WA)
Central Carolina Poodle Club (NC)
Tri Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club of NW Los Angeles (CA)
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Western New York
Valencia Valley Kennel Club (NM)
Dallas-Fort Worth Dachshund Club (TX)
Everglades Golden Retriever Club (FL)
Southern New Jersey German Shepherd Dog Club (NJ)

Jacksonville Shetland Sheepdog Club (Fl)
Jacksonville Dog Fanciers Assoc (Fl)

Rescues
Turkish Van Breed Rescue
Lhasa Apso Southern Rescue, Inc. (MS)
Great Dane Rescue of Northeast Florida
Jacksonville Sheltie Rescue (FL)
North American Shar-Pei Rescue
Pug Rescue of North Carolina, Inc.
Wisconsin Cocker Rescue
Birman Breed Rescue
New England Sheltie Rescue
Devon Rex Rescue League, Inc.

Golden Retriever Rescue of Maine
Colorado Animal Rescue Effort
Chicago Miniature Schnauzer Club Rescue
Saluki Tree of Life Alliance
Dothan Animal Shelter (AL)
Boston Terrier Rescue of Florida
Northeast Arkansans for Animals
Granite State Sheltie Rescue (NH)
Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue
A Place for Us Greyhound Rescue (NM)
Dallas-Fort Worth Dachshund Rescue Foundation (TX)

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers? demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Denise Vavla <denimstyle@cs.com>
32433 26th Avenue
Gobles MI 49055

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Jim Cridlin <jcridlin@leectyschools.com>
P.O. Box 14
Jonesville,Va.24263

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

This is a seriously flawed piece of legislation.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Robert Keese <bob.keese@gsa.gov>
7111 Deer Valley Rd.
Highland, MD 20777

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.hasn,t government have enough control over our lifes already?my family thanks you for opposing s. 1139 and helping us to maintain our heritage and freedom

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Earl Bingham <e.bingham@worldnet.att.net>
7838 riverview blvd. catlettsburg ky. 41129

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders? homes.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Leon Silcox <leon@gbso.net>
113 Bardin Ranchette Road
Palatka, Florida 32177

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Joe Boggs <beagler_us@yahoo.com>
1160 victory greenmount road london ky 40741

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers? demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Please consider carefully before voting on this bill, it is not a good one. the Illinois State Coonhunters of which I am VP is stronly apposed to this bill also

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

James R Temmen <deepwoodsenglish@lycos.com>
R.R. # 1 Box 95
Oconee, Illinois 62553

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Theresa Kaminski <Theresa97309@aol.com>
PO Box 13307, Salem, OR 97309

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Please listen to another point of view.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Alana Morlock <aleeco@comcast.net>
262 Main St
Winchendon, MA 01475

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

This bill is a completely unnecessary intrusion and should not be considered as a legitimate use of taxpayers money.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Tim Wells <timothw@clemson.edu>
Clemson, SC

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

EARL BRUNER <ebruner@ykk-ufi.com>

300 HACHWORTH RD. WADDY KY.40076

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

There is a distinct shortage of facts to demonstrate that alleged abuses by Internet sellers are not already subject to the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Its just wrong and AKC you can have your junk papers back I will never have a dog in your club you back stabbers

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Keith Swick <keithbluemoon@netzero.net>
10800 Appleton Rd Johnstown Ohio 43031

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

As a USDA licensed breeder I am totally against the passing of this bill: S. 1139 !!!

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Carol Huddleston <hschnauzers@yahoo.com>
HC 64 BOX 258
WEST PLAINS, MO 65775

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

We simply do not need more Federal Government involvement in which the cost of administration will far exceed the good it will do.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

David D. Quillen <Sgtddq59@aol.com>
24489 Old Meadow Rd
Seaford, DE 19973

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Please oppose S. 1139 and help me continue my work of 25 yrs. Im a responsible small hobby breeder and I stand behind every one of my pups. This bill would put all of my years of work to rest. Please stop it now.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Tina Kuzniacki <rasink9s@comcast.net>

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Cheryl Holyfield <cd1182@yahoo.com>
1033 Tuesday Lane
Byram, MS 39272

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Joe Loftus <brknhrtskennel@yahoo.com>

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

My dogs are my family. They love, comfort, and protect me. If this bill is passed, how much longer will it be before my pets are regulated, or even removed from my home?

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Kathleen M. Truesdell <kmtmuffy@hotmail.com>
140 S. Mansfield
Ypsilanti MI 48197

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

When hobby breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139 it will only increase large commercial breeders ability to raise more puppies.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

This is bad legislation and will NOT help shut down puppy mills as the purported(but obfuscated) objective. It will actually increase the output of puppy mills and narrow the gene pool to a few breeders,thus enabling the genetic medical problems associated with a particular breed. This is NOT legislation with the animals' best interest at heart, but a well disguised political/social/anti animal ajendaa by some self-avowed anti hunting terrorists groups.
The AKC has been snookered.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Wanda Borsa <beagling@outdrs.net>
10015 Holly Hill Lane
New Freedom, Pa 17349

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already ?stretched to the limit? federal budget.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers? demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

S.1139 doesn?t "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job. No need to spend tax dollars on reinventing the wheel. Enforce AWA and local and state laws that are already established.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Missy Bullock <mabulloc@utmb.edu>
7814 Leaning Oak Drive
Texa City, TX 77591

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Some day in America the picture of a boy and his dog will be history if PAWS keeps going at it's pace. Please vote no on S.1139
Good breeders take the love and care necessary to assure healthy pets. Please give them a chance to continue.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Janele Caldwell <jjwell7@msn.com>
1920 Starling Lane
Elizabeth, CO 80107

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Tina M. Grim <tmg00@blazenet.net>
1259 Wiermans Mill Rd.
York Springs, PA 17372

To: Members of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
C/O Deputy Hearing Clerk, Jacob Chaney
Via facsimile (202) 224-1725
Subject: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the official record

We are Airedale Terrier lovers, and we are members of the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA). We urge you to vote "No" to the bills known as PAWS, Senate Bill 1139 and House Bill 2669.

We subscribe to the objectives of the ATCA to encourage and promote the quality breeding and rearing of purebred Airedale Terriers. We adhere to the standard of excellence that the club sets for our breed. Through the Airedale Terrier Official Standard, the ATCA Constitution and By-Laws, and the ATCA Code of Ethics, the ATCA holds us and all ATCA members responsible for improving our breed, preserving its breed characteristics through responsible breeding and puppy socialization, and protecting the health and well being of our dogs.

Why do we oppose this legislation?
Ø PAWS would bring a dramatic increase in the number of licenses and a constant shift in individual licensees as many breeders do not breed every year.
Ø The need to inspect private homes would change the USDA focus from the commercial facilities that pose the greatest risk to residential sellers of dogs that are already subject to a high degree of oversight by buyers, AKC, national breed clubs, and local and state authorities.
Ø Most complaints about deplorable conditions are already violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).
Ø It is an unwarranted invasion of privacy to go into breeders' homes. The care standards established for wholesale dealers of dogs under the AWA are not appropriate for residences. These standards address care for high numbers of dogs; include specifications and procedures for large-scale facilities; and require materials and procedures that are difficult, unnecessary, and virtually impossible for small breeders to follow.
Ø Currently covered commercial facilities are certain to resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class, and the USDA will likely be unable to justify more lenient regulations or standards for any group of regulated breeders like in-home hobby breeders.
Ø The changes mandated by PAWS will in fact hurt consumers by driving small breeders out of the hobby and forcing consumers to turn to dealers who are interested solely in profit. The changes will thereby encourage the puppy mills and scurrilous breeders the AWA was designed to prevent and thus undermine the basic purpose of the Act.
Ø The entire 30-year legislative history of AWA supports including residential sellers of dogs under the "retail pet store" exclusion.
Ø PAWS reverses a United States Court of Appeals 2003 decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders
Ø PAWS establishes the precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescuers, all sellers of intact, breedable dogs, and for discrimination against certain types of dogs (such as hunting and security breeds).
Ø USDA does not have the resources to enforce PAWS: it seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should the USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with one of the dog registries or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership V. animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the federal government should not undertake

Respectfully,

Glenna Briggs
P. O. Box 370, Holliday, TX 76366
940-586-1524

Glenna Briggs

SAWNEE MOUNTAIN KENNEL CLUB OF GA, INC.
Post Office Box 1677
Cumming, GA 30028
November 2, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282

Dear Senators:

The Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of GA, Inc. requests that you oppose PAWS.

S.1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005, has been introduced by Senator Rick Santorum 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. We are opposed to S.1139 for the following reasons:

- The use of numbers to determine whether a kennel should be licensed is not valid criteria. To our knowledge, no supporting data has been introduced as justification for relevance of the proposed numbers to actual need for regulation. Numbers have no bearing on conditions or quality and the proposed numbers appear arbitrary. Numbers can be too easily changed and should not be written into law.

- PAWS establishes federal authority to regulate a personal hobby conducted in the privacy of one's residence. Once this is established it could easily lead to the socialization standards and breeding restrictions called for in the prior versions of Senator Santorum's bill known as the Puppy Protection Act (PPA).

- PAWS supporters proclaim it to be the benefactor to puppy mill dogs and cats. Puppy mill is a much overworked and overused term to arouse emotion and sympathy and cloud sound judgment where the law is concerned. On a national level – if two real puppy mills are "busted" a year – this does not constitute grounds for millions of breeders, hunters and fanciers to be regulated by USDA or driven out of their hobby by impossible regulatory demands.

- PAWS is over-regulation by the federal government which will surely lead to unintended consequences

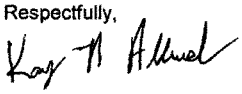
- As established by Doris Day Animal League vs Venneman Ann the federal government does not intend to regulate and license breeders to the extreme level of personal residences. The USDA current AWA regulations were written to provide humane care for animals in commercial and research facilities.

Letter Opposing Pet Animal Welfare Statute 2005 (PAWS)
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of GA, Inc.
November 2, 2005

- The language of the proposed bill is unclear and in some cases conflicting. A law must be clear and not interpretive

Please be aware that although the American Kennel Club has reversed their prior position on the PPA and is now in support of this lesser version known as PAWS – the AKC does NOT speak its entire membership of clubs or the tens of thousands of dog breeders that register with AKC.

Respectfully,



Kay N. Alfred, President
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of GA, Inc.

678-474-2115

November 11, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282

Dear Senators:

Atlanta Dogworks requests that you oppose PAWS.

PAWS doesn't just "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as supporters claim. PAWS is against individuals selling cats, dogs and other animals directly to the pet owning public. PAWS is a step to end breeding pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting. This is a dramatic change in the fundamental concept of the Animal Welfare Act, which was to license and regulate dealers who sell to the pet trade (pet stores and brokers).

PAWS Federalizes the breeding of home-raised animals—the optimum source of well socialized pets. If fanciers and hobby breeders are forced to discontinue or reduce their breeding programs, the public demand for well socialized pets will not be met. Fewer enthusiasts will result in the loss of genetic diversity, and many rare breeds will become extinct.

PAWS does not benefit the welfare of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. In fact, adding thousands of cat and dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly overburden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Animal Welfare Act at all.

PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats."

Respectfully,

Greg Tresan, Owner
770-735-6200

1690 Julius Bridge Road • Ball Ground, GA 30107 • (770) 735-6200 • (770) 735-6287 fax
dogworks@aol.com • www.atlantadogworks.com

Shetland Sheepdog Club of Georgia
231 Deartrace Dr.
McDonough, Ga. 30253

November 2, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

Dear Senators:

The Shetland Sheepdog Club of Georgia requests that you oppose PAWS.

PAWS changes the definition of dealer to anyone selling over 25 dogs "and" cats together "or" selling over six litters of dogs and cats bred or raised on your own premises and no dogs or cats not so bred/raised. For the first time USDA will regulate private retail sellers.

The problem with using these numbers is they are not now nor ever will be written in stone. The numbers can be changed readily enough in the future. NO study or proof of any kind has been offered to explain why these numbers were chosen as a threshold for licensing. They appear arbitrary and have no connection or correlation to levels of care or necessity for regulation.

The numbers are camouflage. Senator Santorum has already gone on record as saying the numbers will likely be reduced in the future.

Many dog and cat rescue groups take in and adopt out hundreds of animals per year. These animals are kept in ordinary (foster) homes during rehabilitation. In law, 'adopting' for any compensation is selling. PAWS will force rescuers to choose between building a shelter and limiting themselves to selling a total of 25 per year.

Current AWA regulations are written for research and commercial facilities. It is generally impractical to comply with the regulations in your home. Senator Santorum says that the USDA will have to write new regulations allowing in-home breeding. That will not happen because the large wholesale breeders who are already licensed don't want any new competition getting a low-cost set of rules.

PAWS is said to be needed due to the large and growing numbers of imported dogs and cats. Although the truth of this statement is doubtful, importation requirements can be tightened without licensing everyone who breeds a warm-blooded animal in the United States.

PAWS is a badly worded and unjustified bill. Federal oversight of pets is not needed when local and state laws are available to ensure humane treatment of pets.

Respectfully,

Jan Chaie, Board Member
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Georgia, Inc.
(770) 205-8866

SAWNEE MOUNTAIN KENNEL CLUB OF GA, INC.
Post Office Box 1677
Cumming, GA 30028
November 2, 2005

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282

Dear Senators:

The Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of GA, Inc. requests that you oppose PAWS.

S.1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005, has been introduced by Senator Rick Santorum 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. We are opposed to S.1139 for the following reasons:

- The use of numbers to determine whether a kennel should be licensed is not valid criteria. To our knowledge, no supporting data has been introduced as justification for relevance of the proposed numbers to actual need for regulation. Numbers have no bearing on conditions or quality and the proposed numbers appear arbitrary. Numbers can be too easily changed and should not be written into law.

- PAWS establishes federal authority to regulate a personal hobby conducted in the privacy of one's residence. Once this is established it could easily lead to the socialization standards and breeding restrictions called for in the prior versions of Senator Santorum's bill known as the Puppy Protection Act (PPA).

- PAWS supporters proclaim it to be the benefactor to puppy mill dogs and cats. Puppy mill is a much overworked and overused term to arouse emotion and sympathy and cloud sound judgment where the law is concerned. On a national level – if two real puppy mills are "busted" a year – this does not constitute grounds for millions of breeders, hunters and fanciers to be regulated by USDA or driven out of their hobby by impossible regulatory demands.

- PAWS is over-regulation by the federal government which will surely lead to unintended consequences

- As established by Doris Day Animal League vs Venneman Ann the federal government does not intend to regulate and license breeders to the extreme level of personal residences. The USDA current AWA regulations were written to provide humane care for animals in commercial and research facilities.

Letter Opposing Pet Animal Welfare Statute 2005 (PAWS)
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of GA, Inc.
November 2, 2005

- The language of the proposed bill is unclear and in some cases conflicting. A law must be clear and not interpretive

Please be aware that although the American Kennel Club has reversed their prior position on the PPA and is now in support of this lesser version known as PAWS – the AKC does NOT speak its entire membership of clubs or the tens of thousands of dog breeders that register with AKC.

Respectfully,

Kay N. Allred, President
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of GA, Inc.

678-474-2115

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and
Forestry Committee
Deputy Hearing Clerk
Jacob Chaney

I am making known my opposition to S.1139 'PAWS' and wish it to be included in the official record.

We adopted a bichon frise from the Tidewater Bichon Frise Rescue Organization in Suffolk, Virginia. Their flat rate was $250.00. They had rescued our dog from a home which could not afford her medical treatment. The rescue group paid $219.00 for heartworm treatment. Additionally, she was spayed and brought up to date with all her shots. Other dogs in their care received very expensive medical care and were kept inside their own homes. While there, they received loving care and none were caged. Before we were given our pet, a representative visited our home and approved us for adoption. A follow-up visit was made several weeks after receiving her.

Eariler this year, we had tried to adopt a mixed poodle from the SPCA in Newport News. The SPCA had each dog in a small cage and demanded that they be spayed before leaving. If the dog is sick or malnourished it does not matter. The dog we wanted was both and was not given any chance to recouperate before being spayed. The dog was handed to us and was still under anesthesia. The dog died five days later. We had spent $230.00 trying to save our new dog.

We feel that most rescue operations are run by dedicated and well meaning individuals. Most spend vast amounts of their own time and money to save and place these dogs. They accept and place older and those that need medical care. These dogs would be immediately euthanized in the local SPCA's.

If a dishonest or unsatisfactory rescue operation is discovered, then I am sure that they would be covered by the current cruelty to animals or fraud statues. I do not feel that all rescue operations should be burdened by the stringent requriments of S. 1139.

Ray and Helga Merritt
130 Branscome Boulevard
Williamsburg, VA 23185
November 2, 2005

Siroyale Siberians

Chuck and Sandy Squires

Post Office Box 878
Lyman, SC 29365-0664
Telephone (864) 877-8906

WE OPPOSE SENATE BILL 1139, PAWS

November 1, 2005
REFERENCE: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 PAWS

Dear Senators,

Please help preserve our right to continue in a hobby that we enjoy so much - the loving, breeding and showing of our AKC Champion line of Siberian Huskies. Although in over 25 years with our Siberians my husband and I have not bred the numbers that would put us under USDA licensing following the *dealer* guidelines *currently* proposed in S1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS), we are **strongly opposed to this badly written and ill conceived piece of legislation.**

"PAWS" would wipe out the USDA's historic interpretation of the Animal Welfare Act as only requiring licensing and regulation of breeders selling at wholesale and would bring under its jurisdiction hobby breeders selling directly to the public. **Wholesale vs. retail is a simple, qualitative measure. The use of numbers to determine USDA *dealer* licensing serves no valid purpose.** One breeder might be capable of properly caring for many litters per year and to the contrary some who breed only one litter a year may produce unhealthy pets raised in unsanitary conditions. **State and local animal laws already cover conditions under which animals must be kept.** Also, **most hobby breeders do not breed at the same level every year.** One year they might fall within the licensing numbers and many other years would not. **Equitable *dealer* determination and enforcement under those discrepancies would be impossible.**

Most hobby breeders raise litters in their homes. Current USDA licensing regulations (90 pages) require *commercial kennel* facilities. **The simple requiring of a USDA license would force many hobby breeders to shut down** as local zoning restrictions usually prohibit commercial kennels in residential areas.

A major point of opposition to PAWS is the Animal Rights influence. HSUS, DDAL and PETA are major supporters, with HSUS claiming on its website to be a co-author. **These Animal Rights organizations follow an agenda which strives to stop ALL breeding of animals.** The use of an arbitrary numbers criteria weighs heavily in their ability to do so. **HSUS has stated PAWS is merely a FIRST STEP.** Once in place **numbers can and will easily be lowered.** If passed, PAWS will ultimately be deadly to most hobby/show breeders - including us. This bill is not about animal welfare, it is about the Animal Rights Movement eliminating breeders.

Please protect our rights as law-biding taxpayers and voters. Please VOTE NO ON PAWS. Please help convince your fellow Senators that PAWS should not become law.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra M. Squires

Sandra M. Squires

WE OPPOSE SENATE BILL 1139, PAWS

To: Senator Thad Cochran
Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee

Subject: Senate Bill 1139

Please vote No to Senate Bill 1139, otherwise known as PAWS, for which you are holding a private hearing on Tuesday November 8, 2005.

This bill seeks to add a class of home-based breeders who sell directly to people who want a pet puppy or kitten to the Animal Welfare Act, legislation written and administered to regulate wholesalers. All of the AWA secondary regulations and guidelines are written with large, commercial wholesalers in mind.

What proponents of the revised bill, known as PAWS, are saying is that new regulations and guidelines will be written for in-home breeders after the bill becomes law. And when they are asked how these thousands of people will be inspected by the USDA, they say that private organizations will be contracted to do the inspections.

But people who oppose the PAWS amendment say that it is unlikely that the USDA will be able to write guidelines and regulations for home-based breeders without challenges from the large scale puppy breeders who are already licensed and regulated under the Animal Welfare Act. It is highly likely that licensed large breeding corporations will cite unequal enforcement of the law if any attempt is made to make the requirements easier for one class of licensees: home-based breeders living in residentially zoned neighborhoods. Their lawsuits could tie this up for a long time to come. Home-based hobby breeders of purebred dogs and cats cannot meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act regulations and guidelines unless they live in a non-residentially zoned area and have a huge kennel where all whelping and puppy rearing is done.

The problem with PAWS is that it seeks to amend an existing wholesaler law by bringing small retailers under a law written for wholesalers. It would have made more sense to have proposed an entire new act to oversee retailers, an act for which new regulations and guidelines for enforcement would then have to be written by USDA.

Likewise, contracting with private organizations like the AKC and HSUS to do the inspections that the USDA cannot do will cause further problems in administering this bill. The AKC is one of many registries: if they are allowed to investigate breeders of other registries in their homes, there could be objections and any action arising out of such visits could be protested as biased. Similarly, HSUS is know to be an animal rights organization, and breeders would not welcome these people into their homes.

Senate Bill 1139 and its sister bill in the House, both known as PAWS, have not been carefully thought out. Passing them will require huge investments in staffing and financing at a time when we need to be concerned about the wars in Iraq and Afganistan, the war on terror, rebuilding New Orleans, and many other pressing national concerns. The class of breeders targeted, the breeders of purebred dogs and cats, are already under the strict rules of their national parent clubs.

Please vote No to Senate Bill 1139.

Sincerely,

Joyce Miller

Dr. Joyce Miller and Eugene R. Wolfe
6001 Blue Bay Drive, Dallas TX 75248
972-248-2128

To: Senator Debbie Stabenow
Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee

Subject: Senate Bill 1139

Please vote No to Senate Bill 1139, otherwise known as PAWS, for which you are holding a private hearing on Tuesday November 8, 2005.

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Please vote No to Senate Bill 1139.

Sincerely,

Joyce Miller

Dr. Joyce Miller and Eugene R. Wolfe
6001 Blue Bay Drive, Dallas TX 75248
972-248-2128

To: Senator Patrick Leahy
Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee

Subject: Senate Bill 1139

Please vote No to Senate Bill 1139, otherwise known as PAWS, for which you are holding a private hearing on Tuesday November 8, 2005.

This bill seeks to add a class of home-based breeders who sell directly to people who want a pet puppy or kitten to the Animal Welfare Act, legislation written and administered to regulate wholesalers. All of the AWA secondary regulations and guidelines are written with large, commercial wholesalers in mind.

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Senate Bill 1139 and its sister bill in the House, both known as PAWS, have not been carefully thought out. Passing them will require huge investments in staffing and financing at a time when we need to be concerned about the wars in Iraq and Afganistan, the war on terror, rebuilding New Orleans, and many other pressing national concerns. The class of breeders targeted, the breeders of purebred dogs and cats, are already under the strict rules of their national parent clubs.

Please vote No to Senate Bill 1139.

Sincerely,

Joyce Miller E Wolfe

Dr. Joyce Miller and Eugene R. Wolfe
6001 Blue Bay Drive, Dallas TX 75248
972-248-2128

To: Senator Thad Cochran
Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee

Subject: Senate Bill 1139

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Please vote No to Senate Bill 1139.

Sincerely,

Joyce Miller Eugene

Dr. Joyce Miller and Eugene R. Wolfe
6001 Blue Bay Drive, Dallas TX 75248
972-248-2128

To: Senator Mitch McConnell
Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee

Subject: Senate Bill 1139

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Dr. Joyce Miller and Eugene R. Wolfe
6001 Blue Bay Drive, Dallas TX 75248
972-248-2128

To: Senator Debbie Stabenow
Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee

Subject: Senate Bill 1139

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Please vote No to Senate Bill 1139.

Sincerely,

Joyce Miller E Reuerfe

Dr. Joyce Miller and Eugene R. Wolfe
6001 Blue Bay Drive, Dallas TX 75248
972-248-2128

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Maureen Foster <mfoster@warwick.net>
3 Hillside Avenue
Warwick, NY 10990

Marshall Liger, AHT
320 Millcreek Drive
Charleston, SC 29407

November 03, 2005

Re: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

Dear Committee Members,

As a licensed veterinary technician (AHT), I urge you to OPPOSE SB1139/HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 (PAWS). PAWS will unnecessarily infringe on the privacy of thousands of Americans who breed, raise and place a few dogs or cats each year, from their homes. Federal oversight of such operations is unwarranted and wasteful of limited USDA resources.

By including in the PAWS bill, regulations on the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. This will remove many home raised pet animals from the marketplace, thus depriving Americans of the option to purchase well socialized family pets and purebred dogs and pedigreed cats.

PAWS covers all warm-blooded animals sold as pets, such as rabbits and birds. There are about 30,000 members of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, (ARBA), and the USDA estimates that only one in ten rabbit breeders is a member of the ARBA. This means PAWS could require the licensing of 30,000 to 300,000 rabbit breeders. This would also impact the 4-H programs for school age children, placing unnecessary burdensome requirements on our young people learning about animal husbandry. PAWS would require regulation of all bird breeders who sell any bird directly to a member of the public. Birds are included under PAWS due to the result of the passage of the Helms Amendment (2002) to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). This amendment excluded birds used for research from regulation under the AWA, but did not exclude birds for sale as pets.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not compliant with established USDA regulations for hosedown/sanitize facilities. It's not at all clear that any new regulations for in-home hobby breeders will be materially different than those already in place. Presently covered commercial facilities are certain to fiercely resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class. If PAWS passes and the USDA regulates and inspects hobby breeders, rescuers and other dog sellers, how can it justify more lenient regulations or standards for any regulated entity, if its primary mission is animal protection?

USDA does not have the manpower to enforce PAWS. It seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with a dog registry or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership V. animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the USDA must greatly fear.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marshall Liger, AHT

Marshall Liger, AHT
843-571-5688

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA?s ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I urge you to reject S.1139.

Gary Slick <slick50@epix.net>
RR1 Box 1048
Hop Bottom PA 18824

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

Since hobby breeders are not keeping their puppies and kittens in horrific conditions like puppy mills do, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation of the worst offenders.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I urge you to vote against this S.1139 PAWS bill. I feel it is unfair. My future votes will definately reflect on supporters that support it.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Perry Lambert <leopardcur1@aol.com>
po box 238
South Charleston,OH.45368

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

As a member of CFA, and as a small breeder and exhibitor of pedigreed cats, I want to express my opposition to S. 1139, PAWS and to urge you to please NOT pass it.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Caroline Seefchak <SeefCats@aol.com>
2701 SW 179th Avenue
Miramar, FL 33029

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Groups of delerious so called "animal lovers" are a danger to the American way of life that I served my country for twenty seven years to protect. None of them have ever served.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Reverend Thomas H. Kerr <Boxleybeagles@aol.com>
PO Box 567
Muncie, IN 47308-0567

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA?s ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers? demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

CHris Voiles <Ck.Voiles@insightbb.com>
1907 W. VAile Ave KOkomo In. 46901

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

With all of the press about unnecessary government spending, passage of S.1139 would greatly add to this problem. What ever happened to "government for the people, by the people"? The current elected persons are there because the voters felt these people would reflect the opinions and concerns of the voters. If the majority of Americans are against S.1139, how then can it pass? By the elected persons NOT listening to the ones that put them in office! One reminder: remember how you voted for this bill, because come election time, you may have to answer for it!

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Cynthia Grooms <cgrooms63@earthlink.net>
254 Harrington Rd
Rockingham, NC 28379

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

This bill will in the end just allow th PM'ers to breed dogs.The very ones that you should be trying to close out.This will end in most people quiting the AKC.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Sharon Heath <rustywranglers@frontiernet.net>
PO Box 158,St. johns AZ,85936

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I think that the PAWS bill is the biggest bunch of bull crap I have ever heard of. I think it is unfair and I will never give akc or any other group a penny from here out if they support this bill. We are free Americans and know one should be able to pass a bill like this.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Seneca Graham <sgmountainman@adelphia.net>
589 Hankey Mt. Hwy.
Churchville Va 24421

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Socialized, well-adjusted puppies do not come from commercial breeders, they come from hobby breeders. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Marlene Minor <mminor@tds.net>
5548 1st Avenue
Pittsville,WI 54466

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Danny Jones <outdoorsghost@yahoo.com>
2849 union ch rd
lincolnton N.C

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

PAWS if passed is going to subject many animal lovers to a vicious witch hunt by PETA, HSUS and DDAL. Americans deserve better than to be subjected to such harassment and intrusion into their lives by Animal Rights groups who are trying to convince our children that eating an egg is murder while giving support to domestic terrorism groups like ALF and ELF. This is AMERICA, please vote NO on PAWS and send a clear message to those groups who seek to oppress us.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Barbara Miller <dingom@excite.com>
63 Hurleys Lane
Lincroft NJ 07738

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

S.1139 doesn?t "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Zoning problems will occur for many who try to obtain a USDA license.

The bill?s supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

Please do not be misled by the testimony at the one-sided hearing scheduled for November 8.

I urge you to reject S.1139.

Lisa Pinto <chessmont@comcast.net>
6959 Orchard Station Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Because the USDA is already overburdened with the regulation of food and agriculture in this country, it will be hard-pressed to provide either interpretations or enforcement personnel for S. 1139. Much of the language in S. 1139 is vague.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers? demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Leonard Bishop <Huntringtail@adelphia.net>
2423 Mt. Tabor Road
Blacksburg VA.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I hope you will use your common sense and see that that this bill is intrusive to the American people. It would also be uninforceable and very expensive to police a program like PAWS. Please vote no to s.1139

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Dorothy Beier <MiloveMaltese@aol.com>
560 Sulgrave Dr.
Columbia, SC 29210

October 23, 2005

Senator Saxby Chambliss, Chairman
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)"

Dear Senator Chambliss:

I oppose the PAWS bill (Senate Bill 1139/House Bill 2669) as it is written. The bill is not well drafted, it is confusing and complicated. I favor better enforcement of the current Animal Welfare Act. Please include my views in the OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD.

The PAWS bill federalizes the breeding of home-raised animals - the best possible place to get a well-socialized pet. When home-based hobby breeders are forced to stop breeding, people will have to go to the puppy mills or out of country to get pets. In spite of publicity to the contrary, that is not occurring today except in a few isolated instances. Kittens and puppies are not available over the internet from reliable home hobby breeders. If enacted, the many wonderful breeds will soon disappear from this country.

It should not be the intent of Congress to direct a Federal investigator to inspect the bedrooms of hobby breeders, but that is exactly what this legislation will do. The right of privacy is very important in this country. There is no concrete evidence that violations sufficient to breach that right currently exist to justify this legislation.

This country has severe financial burdens right now, with the war in Iraq and the disaster in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Surely Congress has more important things to consider at this time than sending Federal inspectors into bedrooms.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Oneta C. Cox

Oneta C. Cox
22391 Torino
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
949-458-1084

October 23, 2005

This letter is to Senator Santorum and the entire subcommittee regarding S1139 (PAWS):

I request that the subcommittee make this view part of the OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD.

Gentlemen,

I cannot make it clear enough how opposed to S1139 (PAWS) I am.

The AKC, HSUS, ASPCA, PETA, DDAL and the AVMA do not represent the views of over 400 clubs, organizations, registries, rescue groups and thousands of individuals who oppose the PAWS bill.

I strongly oppose the concept of federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs direct to the public at retail. No matter what clarifications or adjustments in the proposed thresholds that may be suggested by the supporters - my primary objection to S 1139 remains. PAWS would be detrimental to thousands of breeders raising cats and dogs in their homes who would be subjected to USDA inspection and inappropriate/commercial facility standards of care. There is no credible evidence to show that huge numbers of dogs or cats are being sold directly to the public at retail through mass media methods such as the Internet, which supporters claim. Newspaper ad selling has decreased. The Internet allows contact with the public and is not inherently evil. Pet owners are now better educated concerning selection of a pet.

If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health. S. 1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase.

The preponderance of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers willing to provide homes, food, vet care and other necessities for them, at no cost to the taxpayers. These short and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, foster homes will, for all intents and purposes, be eliminated.

The Animal Welfare Act should continue to require licensing of commercial breeders selling dogs/cats to the pet trade, brokers and transporters of animals. The USDA should not regulate those breeders selling directly to the public, including individuals or organizations who rescue cats and dogs and re-home these animals.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Hogan

Cheryl Hogan
8800 Summit Point Ct.
Ft Worth, TX 76179

The Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA)
1805 Atlantic Avenue
Manasquan, New Jersey 08736
732-528-9797

October 20, 2005

The Honorable Rick Santorum
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 511
Washington, D.C. 20510-3804

FAX 202-228-8282

Attn: Jeff Stoltzfoos

RE: The Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS) S 1139

Dear Senator Santorum:

It's my understanding that S1139 the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005," (PAWS) has been scheduled for a hearing on November 8, 2005 before the Senate's Agriculture Research, Nutrition and General Legislation Subcommittee, which you chair. I request the opportunity to address the subcommittee at that time to express the concerns of cat fanciers regarding the PAWS requirement for USDA regulation of cat and dog breeders selling directly to the public at retail.

The Cat Fanciers' Association believes that the amendment will very likely impose federal regulation on as many as 1200 cat fanciers. The established thresholds are especially detrimental to cat breeders with conscientious breeding programs as it is necessary for one to have at least 4 or 5 breeding females for genetic diversity. Since cats reproduce very differently than dogs they produce more than one litter per year. Small or moderate breeders selling home-raised pedigreed cats would have to open their homes to federal inspection. S1139 represents a total revision in the concept of the Animal Welfare Act, which is to regulate those who sell to the pet trade not directly to the public. We are concerned with the unintended and serious consequences that will actually lead to more commercial breeding and selling while the numbers of hobby breeders would diminish.

I would like to present these views to your subcommittee in November. There are aspects of this bill, such as the enforcement provisions, that have the support of CFA. Those of us dedicated to breeding the finest of pedigreed cats who give great pleasure to many American families are committed to animal welfare and want to encourage hobby breeders. The PAWS as written is confusing and would be counterproductive to our goals, and I believe to your stated desire, to not impact hobby breeding.

Sincerely,

Joan Miller

Joan Miller
CFA Legislative Coordinator
jMillerArt@aol.com
619-269-0107 (California)

Like and Visit the Vet - Keeping Your Cat Healthy

SENATE AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

Submitted by Lily Sayre
5101 SW 145 Avenue
Southwest Ranches, FL 33330

Approval of this bill would eliminate the exclusion under the Animal Welfare Act of those who sell animals directly to the public, which is a drastic change in the law. When Congress amended the Animal Welfare Act almost 25 years ago to require licensing of wholesale dealers of dogs sold as pets, USDA wrote regulations exempting retail outlets, including home breeders, from the licensing requirement. The Doris Day Animal League sued to have breeders included, and the courts affirmed that they are exempt.

During court proceedings, the Secretary of USDA outlined some of the reasoning for excluding those who sell from their homes:

1. "...retail dealers, especially those who sell from their homes, are already subject to a degree of self-regulation and oversight by persons who purchase animals from the retailers' homes, as well as by breed and registry organizations, and registry organizations, such as kennel clubs, require their registrants to meet certain guidelines related to the health and general makeup of animals bred and to the education of the registrants. These organizations also monitor the conditions under which animals are bred and raised. Wholesale dealers typically do not have this type of oversight from the public."

2. " Retail outlets are not unregulated. There are already many State and local laws and ordinances in place to monitor and review allegations of inhumane treatment of and inadequate housing for animals owned by private retail dealers. If we were to regulate dealers along with State and local officials, it would clearly not be the most efficient use of our resources."

The Secretary also declined to amend the definition on the ground that the best interest of animal welfare is supported by allowing the Department to "concentrate (its) resources on those facilities that present the greatest risk of noncompliance with the regulations." The Department has decided to focus on wholesale dealers, where its resources are likely to yield the greatest benefit.

Prior to the DDAL appellate decision, DDAL had sought to change the retail pet store definition to exclude breeders. The USDA published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking requesting comments. A key USDA statement in the ANPR

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

I am requesting that my view be made part of the Official Public Record

OPPOSITION TO PAWS (S1139) 22 October 2005

Dear Committee,

I am registered voter; an owner of an AKC registered hunting/show dog and a small CFA cat breeder. I oppose the PAWS (S1139) bill and ask for your help in defeating it. The AKC is not representing me or the needs of its members and certainly does not represent the opinions of the Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) and its members.

This bill is poorly written and designed to end hobby breeding at any level. Without hobby breeders, the purebred dog & the pedigree cat will be lost. This bill will certainly negatively impact breeders of pedigreed cats with small/moderate sized catteries and breeding programs. This bill is detrimental to CFA's mission to preserve our historic and valued cat breeds; as well as the many dog breeds.

- Licensing of cat breeders who sell at retail to the public is not necessary and is contrary to the intent of the Animal Welfare Act, which was created by Congress to regulate commercial activities involving animals, including dealers who breed and sell dogs/cats at wholesale.

- The threshold of no more than 6 litters produced is not indicative of large commercial sellers of pedigreed cats. CFA requires inspection of what is considered a "high volume" breeding cattery, those who produce 75 kittens per year, and there were only 66 in the United States, Canada, Japan or elsewhere in 2004. Cat breeding is not a viable commercial business requiring federal regulation. It is a private home activity by individuals who want to provide kittens of high quality, good health and temperament for a desiring public.

- It is not possible for a cat breeder to predict each year whether 6 or 7 or 8 litters will be born or even how many kittens may result from any given mating. Cat litters generally vary between 1 to 4 live kittens. I have researched several articles and find that 3.7 is a more accurate number for pedigreed cats. Basing litter size on random-bred cats (these cats don't receive the level of care that those of breeders do) or CFA records of registration (which do not always reflect all those born in a litter) appears to give a lower average. Also, certain breeds have lower litter size than other breeds.

- Why should the USDA inspect the bedrooms of fanciers who are not commercial businesses and may fall above or below the threshold in any given year?

- Extending the regulation requirements to thousands of dog and cat breeders by the USDA will substantially increase their work load so that more animals may suffer in substandard commercial facilities.

The Federal government (USDA) does NOT belong in the homes of private citizens.

Sincerely,

Regina Shaffer
1663 Rose Ave
Beaumont, CA 92223
(951) 769-2949
CFA Southwest Regional Director
Secretary, Las Flores Cat Club
Director, Abyssinian Breeders International
Treasurer, Crown City Cat Club
Vice-president, Marina Allbreed Cat Club
Vice-President, Hemet Feline Fanciers

CH Fayr Wynds The Admiral

Fayr Wynds Shelties
Ernie & Darla Duffey
5204 Beige St.
Jacksonville, FL 32258
904-262-5420
DDuffey@Aol.com

CH Fayr Wynds Lad Of Trailwood

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

Attn: Jeff Stoltzfoos

I support reasonable laws that protect the welfare of animals and the rights of responsible animal owners, but I cannot support PAWS.

PAWS contains enforcement and import provisions that I could back if proposed as stand alone amendments. However adding retail breeders and sellers to the dealer section of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA) is a revolutionary change never intended by the law, unconnected to any identified problem warranting federal attention, and in direct opposition to a federal court decision in 2003. Simply put, the companion bills S1139/H2669 propose an end run around the failed DDAL lawsuit against USDA, an attempt to force federal regulation of breeders who sell their puppies and kittens directly to the public. The potential impact of the bill on breeders who whelp litters in their homes is only too clear and I adamantly oppose the bill as it is written.

Instead of enhancing the ability of USDA to find squalid kennels, this bill fails to define the problem it proposes to solve, creates a solution that would swat flies with a sledgehammer, and puts federal inspectors in private homes, something even the embattled Patriot Act does only after issuance of a court order.

NAIA Trust opposition

NAIA Trust opposes S1139/H2669, the so-called Pet Animal Welfare Statute, on several grounds: the bill

- puts federal inspectors in private homes, an intrusion that USDA argued against in federal court;
- places home breeders in violation of many residential planning and zoning codes by classifying them as dealers;
- siphons USDA resources from large wholesale operations housing hundreds of animals to home breeders keeping a small number of pets;
- diverts USDA focus away from the middlemen, wholesale dealers, transporters and brokers that were the original targets of the AWA;
- is poorly written and thus open to broad interpretation and lawsuits;
- would destroy the agency's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that present the greatest risk of violations;

- *federally regulates retail dealers, including home breeders, that are already subject to public oversight, peer review, and state and local laws that govern humane treatment of animals;*
- *dodges a federal court decision that affirmed the right of the Secretary of Agriculture to exempt home breeders from the regulations;*
- *is backed by animal rights groups that oppose pet breeding and have a record of using laws to harass and intimidate those who own animals;*
- *deletes exemptions for some retail pet sellers by redefining a dealer as someone who exceeds a threshold number of litters raised and dogs sold;*
- *will require hobby breeders to meet standards of housing and care that have not yet been written; and*
- *fails to exempt individuals and organizations that rescue dogs and place them in new homes.*

Background

Nearly 25 years ago, Congress amended the Animal Welfare Act to require licensing of wholesale dealers of dogs sold as pets, and the US Department of Agriculture wrote regulations exempting retail outlets, including home breeders, from the licensing requirement.

In 1999, when pressured by the Doris Day Animal League (DDAL) animal rights organization to regulate home breeders, USDA reaffirmed the exemption of hobbyists and others who sell puppies directly to consumers for the following reasons:

- *Regulating home breeders would destroy the agency's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that present the greatest risk of violations.*
- *Retail dealers, including home breeders, are already subject to public oversight, peer review, and state and local laws that govern humane treatment of animals; and*
- *The definition of retail pet store conforms with the original Congressional intention that the AWA focus on wholesale dealers selling pets through middlemen.*

Now comes Senator Richard Santorum (R-Pennsylvania) with S1139, a bill that will classify home breeders as dog and cat dealers, forcing them to accept federal inspection of their homes if they produce more than six litters and sell more than 25 animals in a calendar year.

S1139 allows federal intrusion into private homes on an unprecedented and unwarranted scale, ignores the many state and local ordinances and regulations that monitor pet breeding, and flies in the face of a court decision that considers such impositions to be invasions of privacy. USDA won a strong appellate decision in 2003, a decision the US Supreme court refused to review, thereby

upholding its authority to, and rationale for, limiting its scope to overseeing the wholesale channel of the pet industry.

There are good reasons for laws to protect the welfare of animals bred and raised as pets and for other purposes, but unless a significant federal question is involved none warrant a federal law to accomplish that purpose. There are state and local laws and regulations in place to prevent animal abuse. Animal welfare problems can be addressed by enforcement of state and local animal protection laws and kennel licensing requirements, and in states where pet breeding is a large industry, by full blown kennel licensing and inspection programs that operate under the authority of humane societies, animal control agencies, and state departments of agriculture. Consumer problems can be handled through the courts, state attorney general offices, consumer laws and consumer protection agencies. If these laws and remedies are not effective, they can be strengthened. A federal law should only be added if significant problems exist which cannot be remedied by state and local laws and programs. Otherwise, the involvement of a federal agency in the private business of selling puppies and kittens from one's own home becomes a bizarre and wasteful abuse of power.

USDA and the US court of appeals have already ruled on this issue

In July 1999, USDA wrote in the Federal Register: "If we were to amend the definition of 'retail pet store,' it is conceivable that a significant portion of our annual personnel and financial resources would be used to regulate a very small fraction of the animals covered under our regulations. This disproportionate expenditure of funds would not be in the best interest of animal welfare."

In January 2003, the US Court of Appeals upheld USDA's determination to exclude home breeders by defining them in federal regulations as retail outlets. It also left it up to USDA to determine the best allocation of their resources to provide for the welfare of the largest number of animals possible.

In its decision, the court cited arguments by USDA and said: " It was also within the authority delegated to him by Congress for the Secretary to decline to amend the definition in light of the potential invasions of privacy that would result if federal inspectors began enforcing 'cleaning, sanitation, handling, and other regulatory requirements in private homes.'"

Proponents of this bill claim that new funds can and will be appropriated to enforce PAWS, but to NALA Trust, it seems unreasonable to shift limited funds to solve problems that have yet to be defined when USDA resources are already stretched to their limits by issues of major consequence to the country, including biotechnology, mad cow disease, and natural and bioterrorism threats to our food supply. It is both irrational and absurd to use the agency's finite resources to find and monitor home breeders of puppies and kittens when these potentially life-threatening issues need their attention.

Sincerely,

Mr Ernest N. Duffey

Mrs Darla M. Duffey

JACKSONVILLE, FL

SHELTIE RESCUE AND INFORMATION SERVICE

LOST/FOUND ADOPTION PLACEMENT RESCUE

Ernie or Darla Duffey (904) 262-5420

Cellphone - 1-904-608-3333

www.jacksonvillesheltierescue.org

Elaine Davis
411 Belgrade-Swansboro Road
Stella, NC 28582
910-326-3456
October 26, 2005

Title submittals as: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282
Email: Jeff_Stoltzfoos@santorum.senate.gov

Dear Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen,

I am against S1139, and I urge you to vote against it. It is not in the best interest of this country, and it will forever harm responsible animal owners and breeders.

1. S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, and it will put many hobby breeders in violation residential and zoning codes throughout the USA.
2. Hobby breeders raise animals in their homes. Commercial breeders raise them in sterile mass produced environments with little social interaction. These are the animals one sees in a pet store. Home breeders open their homes to families to come and look at the animals, purchase one and bring it home. S. 1139 will require the USDA to enact commercial breeder standards on home breeders.
3. Hobby breeders provide an essential link in raising animals: a home environment. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these homes will cease to exist.
4. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.
5. The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.
6. APHIS, the AWA Animal Care Division, currently has a little over a hundred inspectors for the Entire USA and its territories. They can NOT possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current rank of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.
7. WE have had significant losses of life in the various wars we are involved in overseas. These wars are costing millions of dollars of taxpayers' money per day. Additionally, damages range in the billions of dollars, thanks to the hurricanes. The USA can NOT afford such a piece of legislation, especially when there are laws all ready in existence to enforce the protection of animals, if only they would be utilized in the appropriate manners.
8. Contrary to popular belief, responsible breeders do not add to the misery of those unwanted pets. Responsible breeders sell many pets on a spay/neuter contract, will accept an animal back – no matter the age, and will work to rescue within the breed the owner is involved in/with. S. 1139 will only harm those who are the most responsible about their duties in these situations.
9. As an independent, individual animal rescuer, I take in and re-home so many animals per year. I am not a 501 (c) (3) as I cannot afford the costs involved with incorporating and filing for that status in addition to the expense of caring for the animals I save. I charge an adoption fee to offset my costs and typically recover less than half of my expenditures through the adoption fees. There is definitely No profit here, but without those fees, I would be forced to close my

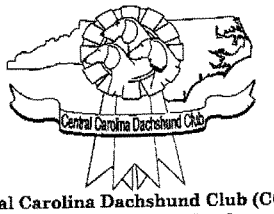
doors to the animals that need me. Under the PAWS legislation, I would be considered a dealer. I am afraid that even if non-profit rescuers are exempted in re-written portions of the bill that my rescue activities would still fall through the cracks. There are many people like me and thousands of pets will die needless deaths if we are forced to close our doors.

10. There have been no studies compiled to demonstrate the number for the internet sales of pets, specifically dogs and cats, in which the purchaser does not see the kennel or cattery. Thus there is no proof of this being a real problem within the USA. There have been no studies to show that out of these sales, how many have resulted in consumer complaints. There have been no studies to show that out of those consumer complaints, how many were resolved with current consumer protection laws. Thus, S. 1139 has no basis, no proof to validate its need regarding the internet sales of animals.
11. In 2003, the USDA won a hard fought court case against the DDAL that has protected hobby breeders from USDA Regulations. (DDAL v Venneman Appellate Decision) The AKC was another organization who fought along with the USDA to protect hobby breeders. PAWS will negate this ruling, and the DDAL will be back in court to revisit this ruling before the ink is dry on S. 1139. PAWS is just another version of the law which the USDA and the AKC fought to vehemently against those few years ago.
12. The citizens of the USA have the right to choose where they want to get their pets. The animal rights agenda is more concerned about people adopting from shelters or rescue organizations, but many people do not want a pet that way. Millions would prefer to have a puppy or a kitten. Millions would prefer a pure breed puppy or kitten. It is their rights, in our country, to have this right, but PAWS, as well as the HSUS, DDAL and PETA are threatening to take this right away. Would Senator Santorum give up his dog, which had a litter of pups? By the way, this is the same dog he bought from a dog breeder.

Thank you for allowing me to have my say. As you can see, this would be a deleterious bill and would end all animal ownership as we now know it.

Sincerely,

Elaine Davis



Central Carolina Dachshund Club (CCDC)
2710 Valley Farm Road
Waxhaw, NC 28173-9203
704-843-5858
October 26, 2005

Title submittals as: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282
Email: Jeff_Stoltzfoos@santorum.senate.gov

Dear Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen,

We, the members of the Central Carolina Dachshund Club (CCDC) are against S1139, PAWS, and we urge you to vote against it. It is not in the best interest of this country, and we will explain our reasoning to you.

1. S. 1139 does Not "close a loophole" in the AWA, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of animals in a home environment.

2. Because of the Supply and Demand, the Foreign Market will EXPAND if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new animal was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy (or other animal) will be gone forever.

3. PAWS does NOT , will Not, change the conditions where the animal is bred, if it is done so in another country. This bill on prescribes that someone importing over a certain number of dogs/cats would have to be licensed and regulated. If importation of disease is a concern, enforcing quarantine is the way to go, but this is not a USDA function. If one is worried about how the animals are raised in the country of origin, PAWS does nothing. If one is against the importation of a large number of pets, and there is little evidence that a large proportion of pets are imported, this will not "prevent" the importation, except by making the process onerous, which affects the people who do it the right way at least as much as those who do it wrong. The animal smugglers in border areas will not bother with the new regulations anymore than they do with the existing ones, while anyone who actually declares the imports and takes good care of quality animals will get wound up in Red Tape.

4. S. 1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. Neither AKC, DDAL, HSUS nor Peta nor the USA will have control over this fact under PAWS. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

5. S.1139 will do Nothing to change the situation for those animals which are homeless or unspayed/unneutered. If offers no money or incentives to the individuals who do not alter their animals. It offers no low cost spay/neuter clinics. It offers no educational clinics to help teach those who do not alter their animals. It offers no money to shelters to help innovate their

procedures. It is not the responsible people who are the problem, it is those who are irresponsible. It is not the responsible pet owner who is the problem, it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of spaying or neutering a pet, and it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of caring for those animals when they are born as a result of the owners not be able to afford to spay/neuter the pets. It is a fallacy to believe otherwise.

6. There have been no studies compiled to demonstrate the number for the internet sales of pets, specifically dogs and cats, in which the purchaser does not see the kennel or cattery. Thus there is no proof of this being a real problem within the USA. There have been no studies to show that out of these sales, how many have resulted in consumer complaints. There have been no studies to show that out of those consumer complaints, how many were resolved with current consumer protection laws. Thus, S. 1139 has no basis, no proof to validate its need regarding the internet sales of animals.

7. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.
8. The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

9. In the wake of these hurricanes, the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget. They will need every government employee to oversee the recovery efforts. This will go on for years. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to continue its unprecedented growth in the hundreds of billions of dollars as a result of not these disasters (and as a results of the wars we are fighting in the Middle East). Adding any regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

10. Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of animals. Even if a rescuer takes in and re-homes only3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a permanent placement can be found.

Finally.

11. There are NO speakers in Opposition to the PAWS bill. According to the U.S. Constitution, the USA is supposedly a democracy, but yet, this hearing is one-sided. Ron Menaker has had some dogs but is not an active breeder and not even sure he ever was actively involved in the breeding of dogs. Hoffman has been a co-breeder on a couple of litters someone else raised. However, he is Pro-PAWS. The AVMA is not a stake holder if S. 1139 is passed. THEY do NOT speak for the thousands of animal breeders who are against S. 1139. On the other side are the animal rights folks - HSUS, DDAL, and the Animal Rights activist from Maine. Obviously, they are pro-PAWS. There is NO representation for the other side. Santorum has "Stacked" the deck in his favor. He FAILED to invite responsible animal breeders and owners to speak out against PAWS. He Failed to invite cat, gerbil and bird owners and breeders. He failed to invite those who own monkeys and the hunters. Santorum is a professed Animal RIGHTS proponent. He received money from Animal Rights organizations. This will be a blatantly UNFAIR hearing on November 08, 2005.

Thank you for reading our letter. Family have disagreements, but they are still family. While we are an AKC Recognized kennel club, part of the AKC family, the AKC Does NOT speak for us on this matter.

Sincerely,

The members of the Central Carolina Dachshund Club (CCDC)
Covering North Carolina, South Carolina and with members in Virginia, Geotgia and Tennessee

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing
on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

From: Jamie Griffith
17214 FAA Road
Alvin,TX 77511

Subject; Oppose S. 1139 (PAWS)

Please oppose S. 1139. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money. USDA does not have the manpower to enforce S. 1139. It is useless to pass legislation that would require multi-million of dollars to be appropriated by Congress. In other words, please stop creating more unnecessary duplicate legislation to spend more of the taxpayer's dollars.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over stretched and under budget. They will need every available employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. This nation can not afford S. 1139.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

Please vote against this unnecessary bill (S.1139) and protect our privacy rights. The favor of a response to this fax is requested. Thank you.

was: "Through that experience, we have determined that the risk of noncompliance with the regulations significantly increases if facilities care for more than 60 breeding female dogs and/or cats."

USDA is unable to conduct the inspections currently required, let alone add thousands more inspections of hobby breeders in their private homes. Rather than spend millions to attack a problem that does not exist, USDA resources should be used to do the inspections currently required, as well as address issues such as a safe food supply.

The proposed bill includes exemptions for breeders of dogs and cats that raise six or fewer litters or sell not more than 25 dogs or cats. However, once the original purpose of this bill is changed to include retail sellers, these limits can be easily reduced to include more and more people, as was the original intent of DDAL and HSUS. Three litters of dogs could contain more than 25 puppies. And the six-litter exemption is eliminated if the breeder sells even one animal that was not raised by him/her. Hobby breeders working to improve the breed often purchase animals from other lines to use in their breeding programs. If someone buys a dog that doesn't work out and sells it, then that person would need to be licensed.

There are no exemptions for other warm-blooded animals covered under the Act. All those breeders of rabbits, hamsters, etc. would have to be licensed and inspected.

Calling hobby breeders "dealers" and requiring licensing would put home breeders in violation of many residential planning and zoning regulations. Hobby breeders could not get the required occupational licenses in residential areas and therefore could not be USDA licensed. As a result, they would have to give up their hobby. In fact, the American Kennel Club already inspects those individuals who breed seven or more litters in a year.

Hobby breeders work to improve their breeds, qualify their buyers, take back animals if necessary, and educate their buyers. A reduction in hobby breeders will mean an increase in business for wholesale puppy mills and unregulated foreign sellers, to the detriment of the public and purebred dogs and cats.

While the American Kennel Club is supporting this bill, that decision was made on a vote of seven of the twelve directors rather than the membership. The list of organizations formally opposed to PAWS grows daily and currently numbers 300+ groups, including twenty-six AKC parent breed clubs, eight state federations and thirty-six national pet related entities.

According to the Cat Fanciers Association, responsible cat breeding requires mating according to heat cycles to maintain the health of the cat. Therefore, in many breeds, females will produce more than one litter per year. Fanciers with as few as four or five females would all have to be USDA licensed. A good breeding program with genetic diversity requires at least this many females if breeders have more than one breed or color. CFA has Minimum Cattery Standards, and they support quality care of cats no matter what the environment.

It would appear that rescue groups are covered by PAWS, since they exchange animals for an adoption fee (See attached legal opinion). The majority of private rescue operations would cease rather than undergo USDA licensing. As a result, thousands of animals that would have been adopted would be euthanized. Many breeders also do rescue. These breeders would be placing dogs, in exchange for an adoption fee, along with raising litters and selling them. There would be no six-litter exemption for them, and they would probably be selling more than 25 animals.

Proponents say that animals are being sold to the public from the Internet, and these sellers need to be regulated because the public doesn't have access to their facilities. There have not been documented cases of problem sales over the Internet that would warrant this massive overhaul of the Animal Welfare Act. In fact, thanks to the Internet, buyers have more information than ever when searching for their family pet.

In summary, S.1139/H2669 is a drastic departure from the purpose of the Animal Welfare Act by proposing to require licensing of hobby breeders and rescuers selling animals from the privacy of their homes to the public. Rather than improve the welfare of animals, the result would be to decrease the number of quality purebred animals available to the public and increase the number of animals bred by wholesalers and sold by pet shops, along with animals sold by unregulated foreign producers. It would also take valuable resources away from regulating the large wholesale facilities currently covered by the Animal Welfare Act by requiring inspection of thousands of individual hobby breeders.

October 21, 2005

SENATE AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY SUBCOMMITTEE
HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

Subject: Please Vote NO on S1139-HR2669 (PAWS)

I would like to express my adamant opposition to Senators Santorum and Durbin's PAWS Legislation, S.1139 (the Senate Bill) and H.R.2669 (the identical House bill).

PAWS will be bad for dogs, bad for cats, bad for all pet animals, bad for pet owners, bad for pet rescuers, bad for pet hobbyists and fanciers, and bad for our country.

Passage of the PAWS bill will serve only the admitted future long-term goals, interests and agendas (the elimination of domesticated pet animals and the federal regulation of breeding practices for all species of animals) of the Animal Rights organizations supporting it.

Again, I am strongly opposed to and urge you to oppose passage of the pending PAWS legislation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Connie Ellis
219 - 26th Avenue, S. W.
Vero Beach, FL 32962
(772) 567-4034

Fax: 202-228-8282

Jacksonville NC Kennel Club, Inc. (JNCKC)
P. O. Box 7002 NWS
Jacksonville, NC 28540
http://www.moordair.com/jnckc
jacksonville_nc_kennel_club@yahoo.com
October 24, 2005

Title submittals as: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282
Email: Jeff_Stoltzfoos@santorum.senate.gov

Dear Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen,

The members of the Jacksonville NC Kennel Club, Inc. (JNCKC), an AKC recognized kennel club, are against S1139, and we urge you to vote against it. While we maybe recognized by the AKC, the AKC does NOT speak for the JNCKC and its members. S.1139 is not in the best interest of this country, and we will explain our reasoning to you.

1. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

2. The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

3. WE have had significant losses of life in the various wars we are involved in overseas. These wars are costing millions of dollars of taxpayers' money per day. Additionally, damages range in the billions of dollars, thanks to the hurricanes. The USA can NOT afford such a piece of legislation, especially when there are laws all ready in existence to enforce the protection of animals, if only they would be utilized in the appropriate manners.

4. S. 1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. Neither AKC, DDAL, HSUS nor Peta nor the USA will have control over this fact under PAWS. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

5. S.1139 will do Nothing to change the situation for those animals which are homeless or unspayed/unneutered. If offers no money or incentives to the individuals who do not alter their animals. It offers no low cost spay/neuter clinics. It offers no educational clinics to help teach those who do not alter their animals. It offers no money to shelters to help innovate their procedures. It is not the responsible people who are the problem, it is those who are irresponsible. It is not the responsible pet owner who is the problem, it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of spaying or neutering a pet, and it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of caring for those animals when they are born as a result of the owners not be able to afford to spay/neuter the pets. It is a fallacy to believe otherwise.

6. The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at NO COST to the taxpayers. Short – and long-term foster homes are one or the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel or animal shelter. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated.

7. Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of animals. Even if a rescuer takes in and re-homes only3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a permanent placement can be found.

Finally,

8. The citizens of the USA have the right to choose where they want to get their pets. The animal rights agenda is more concerned about people adopting from shelters or rescue organizations, but many people do not want a pet that way. Millions would prefer to have a puppy or a kitten. Millions would prefer a pure breed puppy or kitten. It is their rights, in our country, to have this right, but PAWS, as well as the HSUS, DDAL and PETA are threatening to take this right away. Would Senator Santorum give up his dog, which had a litter of pups? By the way, this is the same dog he bought from a dog breeder.

Thank you for reading this letter and for understanding that the PAWS bill, S. 1139 is NOT in the best interest of anyone who owns and breeds any type of animal, including dogs.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Jacksonville NC Kennel Club, Inc. (JNCKC)
K. Adair, writing with club approval as Secretary of the JNCKC

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

From: Theresa "Terrie" Griffith
17214 FAA Road
Alvin, TX 77511

Subject: Protect Hobby Breeders/Exhibitors Do Not Support S. 1139

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S. 1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Few puppy mills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill and protect my personal freedom and privacy. The favor of a reply is requested. Thank you.

FAX: 202-228-6282
October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 PAWS

Subject: Oppose S. 1139 PAWS

I'm writing to **oppose** S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

S. 1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights. The favor of a reply is requested.

Valerie Meador <Valmeador@aol.com >
2727 20th Avenue North
Texas City, TX 77590-4848

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

Subject: **Oppose S. 1139** - This bill will not stop puppy mills

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' homes.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Please acknowledge receipt of this fax.

Thank you,

Manuel Galvan
16725 C. R. 191
Alvin, TX 77511

FROM: Ann Adair
22 Broad St. Apt. #310
Marlboro, MA 01752
508-460-6487

Title submittals as: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282
Email: Jeff_Stoltzfoos@santorum.senate.gov

Dear Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen,

I am against S1139, and I urge you to vote against it. It is not in the best interest of this country, and I will explain my reasoning to you.

1. S.1139 will do Nothing to change the situation for those animals which are homeless or unspayed/unneutered. If offers no money or incentives to the individuals who do not alter their animals. It offers no low cost spay/neuter clinics. It offers no educational clinics to help teach those who do not alter their animals. It offers no money to shelters to help innovate their procedures. It is not the responsible people who are the problem, it is those who are irresponsible. It is not the responsible pet owner who is the problem, it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of spaying or neutering a pet, and it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of caring for those animals when they are born as a result of the owners not be able to afford to spay/neuter the pets. It is a fallacy to believe otherwise.

2. In 2003, the USDA won a hard fought court case against the DDAL that has protected hobby breeders from USDA Regulations. (DDAL v Venneman Appellate Decision) The AKC was another organization who fought along with the USDA to protect hobby breeders. PAWS will negate this ruling, and the DDAL will be back in court to revisit this ruling before the ink is dry on S. 1139. PAWS is just another version of the law which the USDA and the AKC fought to vehemently against those few years ago.

3. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

4. WE have had significant losses of life in the various wars we are involved in overseas. These wars are costing millions of dollars of taxpayers' money per day. Additionally, damages range in the billions of dollars, thanks to the hurricanes. The USA can NOT afford such a piece of legislation, especially when there are laws all ready in existence to enforce the protection of animals, if only they would be utilized in the appropriate manners.

5. S. 1139 does Not "close a loophole" in the AWA, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of animals in a home environment.

6. PAWS does NOT , will Not, change the conditions where the animal is bred, if it is done so in another country. This bill on prescribes that someone importing over a certain number of dogs/cats would have to be licensed and regulated. If importation of disease is a concern, enforcing quarantine is the way to go, but this is not a USDA function. If one is worried about how the animals are raised in the country of origin, PAWS does nothing. If one is against the importation of a large number of pets, and there is little evidence that a large proportion of pets are imported, this will not "prevent" the importation, except by making the process onerous, which affects the people who do it the right way at least as much as those who do it wrong. The animal smugglers in border areas will not bother with the new regulations anymore than they do with the existing ones, while anyone who actually declares the imports and takes good care of quality animals will get wound up in Red Tape.

7. The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at NO COST to the taxpayers. Short – and long-term foster homes are one or the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel or animal shelter. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated.

8. The citizens of the USA have the right to choose where they want to get their pets. The animal rights agenda is more concerned about people adopting from shelters or rescue organizations, but many people do not want a pet that way. Millions would prefer to have a puppy or a kitten. Millions would prefer a pure breed puppy or kitten. It is their rights, in our country, to have this right, but PAWS, as well as the HSUS, DDAL and PETA are threatening to take this right away. Would Senator Santorum give up his dog, which had a litter of pups? By the way, this is the same dog he bought from a dog breeder.

9. Our senators and representatives in Washington, DC must be held responsible and accountable. There can be no more "canned responses" of how the "Majority" are for PAWS. The USA is not a Majority rule nation. If it were, we would still have segregation and anti-discrimination laws. Why are our senators and representatives catering to Santorum and the AR movement? Why are they ignoring us and believing the rhetoric of the AR movement. Do any of them really and truly know what the Animal Rights movement is about? Do they care? How many of them have been to a dog show? Cat Show? How many of them have seen what a monkey or rabbit can do to help a senior citizen or child? Will goldfish breeders have to adhere to these impossible standards, too?

Finally,

10. The following email is from an Animal Rights activist and this shows the agenda, written and unwritten, for most Animal Rights organizations.

Thank you for permitting me to have my say against this awful proposal S.1139,

Sincerely,

Ann Adair

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
November 8, 2005
Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Public Docket Submittal

I have been involved with Cocker Spaniels literally my entire life. My Father had a little red Cocker which was his hunting companion. For me, he was my childhood companion. Nearly 30 years ago I became involved with AKC conformation shows, and bred puppies which excelled in the show ring, became family pets and did not loose their ability to flush birds which was evident in the hunting titles they earned. It was a hobby I enjoyed and enabled me to pass along my love for these animals to my children and Grandchildren.

What PAWS does is federalize a hobby by subjecting home breeders and rescuers of cats and dogs to USDA licensure and over 60 pages of regulations. It further provides groundwork for imposing extra restrictions on "any person who buys or sells any dog for hunting, security or breeding purposes." Essentially, the best source for puppies and kittens - the home breeder - will be all but eliminated, thereby assuring that the only choice for consumers are commercially-bred pets.

PAWS has virtually nothing to do with animal welfare of closing AWA "loopholes". It's a direct attack of U.S. hobby breeders, hunting dog owners and animal rescuers. PAWS federalizes hobby pet breeding. A substantial majority of U.S. pet owners oppose PAWS, including over 30 American Kennel Club Parent Breed Clubs and 300+ other organizations nationwide.

By falsely labeling PAWS the puppy mill bill, its supporters are calling upon legislators to push a bill that can't be factually justified. This bill is aimed directly at private hobby breeders and hunters, two of the animal rightists' major longtime targets.

Typical of the animal rights agenda, their description of what PAWS does absolutely misleads legislators and the public into thinking this legislation will put an end to "puppy mills," when nothing could be further from the truth.

I want to be able to able to continue my hobby. I want my Grandchildren to be able to enjoy a well bred companion, home raised and bred with care, knowledge and concern of the breed and its future. I want to do this without fear of retaliation from extreme Animal Rights Groups or interference from a Federal Inspector who may not have the experience and knowledge I have on the best way to raise and house my puppies. I urge you to OPPOSE PAWS.

Sincerely,

Carol Dixon
Carol Dixon

399 Zettwell Road
Statesboro, Georgia
912-587-7363

TO: Senate Agricultural Committee
FROM: Lisa Pinto, Registered Voter
SUBJECT: S1139/HR2669 - PET ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTE - PAWS - OPPOSITION

Dear Senators,

I am a hobby breeder, rescuer and dog-owner. I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to S1139, PAWS.

It is a poorly-conceived, badly-written bill that does nothing its proponents say it will. What it will do is harm hobby breeders of dogs, rescues of dogs and cats, hobby breeders of cats, hunting and security dog-breeders. This law is insane, there is no other word for it.

It will not 'close a loophole' in the Animal Welfare Act - large, commercial wholesale facilities are already regulated by the AWA. PAWS is not necessary. In fact, it would remove the separation between wholesale and retail pet sales, something that as recently as 2003, was reaffirmed in the US Court of Appeals decision in the DDAL vs. Veneman (USDA).

DDAL, along with HSUS, and other animal rights groups (now sadly, including the AKC) are trying once again to somehow negate this ruling.

PAWS is just another in the several attemps by Senator Santorum to pass animal rights-supported anti-breeding legislation. The Congress was wise enough not to let it happen during the previous attempts. Please don't let it happen now.

I am dismayed and upset that the subcommitte hearing scheduled for November 8 has no one speaking for me, nor for the more than 400 dog, cat and sportsmans' clubs and rescues who have sent to you their formal opposition to S1139.

Please bear in mind that you will only be hearing from anti-hunting and anti-breeding representatives, assisted by the AKC (for a reason none of the 400+ opposed dog clubs can fathom) and a hand-picked (by the AKC) dog 'fancier'.

I and many others are urgently writing to you to present you with the facts of this awful bill, and warn you of the agendas of the supporters.

The HSUS representative scheduled to speak, Wayne Pacelle, is on record saying he has no problem with the extinction of domestic animals and is working to end all hunting in the United States. The DDAL, the AKC, and two animal rights representatives, in the form of a so-called fancier and a HSUS/DDAL-backed shelter worker are there to support his views. Where are the opposition speakers? What a travesty of the democratic process!

Animal rights groups such as DDAL, HSUS and PETA would love nothing better (except for extinction of domestic animals) than to have every pet animal registered, regulated and tracked from birth to death. Their aim is to regulate pet-breeding and owning out of existence. PAWS, in the words of (again) Wayne Pacelle, "... is a good FIRST step."

I refuse to sit quietly and watch radical animal rights groups make legislative policy with regard to pet owning, pet-breeding or hunting.

Please VOTE NO on S1139?HR2669, PAWS.

Respectfully,

Lisa Pinto

Lisa Pinto
6959 Orchard Station Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-792-9288

TO: Senate Committee on Agriculture
FROM: Lisa Pinto, Registered Voter
SUBJECT: S1139/HR2669 PET ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTE - PAWS - OPPOSITION

Dear Senators,

I am writing because I strongly OPPOSE S1139, 'PAWS'.

It is a poorly-conceived, badly written piece of legislation that establishes a precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescues, all sellers of intact, breedable dogs, asw ell as being certain to ruin hobby breeders of cats. Certain hunting breedsa of dogs and security breeds will face special discrimination.

PAWS reverses a U.S. Court of Appeals 2003 decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home, retail breeders.

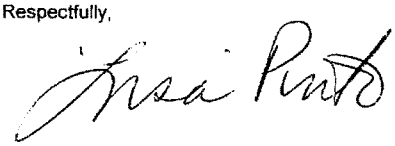
Proponents say rescues will not be affected, but there is no structural way to change the rules to allow non-licensed rescue without creating enforcement loopholes.

Commercial, wholesale operations are already covered under the Animal Welfare Act, we don't need more federal regulation of retail hobby breeders, period!

Please do not let anti-breeding, anti-hunting, anti-domestic animal groups such as HSUS and DDAL (with help from the newest Animal Rights, anti-pet group, the AKC) set animal and agriculture policy in the U.S.

I urge you to vote 'NO" on S1139, PAWS.

Respectfully,



Lisa Pinto
6959 Orchard Station Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-792-9288

From: Kathleen Adair
(Moordair Dachshunds)
411 Belgrade-Swansboro Rd.
Stella, NC 28582
910-326-3456
October 24, 2005

Title submittals as: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: (202) 228-8282
Email: Jeff_Stoltzfoos@santorum.senate.gov

Dear Honorable Congressmen and Congresswomen,

I am a dog owner and the AKC does NOT speak for me. I am against S1139, and I urge you to vote against it. It is not in the best interest of this country, and I will explain my reasoning to you.

1. S. 1139 does Not "close a loophole" in the AWA, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of animals in a home environment.

2. PAWS does NOT , will Not, change the conditions where the animal is bred, if it is done so in another country. This bill on prescribes that someone importing over a certain number of dogs/cats would have to be licensed and regulated. If importation of disease is a concern, enforcing quarantine is the way to go, but this is not a USDA function. If one is worried about how the animals are raised in the country of origin, PAWS does nothing. If one is against the importation of a large number of pets, and there is little evidence that a large proportion of pets are imported, this will not "prevent" the importation, except by making the process onerous, which affects the people who do it the right way at least as much as those who do it wrong. The animal smugglers in border areas will not bother with the new regulations anymore than they do with the existing ones, while anyone who actually declares the imports and takes good care of quality animals will get wound up in Red Tape.

3. S. 1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. Neither AKC, DDAL, HSUS nor Peta nor the USA will have control over this fact under PAWS. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

4. S.1139 will do Nothing to change the situation for those animals which are homeless or unspayed/unneutered. If offers no money or incentives to the individuals who do not alter their animals. It offers no low cost spay/neuter clinics. It offers no educational clinics to help teach those who do not alter their animals. It offers no money to shelters to help innovate their procedures. It is not the responsible people who are the problem, it is those who are irresponsible. It is not the responsible pet owner who is the problem, it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of spaying or neutering a pet, and it is the owner who cannot afford the cost of caring for those animals when they are born as a result of the owners not be able to afford to spay/neuter the pets. It is a fallacy to believe otherwise.

Finally,

5. In the wake of these hurricanes, the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget. They will need every government employee to oversee the recovery efforts. This will go on for years. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to continue its unprecedented growth in the hundreds of billions of dollars as a result of not these disasters (and as a results of the wars we are fighting in the Middle East). Adding any regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Adair

"You should NOT examine legislation in the light of benefits it will convey if properly administered, but in the light of the wrongs it would do and the harm it would cause if improperly administered."
Lyndon Johnson, 36th President of the United States of America.

Marshall Liger, AHT
320 Millcreek Drive
Charleston, SC 29407

November 03, 2005

Re: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

Dear Committee Members,

As a licensed veterinary technician (AHT), I urge you to OPPOSE SB1139/HB2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 (PAWS). PAWS will unnecessarily infringe on the privacy of thousands of Americans who breed, raise and place a few dogs or cats each year, from their homes. Federal oversight of such operations is unwarranted and wasteful of limited USDA resources.

By including in the PAWS bill, regulations on the small-scale animal breeder and extending inspections and license requirements to those who breed animals in their homes, this bill will force many of these people to opt out of animal breeding entirely. This will remove many home raised pet animals from the marketplace, thus depriving Americans of the option to purchase well socialized family pets and purebred dogs and pedigreed cats.

PAWS covers all warm-blooded animals sold as pets, such as rabbits and birds. There are about 30,000 members of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, (ARBA), and the USDA estimates that only one in ten rabbit breeders is a member of the ARBA. This means PAWS could require the licensing of 30,000 to 300,000 rabbit breeders. This would also impact the 4-H programs for school age children, placing unnecessary burdensome requirements on our young people learning about animal husbandry. PAWS would require regulation of all bird breeders who sell any bird directly to a member of the public. Birds are included under PAWS due to the result of the passage of the Helms Amendment (2002) to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). This amendment excluded birds used for research from regulation under the AWA, but did not exclude birds for sale as pets.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not compliant with established USDA regulations for hosedown/sanitize facilities. It's not at all clear that any new regulations for in-home hobby breeders will be materially different than those already in place. Presently covered commercial facilities are certain to fiercely resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class. If PAWS passes and the USDA regulates and inspects hobby breeders, rescuers and other dog sellers, how can it justify more lenient regulations or standards for any regulated entity, if its primary mission is animal protection?

USDA does not have the manpower to enforce PAWS. It seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with a dog registry or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership V. animal rights policy disputes are inevitable. PAWS is a burden that the USDA must greatly fear.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marshall Liger, AHT

Marshall Liger, AHT
843-571-5688

November 3, 2005

Honorable Members of the Senate Agriculture Research, Nutrition, and General Legislation Subcommittee:

We approach you today to level the playing field regarding S1139, also known as PAWS. Despite what you will be told at the hearing on November 8, 2005, a large majority of your constituents are opposed to this legislation. This is the point of view we would like to bring to your attention. Letters of concern to our individual Senators have been answered with canned "thank you for your support of this legislation". In most cases, co-sponsors of this bill did not bother to reply. Letters to Senators involved in this process are answered with "I do not reply to letters from outside my State". When you are involved in deciding on legislation that affects the future of our animals, you must be ready to listen to all animal owners.

S1139, as stated by Senator Santorum is to "amend the Animal Welfare Act to strengthen the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate the pet industry. He further states that this bill will "regulate breeders who raise over seven or more litters of dogs or cats per year. This threshold test would differentiate those breeders who raise animals in mass numbers from those who are hobby breeders." He further states S1139 "...would cover importers and other non-breeder dealers who sell more than 25 dogs per year."

The first question you must ask is why the federal government needs to oversee the pet industry. What can be gained from governmental oversight of pet breeding? While animal care and control are areas of concern for many counties and states, existing laws and enforcement of those laws should be the primary focus, not new federal regulations. If any agency had access to the funds that have been used to promote PAWS, it could hire and train new personnel to push enforcement of laws regarding animals on a county or state level. If the Federal Government has excess money it would spend on animals, why not put it into local government, and allow those agencies to expand their capabilities?

S1139 poses a serious threat to the future generations of purebred animals. Any numerical limit placed on a breeding program will be challenged in the future. If animal owners place their trust and support in PAWS, next year we will be fighting to maintain those numbers. Jim Holt, AKC Legislative spokesman, stated that it was certain these threshold numbers would go down. Breeders and purchasers of purebred animal are

capable of "policing" their property. If problems arise, then they are the problems of local and state government, in accordance with current law.

Laws on the federal level for "home" breeders do not exist. Senator Santorum has assured all involved that the laws will be written to accommodate this unique situation. Where will this expertise come from? Breeding programs differ from dog to cat, and from small breed to large breed. There is not one set of regulations that will fit every situation or be equally accessible to every breeder. Is the federal government willing to take responsibility for the demise of home raised, healthy, well socialized animals?

There was talk of a mark up session to address several concerns raised. There has not been a mark up session. S1139 contains provisions that will adversely affect several areas of animal care and control. Some of the issues are:

-Non-Profit Animal Rescue

While large non-profits maintain kennels, small breed specific groups typically work through a network of foster homes. These homes are made up of fanciers and breeders who rescue, rehabilitate, and re-home animals. PAWS, as currently written, will remove breeders from the equation. Breeders will not be willing to spend their "numbers" on rescue dogs if they might breed a litter or two that year. This removes an expertise that rescue cannot afford to lose.

-Doris Day Animal V Veneman Ann

This case established that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeding. PAWS will cause a reversal of this decision.

-Availability of Quality Animals

By allowing the USDA to establish standards for breeders, the likely outcome will be regulations that conflict with local laws. USDA licensing requires specifics best addressed by building a commercial kennel. Kennels are classified as a business and homeowners may be regulated by local ordinances that prohibit operating a business from their home. This infringes upon their rights to pursue a hobby, and thereby reduces the availability of the public to have access to purebred animals who are healthy, well bred, socialized pets.

-Importation of Sick Animals

There is no wording in this bill that will strengthen the importation regulations. While we continue to be sold this idea, there is no reference to improving the process of importing animals.

-Stopping Puppy Mills

This is the selling point of this bill. It will shut down puppy mills. It will stop the abuse of animals used only for breeding and profit. If a new law could accomplish this, it would be supported unanimously. S1139 will not stop puppy mills. Again, this is best accomplished by vigorous enforcement of existing laws on a state and local level. PAWS will force the "puppy mills" further underground, and make local enforcement impossible. People who want to breed animals for a profit will continue to do so. They will just be much better at camouflaging their operations. As the situation stands today, less than desirable "puppy mills" usually work themselves out of business as their reputation declines. If there is no longer a market, the production stops. If you force these establishments to "hide" to continue doing business, you endanger every animal

they produce.

These are but a few of the problems S1139 will undoubtedly bring about. Many persons opposing PAWS have asked to be included in the November 8th hearing. Senator Santorum has only asked those in favor of his bill to appear.
Panel 1 contains a member of the AKC who does not represent all dog owners, a member of the AVMA, and a self professed dog fancier, all of whom have been vocal in their support of S1139.
Panel 2 contains HSUS, DDAL, and an advocate for breeder licensing. This panel also supports PAWS.
Where are the representatives from the other dog registries? Who is there to speak for the Cat Fanciers Association, the Professional Aviculturists, the Rabbit Breeders Association, the Sporting Dogs Owners? Who is there to tell the subcommittee the extent of damage this legislation will cause? There is no one to voice opposition to PAWS because we were denied access to speak at the hearing. The Senator supposes you will not be intelligent enough to figure out the opposition to S1139 is widespread. If you are not allowed to hear both sides of the issue, is it fair to ask you to make a recommendation to the full committee? If the animal owning citizens are asked to follow new regulations concerning the care and breeding of their property, their animals, should they not be allowed a voice in discussing these regulations?

S1139, aka PAWS will be detrimental to the future of purebred animals. It will not stop puppy mills. It will not stop importation of sick animals. It will not decrease the population of mixed breed accidental litters. It will not decrease the numbers of animals that are in shelters or euthanized. It will encourage puppy mills to become secretive operations to avoid USDA inspection. It will decrease the numbers of purebred animals available to the public from knowledgeable, respectable breeders. It will play a part in the destruction of many breeds by decreasing the gene pool. It will give the animal rights groups a platform to enhance their goal of total animal liberation.

We urge you to be very informed regarding S1139. We await the recommendations of this subcommittee, and hope that you will consider both sides of the issues this bill encompasses. As citizens and voters, we expect our elected representatives to protect our interests, and voice our concerns. We trust the subcommittee will understand that this is not the case with S1139.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Directors and Members:
North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners Alliance

Susan K Cone
28 Chestnut St.
Livingston, NJ 07039-5502
973-994-4444
suecone@mindspring.com
November 1, 2005

TO: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

RE: Opposition to S1139 (PAWS)

I oppose S1139, the PAWS bill. As a dog owner and fancier, who bred three litters several years ago, and as a dog obedience instructor for forty years, as well a former AKC kennel club officer with two different AKC-member clubs, I want you to know that AKC does not speak for me. Nor does it speak for the 41 AKC member parent clubs, representing well over half of all AKC registrations, and the 420 clubs and organizations of animal fanciers who oppose PAWS.

The witness list for this hearing does not contain anyone from organizations who are opposed to the bill, such as the Cat Fanciers Association, the United Kennel Club, or the 41 AKC parent clubs, nor does it contain any active fanciers who are opposed. Additionally, the Animal Rights organizations, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Doris Day Animal League (DDAL) are mis-identified as "animal welfare" groups. Some time spent exploring the statements and activities of these groups and the persons who are their witnesses, as well as Norma Worley, will expose their actual animal rights philosophy. HSUS and DDAL have long worked against breeders. HSUS this year supported a (defeated) bill in Massachusetts that would have required the breeder of more than ONE litter per year to be commercially licensed. I, and many others, are asking why the witness list for the hearing was stacked in favor of S1139. Sub-committee members need to be aware of this injustice, and to learn of the great amount of valid opposition to this bill.

Historically, the Animal Welfare Act has applied only to commercial breeders selling at wholesale to brokers, pet stores, research facilities etc. In 2003 the US District Court in DORIS DAY ANIMAL LEAGUE Vs VENEMAN ANN held that it was not the intent of Congress to alter the AWA to regulate breeders in home settings selling dogs and cats directly to the public. PAWS, with the support of the DDAL who brought the original lawsuit, seeks to overturn this ruling, and regulate home breeders.

While regulation of breeders selling wholesale and through middlemen is rightly subject to federal regulation, those selling directly to the public should not come under federal oversight. Home breeders are already subject to public oversight, peer review, and state and local laws that govern humane treatment of animals.

Changing the focus of the AWA from large commercial operations to residential breeders will overwhelm USDA's budget and ability to inspect where they are needed – large commercial kennels selling at wholesale - and expand federal authority into private homes, which was never

intended. The bill will do nothing to "stop puppymills," and would, instead, put under federal regulation perfectly satisfactory animal breeders who sell direct to the public. State and local laws are the best way to deal with substandard and abusive operations. The USDA has important work to do with its limited budget - protecting our food supply - not inspecting thousands of residential breeders.

Using a numbers threshold is inappropriate for the regulation of cat and dog breeders, as numbers of litters and animals sold by a breeder varies from year to year and with the species and breed of animal. Current AWA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding situations with their inherent variability. The fact that breeders and rescuers use the Internet or newspaper ads does not make them commercial entities, nor does the fact that an individual has more than a certain number of litters a year. If there is, in fact, a problem with imported animals, separate legislation governing permits, inspection, and quarantine can deal with the problem.

Private breeders and rescue organizations do not have facilities that conform to AWA regulations, nor should they have to open their homes to federal inspection. Should PAWS pass, regulations would have to be rewritten to cover home situations, otherwise private breeders producing quality animals would have to cease breeding since residential breeders cannot comply with current AWA regulations. Good hobby breeders may well decide to stop or limit breeding rather than welcoming federal inspectors into their homes. The result will be to reduce the number of quality pets available to the public. This would actually encourage more commercial breeding and importing of unregulated and uninspected animals from foreign sellers to meet the demand for dogs and cats. PAWS puts the breeding of quality animals in jeopardy.

Please reject the S1139, the PAWS bill, from consideration. I ask that you oppose it.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Cone

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee
Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

For inclusion in member briefing books.
Via Fax to: (202) 228-8282 -- Jeff Stoltzfoos

Statement of:
Walt Hutchens
Home breeder/fancier of whippets (purebred dogs); owner of 'pet-law@ yahoogroups.com' email list (2000 members) and other dog lists -- contact info at end

Dear Subcommittee Member:

PAWS is the worst federal animal bill ever. The key feature is the replacement of a blanket exemption from federal regulation for persons selling pets only at retail, by de minimus numbers applying to both wholesale and those retail sellers that are not pet shops as newly defined.

The problems for which this change is claimed to be needed are:

1. The selling of 'puppy mill' dogs at retail only and thus without federal regulation. However there are state and local laws that cover abusive commercial breeders (as they do all animal owners) and these laws have sharper teeth than the AWA, namely, fines and jail time for animal neglect and/or cruelty.

The AWA is intended to regulate ongoing businesses with delivery contracts and payroll to meet, bank loans to be paid and so on. Well before it can grind through the notice periods and shutdown warnings that are suited to enforcement against such businesses, the fly-by-night 'mill' operator will have flown to another county and a new corporation. If someone is seriously neglecting his animals, he does not need to be told he should clean up and get a license; he needs a jail cell.

2. Selling of pets over the internet. However sales at a distance have occurred at least since the first dog magazines were printed many decades ago: The biggest effect of the 'net is to let prospective buyers ask many and often detailed questions of sellers. We sell almost exclusively through our web site; our average prospect is well informed, and a back and forth discussion by email and phone follows the initial contact. Moreover, we complete the sale only when the buyer comes to our home for a meeting that averages two hours in length. What is wrong with this?

3. Increasing importation of dogs. Importation occurs mainly in four ways:

A. A number of animal shelters, mostly in the northeast, are importing stray and feral puppies from the streets of Puerto Rico and other such places. There have been some problems with these programs and new state laws are being passed to address them.

B. Dogs are being smuggled in from Mexico for fleamarket-type sales. Again, there are some problems but this is smuggling -- it is already illegal, and there's nobody to federally license.

C. U.S. breeders import animals for show and breeding stock purposes. This practice goes back more than a century and the buyer -- generally a very experienced breeder who would rarely bring in over a couple of dogs per year -- can be presumed to know what she's doing.

D. A growing number of commercial breeders in foreign countries are using the 'net to sell in the U.S. These sales have had problems of several kinds; however, when sales are direct-to-consumer, there isn't anyone to license. When there is a U.S. intermediary, that individual would be a broker and is already required to have a USDA license.

You will hear testimony implying that PAWS will solve these problems. Insist on getting the details of HOW it would do so.

There will be suggestions that the problems are large and growing. Ask for hard numbers and compare them to *20,000* -- the approximate *daily* number of new dogs absorbed by the U.S. dog marketplace.

If PAWS were merely a non-solution to a group of minor problems, it would be just a waste of resources that America can ill afford. However, this bill will be catastrophic for U.S. pets and owners.

1. PAWS is being discussed as if it were a bill affecting only dogs. In fact, the overwhelming majority of animals affected will be of other species. I urge you to consider carefully the effects on these species.

The de minumus exemption for rabbits, mice, rats, birds, and all other small warm-blooded pets is $500/year total sales. For cats, it is the greater of 25 animals or six litters sold, with the six litter exemption available only if no non-self bred/raised animals whatever are sold during the year. In all of these species, essentially all hobby and 'pin money' breeding would come under the law from day one. So too with home-based dog and cat rescue, one of the most constructive developments ever in the handling of unwanted pets.

Federal regulation brings large expenses (remember that the AWA standards are *engineering* standards -- so many square feet of space, waterproof surfaces, separate food preparation spaces ...), record keeping and reporting requirements, and loss of privacy. A hobby that becomes federally regulated remains a hobby only for the wealthy. A pin-money business that's federally regulated can no longer break even. A home-based rescue that's required to build a facility to meet AWA standards is no longer home-based, it is an animal shelter.

Performance standards cannot be written to cover only home breeding. Licensed home breeders would be able to compete in the wholesale market; the larger scale commercial breeders who now own that marketplace will not allow new competitors to play by less costly rules.

From the effective date of the regulations for each of these species, that species will be available only from commercial (farm-type) breeding operations and illegal (hidden)

breeders.

2. Because the de minimus numbers are effectively somewhat larger for dogs than for the other species, they'll fare somewhat better at the start. What will kill off the lawful home breeding of dogs won't be the federal regulations but the follow-on state laws that use the same standards but apply them at lower levels. We already know of three states in which such bills will be introduced immediately should PAWS pass. S. 1139 provides specific authority for doing this -- check right at the end.

You'll be told that USDA compliance is or will be possible in a home setting. Ask your witnesses about their personal breeding experience. Ask them too about consideration given to the breeding practices for cats, birds, rabbits, and small pets when S. 1139 was drafted. As to dogs, ask individuals speaking for the American Kennel Club and claiming to speak for dog fanciers why AKC breed clubs representing about 60% of all dogs registered by the AKC have come out in opposition to the bill.

I'd estimate that should PAWS pass you have about five years to get that next purebred puppy at a reasonable price from a home breeder. After that your choices will be a pet shop, an import, illegal 'puppy moonshine' or a mixed breed or animal shelter dog.

Most bad federal laws disappear into the woodwork. Sometimes they're not enforced, more often the effects are sufficiently indirect that responsibility isn't obvious to the average voter. PAWS isn't going to be like that. Five years from now if people
want a well-bred puppy and can't get one for less than several thousand dollars AND they cannot get one at all from the breeder from whom they bought the last one, everyone will know the reason: S. 1139, passed by the 109th Congress.

I sincerely hope you'll help us not go there. Please kill this monstrous bill.

Walt Hutchens
2121 Maury River Rd.,
Lexington, VA 24450

http://www.timbreblue.com
(the website through which we sell our puppies and provide public education)

waltah@earthlink.net
540-464-8046

The American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.

Devoted to the Interest of Rabbit Raising for Fancy and Commercial
Parent Body of All Chartered Local and Specialty Clubs
One National Judging and Registration System

November 2, 2005

Senator Chambliss
US Senate
Washington, DC

OPPOSE SB1139-PAWS

Dear Senator Chambliss,

The **American Rabbit Breeders Association** opposes SB1139/HR 2669, the Pet Animal Welfare Statue. Our board of directors determined that this bill will harm our **30,000** members across the United States. There are currently about **900,000** rabbits and cavies (guinea pigs) shown by our members. This number does not include the number of rabbits and cavies that are shown by 4-H and FFA members as part of their project requirements.

PAWS will federalize the breeding of home-raised rabbits and cavies. This proposed bill is a fundamental change to the Animal Welfare Act where rabbits and cavies are already covered. Most rabbit and cavy fanciers/exhibitors participate in the activity as a wholesome, family project and sell few animals to pet stores. Few fanciers will result in the loss of valuable genetic diversity of rabbits and cavies. It is unreasonable to expect regulations made for large commercial dog operations to also regulate rabbit and cavy fanciers/exhibitors as the bill is now written.

We urge you to review this bill in the present form and to consider the impact on rabbits and cavies. Should you require any further information or statistics, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Glen Carr at 309-664-7500.

Sincerely,

Cindy Wickizer

From the office of the President, Cindy Wickizer
PMB 196, 20825 Star Route 410 E • Sumner, WA 98390
Phone: 253-826-3976 E-mail: CindyWick@aol.com

Cindy L. Grube
301 Old Grade Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091
610-759-2722

TO: SENATE AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I request that this statement, as well as my letters attached to this statement, setting forth my views of the PAWS bill, be made a part of the OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD.

I also wish to bring to the Subcommittee's attention that the AKC, HSUS, ASPCA, PETA, DDAL and the AVMA do not represent the views of over 400 clubs, organizations, registries, rescue groups and thousands of individuals who oppose the PAWS bill. Proponents of the PAWS bill should be allowed to testify at the hearing. It is not fair that the only testimony you will hear is from those in support of the PAWS bill. It is not a democratic process when you hear only one side.

Sincerely,

Cindy L. Grube

Cindy L. Grube

Cindy Grube
301 Old Grade Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091

July 27, 2005

The Honorable Rick Santorum
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Santorum:

I am writing you to again express my OPPOSITION regarding the PAWS bill introduced by you.

1. Licensing of cat breeders who sell at retail to the public is not necessary and is contrary to the intent of the Animal Welfare Act which was created by Congress to regulate commercial wholesale breeders.
2. It is obvious that the real purpose of this bill is to eventually eliminate the breeding of puppies or kittens in the United States by REPUTABLE breeders who raise their young in their home as a part of a family. The only breeders who will be able to conform with USDA's strict regulations will be PUPPY MILLS! Puppy mills will continue to thrive while small and medium sized breeders who raise their puppies and kittens in their home will become extinct.
3. The future of purebred cats is at risk as cat breeding is not a viable commercial business. Kitten mills do not exist because there is no money to be made as there is with puppy mills.
4. Passage of this bill will open the door for PETA's and other radical animal rights groups' agenda of eliminating pet ownership in this country. AS A PET OWNER YOURSELF, DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE DAY WHEN YOU OR YOUR CHILDREN WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A PET?
5. The Cat Fanciers' Association and The International Cat Association already oversee the conditions in the catteries of their members. The members oversee each other as well. Many local authorities already oversee conditions in catteries in their locality. Putting an additional burden on the USDA to inspect and regulate what is already being inspected and regulated by other entities is a WASTE OF TAXPAYERS' DOLLARS.
6. I want to see my tax dollars used to improve conditions in PUPPY MILLS and not used to put reputable breeders who genuinely care about their animals out of business. The PAWS bill will do ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN PUPPY MILLS. In fact, conditions in puppy mills will get worse because the USDA will be busy finding, investigating and regulating the thousands of hobby breeders across the country while the puppy mills go uninspected.
7. The passage of PAWS will eliminate the many dog and cat rescue groups across the country putting an additional burden on county and city run animal shelters, leading to the destruction of more animals that could have found new homes through a rescue group. But, of course, this needless destruction of life is also a part of PETA's agenda since they are personally responsible for destroying thousands of perfectly healthy dogs, puppies, cats and kittens that could have been found homes and, hence, another reason for their support of the PAWS bill.

Nothing positive will come from the passage of the PAWS bill. Passage of this bill will only add to the decline of the quality of life for animals raised in puppy mills and infringe on the freedom of private citizens of our country who love animals.

Sincerely,

Cindy L. Grube

Cindy L. Grube

Cindy Grube
301 Old Grade Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091

June 16, 2005

The Honorable Rick Santorum
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Santorum:

I am writing you to express my concerns regarding the PAWS bill recently introduced by you.

Licensing of cat breeders who sell at retail to the public is not necessary and is contrary to the intent of the Animal Welfare Act which was created by Congress to regulate commercial wholesale breeders. Your PAWS bill will negatively impact breeders of pedigreed cats with small and moderately sized catteries. To categorize small or moderately sized catteries alongside commercial dog breeders is preposterous. There is no comparison between the two.

First of all, cat breeding is not a viable commercial business requiring federal regulation. It is a private home activity by persons who truly love a specific breed of feline who want to preserve a breed and provide kittens of high quality, good health and temperament to loving homes. What you may not know about responsible breeders of cats are:

1. breeding stock is carefully chosen for health and temperament, as well as to keep genetic diversity;
2. excellent care is provided to the cats and kittens, which includes proper food, lodging, medical care, and love;
3. the number of cats in the cattery is limited so that health can be maintained and all cats and kittens receive the attention needed;
4. cats and kittens are considered members of the family and are treated better than many people treat their own human children;
5. cats and kittens are housed under the breeder's own roof where they are a part of everyday activities, receiving lots of love and attention just as any good pet owner would provide for their pets;
6. each and every potential purchaser of kittens is carefully screened and those who don't make the grade are turned away.
7. many breeders spay and neuter kittens at their own expense before they leave the catteries and those who don't, require and ensure that the new owner does so within a specified period of time;
8. raising cats and kittens with high quality food, the best medical care, and maintaining a healthy and pleasant environment to live in is a great financial expense, so much so that the majority of breeders do not make any profit keeping a cattery; hence, breeders breed out of love for the breed, not to make a buck.

Secondly, you may not be aware that CFA already requires inspection of high volume breeding catteries—those who produce 75 or more kittens per year. In 2004, there were only 66 high volume catteries in the United States, Canada and elsewhere. CFA also has a voluntary cattery inspection program which is open to any size cattery. Many breeders have taken advantage of this inspection program despite the vet and CFA fees associated with this program.

Thirdly, you cannot compare the breeding of dogs to the breeding of cats. It would be like comparing apples to oranges. Female dogs normally come into season twice a year. A dog breeder can easily predict how many litters of puppies one female will produce in a year. Female cats, however, depending on the individual animal, may come into season as little as twice a year or as often as once a month making it impossible for a cat breeder to predict each year how many litters will be born in the cattery. The number of kittens from a mating also varies greatly depending on the breed and the fertility of the male and female used. Why should the USDA inspect the homes of cat breeders who are not commercial businesses and may fall above or below the threshold in any given year? Will kittens that are born premature and don't survive be counted?

The AKC suggests that PAWS will bring under federal legislation individuals who sell through the Internet and will stop selling with newspapers ads. I fail to see how the use of the Internet or cattery websites or the placing of newspapers ads have any inherent relationship with commercialism or substandard conditions. I do support increased and improved enforcement of the AWA to assure that commercial dealers selling at wholesale, who are required to be licensed, do comply with the AWA and that their animals are humanely cared for. These are true businesses and regulation is a valid use of government resources for the benefit of animals.

Your bill requires intrusive federal regulation and inspection of private homes and applies commercial standards of care that are inappropriate to small and moderately sized catteries. Passage of your bill will threaten the preservation of purebred felines and eventually lead to the extinction of purebred felines. Your bill will put an end to the many small and moderately sized catteries which are run by people who truly care for their animals who breed their animals and raise their kittens in a humane and loving manner while the dog breeders who breed for profit by producing large numbers of puppies each year lacking proper care, socialization and love will continue on.

Regulating and licensing small and moderately sized catteries will, possibly unintentionally, negatively affect breed rescuers putting more strain on county and city run animal shelters that are already under funded and overtaxed. Your bill will stretch the limited resources of the U.S.D.A. and will waste their manpower and hours through the inspection of the thousands of homes of hobby/private breeders of pedigreed cats with small or moderate catteries with excellent home environments and dedicated breeding programs. In the meantime, more animals will suffer in substandard commercial facilities as the manpower won't be there to properly monitor the commercial facilities. The commercial facilities are where the problems are…not in the bedrooms, living rooms and family rooms of hobby breeders.

Your news release on your web site concerning this bill sounds wonderful on the surface; but whether it be intentional or unintentional it does not tell people the full impact this bill will have.

Please reconsider your stance on this bill as it is written. I respectfully request that catteries be removed from the bill.

Sincerely,

Cindy Grube

Cindy Grube

Cindy Grube
301 Old Grade Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091

September 21, 2005

The Honorable Rick Santorum
United States Senate
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Santorum:

I am responding to your correspondence dated August 28, 2005, which was received by me on September 13, 2005, regarding the PAWS bill.

First of all, I am not a "Mr." I am female and "Mrs."

You just don't get it, do you? The threshold limits that you have set will affect the hobby breeders of cats. You say "I believe that PAWS responsibly addresses the growing problem of puppy mills." Why then have you included the breeding of cats in this bill when kitten mills do not exist? There is no profit to be made in the breeding of felines as a commercial business as there is with dogs. Your emphasis in the bill is on dogs and it seems that cats were thrown in as an after thought without any forethought.

You obviously do not understand the differences in the breeding physiology of felines as compared to dogs. You cannot compare the breeding of cats to dogs. It is like comparing apples to oranges. Female cats often come into season on a monthly basis. If a female cat is allowed to come into season too many times without being bred, she will develop a life-threatening infection in her uterus. If the infection does not respond to antibiotics, which is often the case, the cat will have to be spayed to save her life. For this reason, female cats must be bred on a regular basis (generally twice a year) to retain their health. Also, the size of litters varies greatly from breed to breed. Some breeds may have only one or two kittens per litter. Other breeds may have up to 10 kittens per litter.

A cat breeder with as few as three or four breeding females could theoretically exceed the threshold limits you have set. Is this really the kind of person you intend to target, someone with only three or four breeding animals? How can you label someone who has so few breeding females, who raises their litters in their home as a part of the family, in a clean and loving environment, a commercial breeder?

You also do not understand the importance of raising kittens in a home environment and not in a sterile, stand alone facility isolated from humans and other cats as the USDA requires for a licensed facility. You do not get sweet, loving, socially adjusted kittens that way. You get a half-wild animal that will not bond with humans that will make a horrible pet which increases the odds that the poor animal will end up at an animal shelter.

Sincerely,

Cindy L. Grube

Cindy L. Grube

Cindy Grube
301 Old Grade Road
Wind Gap, PA 18091

October 5, 2005

The Honorable Saxby Chambliss
United States Senate
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
416 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Chambliss:

I am writing you to express my opposition to the PAWS bill (Senate Bill 1139).

- This bill is poorly written and targets the wrong people. The PAWS bill does not simply "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as supporters claim. The PAWS bill is against individuals selling cats, dogs and other animals to the pet owning public. The PAWS bill is a step toward eventually ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.
- The PAWS bill is a dramatic change in the fundamental concept of the Animal Welfare Act, which is to license dealers who sell to the pet trade (to pet stores and brokers).
- The PAWS bill federalizes the breeding of home-raised animals - the optimum source of well socialized pets. If fanciers and hobby breeders are forced to discontinue or reduce their breeding programs, the public demand for well socialized pets will shift to less desirable sources. Fewer breed enthusiasts will result in the loss of genetic diversity - many rare breeds will no longer be preserved.
- The PAWS bill does not benefit the welfare of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. In fact the thousands of added cat and dog hobbyists will greatly overburden the US Department of Agriculture making it harder to properly enforce the Animal Welfare Act.
- The PAWS bill was written without solid facts and without input from all stakeholders. Radical changes to the Animal Welfare Act should not be implemented without some investigation and data.

I am attaching copies of letters that I have sent to Senator Santorum over the past few months for your review. I ask that you please do everything in your power to kill this bill.

Sincerely,

Cindy Grube

Cindy Grube

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

From: Kenneth Griffith
17214 FAA Road
Alvin, TX 77511

Subject: Don't waste taxpayer's money/vote NO on S. 1139

Please oppose S. 1139. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I ask that you **vote against** this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans. Thank you for your consideration to my request to vote **NO** to S. 1139 (PAWS)

Please reply to this fax. Thank you.

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
Subcommittee Hearing
on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

Subject: Oppose S. 1139 PAWS

I'm writing to **oppose S. 1139.** Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill and protect our privacy rights. Please acknowledge receipt of this message.

Regards,

Jim MacLeod
210 Smith Village Drive #13
Alvin, TX 775112

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

Jeff Stolzfoos
Dear Sir and Committee Members,

In just two weeks, Senator Santorem will be hosting his "sham" of a hearing RE: PAWS. It is clear that we won't have anyone testifying on behalf of those actually impacted by this legislation which leaves us with the only other alternative, Lobbying on behalf of our own interests.

Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) has scheduled a November 8, 2005 hearing before the Senate Agriculture Research, Nutrition and General Legislation Subcommittee, which he chairs, to take testimony on his own S1139 "Animal Welfare Act of 2005" (PAWS) bill. No opponent or critic of this devastating anti-hobby breeder legislation will be permitted to testify. Only six speakers are scheduled to appear at the Washington, DC hearing, all of them well-established PAWS supporters. Formal speaking requests by others have been ignored, effectively silencing and excluding from the legislative process the tens of thousands of pet owners and organizations opposed to this legislation.
PAWS has virtually nothing to do with animal welfare or closing Animal Welfare Act "loopholes." It's a direct attack on U.S. hobby breeders, hunting dog owners and animal rescuers. PAWS federalizes hobby pet breeding. Rick Santorum and the animal rights lobby failed to enact such a law in 2002 and they're back, trying again. Other PAWS supporters testifying have a financial interest in seeing S1139, or its House equivalent HR2669, passed.
A substantial majority of U.S. pet owners opposes PAWS, including over 30 American Kennel Club parent breed clubs and 300 - 400 other organizations nationwide. Their voices won't be heard on November 8, 2005.
The hearing will consist of two panels of witnesses, one representing Animal Interest Groups, on which the AKC has been invited to appear, and the other representing Animal Welfare Groups. Chairman of the Board Ron Menaker will represent and testify on
behalf of the AKC at the hearing. The complete witness list appears below:
Panel 1: Animal Interest Groups
Witness 1: Ron Menaker, Chairman - American Kennel Club
Witness 2: Dr. Henry E. Childers, President - American Veterinary Medical Association
Witness 3: John E. Hoffman, Esq. - Dog Fancier (a BIG contributor to the AKC ? - is he the same John E. Hoffman who is listed as a Millenium Founder of the AKC Canine Health Foundation in recognition of $25,000 to $49,999?)

Panel 2: Animal Welfare Groups (How is it that animal rights groups are now repackaged & remarketed as "animal welfare" groups?)
Witness 1: Wayne Pacelle, President & CEO - Humane Society of the United States
Witness 2: Sara Amundson, Legislative Director -Doris Day Animal League
Witness 3: Norma Worley, Director - Animal Welfare Program, Maine Department of Agriculture
Does the AKC speak for all dog groups? Not.
How about HSUS - hardly. And now we have the AMVA on board. That still leaves a whole lotta people out of the process.
Are they speaking on behalf of the cat fanciers? Not.
Bird Fanciers? Not. Not even close.

Why are none of these people who are adamantly opposed to PAWS being allowed to testify?

Sincerely,
Ernest N. Duffey
Jacksonville Fl

Animal Advocacy Organizations Opposing S1139/HR2669 (PAWS)
This opponent list has been verified by receipt from the organizations below of their communications to Congress. Beware of unverified information circulated and publicized for other purposes.
American Kennel Club Member, Licensed and Affiliated Organizations.
Groups verified opposed to PAWS - 323 as of 10/26/2005

National Groups
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
Sportsmen's and Animal Owners' Voting Alliance
Cat Fanciers' Association
The Animal Council
National Animal Interest Alliance
American Dog Owners' Association
United Kennel Club - UKC
Master of Fox Hounds Association
The International Cat Association
The International Bengal Cat Society
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
National Birman Fanciers (CFA)
White Shetland Sheepdog Association
Ocicats International
The Devon Rex Breed Club
The Rabbit Education Society
On-Line Feline Fanciers
National Pet Alliance
The Polish Tatra Sheepdog Club of America
Tonkinese Breed Association
National Red Setter Field Trial Club
North American Teckel Club
International Havana Brown Society
American Association of Caucasian Ovtcharka Owners
Field Dog Stud Book
American Field Publishing Company
Japanese Bobtail Fanciers (CFA)
Abyssinian Breeders International
Oriental Shorthairs of America
Global Egyptian Mau Society
United Poodle Breeds Association (UKC)
National American Eskimo Dog Association (UKC)
National Norwegian Forest Cat Breed Club
Zero Population Growth All Breed Club
Egyptian Mau Breeders' and Fanciers' Club
Worldwide European Burmese Society
Breeders Alliance & Sphynx Trust
CFA Havana Brown Breed Council
Organization of Professional Aviculturists
International Scottish Fold Association
Avicultural Society of America
National Alliance of Burmese Breeders
Phoenix Exotic Wildlife Association
American Cat Fanciers Association
Exotic Pet Owners Uniting
American Dog Breeders Associated, Inc.

National Plott Hound Association (UKC)
Bluetick Breeders Of America (UKC)

National - AKC Parent Breed Clubs
The clubs shown above represent 57.8% of AKC's registrations.

American Brittany Club
American Shetland Sheepdog Association
American Chesapeake Club
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America
American Pomeranian Club
Papillon Club of America
Dachshund Club of America
Pug Dog Club of America
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association
Yorkshire Terrier Club of America
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
American Spaniel Club
American Boxer Club
Saluki Club of America
Saint Bernard Club of America
Scottish Terrier Club of America
American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club
Labrador Retriever Club of America
American Brussels Griffon Association
Golden Retriever Club of America
German Shepherd Dog Club of America
American Miniature Schnauzer Club
Spinone Club of America
Great Pyrenees Club of America
Weimaraner Club of America
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club
American Lhasa Apso Club
American Pointer Club
Collie Club of America
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Statewide Organizations
Virginia Hunting Dog Owners' Association
Dog Federation of Wisconsin
California Federation of Dog Clubs
Missouri Federation of Animal Owners
Responsible Pet Owners Alliance (Texas)
North Carolina Responsible Animal Owners' Alliance
North Carolina Sporting Dogs Association (UKC)
Federation of Maine Dog Clubs
Virginia Bear Hunters Association
Responsible Animal Owners of Tennessee
Illinois Federation of Outdoor Resources
PUFF (Pfanciers United For Fun, Inc.) (Midwest)
North Carolina Field Trial Association
CT Dogs (CT)
Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America - Region 12 (AZ & NM)
Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America - Region 7 - 45 clubs (TX)
Nebraska Brittany Club
Prairie State Cat Club (IL, IN & MI)

Field Trial Clubs of Illinois
Hoosier State Chinese Shar-Pei Club (IN)
Montana State Houndsmen Association (UKC)
Illinois Regional Brittany Club
Illinois Brittany Championship Association
Alaska Winds Coursing Club
Tonkinese East Cat Club (Southeastern U.S.)
Michigan Association for Pure Bred Dogs
Michigan Hunting Dog Federation
Responsible Dog Owners of the Western States
Seacoast Cat Club (New England)
West Virginia Sporting Dog Association (UKC)
Shetland Sheepdog Club of Georgia
Carolina Lure Coursing Society (SC & GA, NC, VA)
Wisconsin English Springer Spaniel Association
Pekingese Club of New Jersey
Ragdolls of America Group (Eastern U.S.)
Ragdoll Breed Club (Western U.S.)
Mass. Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Breeders
Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders
Mid-Florida Golden Retriever Club
Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan
Mississippi Canine Coalition
Collie Club of New Hampshire
New Hampshire Feline Fanciers
Association of South Carolina Field Trial Clubs - 12 clubs (SC)
Poodle Club of Alabama
Garden State Mastiff Fanciers (NJ)
Tonks West (Western U.S.)
North Carolina Federation of Dog Clubs
Garden State Cat Club of New Jersey
Minn-Kota Feline Club (ND)
Kentuckiana Cat Club (KY)
Arizona Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Ohio State Sportsmen & Sporting Dog Association (UKC)

Local Organizations
Alliance of Responsible Pet Owners of N.E. Florida
Greater Clark County Kennel Club (WA)
Schooley's Mountain Kennel Club (NJ)
Jacksonville North Carolina Kennel Club
Central Carolina Dachshund Club (NC)
Greater Orange Park Dog Club, Inc (FL)
Clermont County Kennel Club (OH)
Piedmont Kennel Club (NC)
Dalmatian Club of the Piedmont (NC)
Burlington Cat Fanciers (NC)
Tropical Cats Inc. (FL)
Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association (PA)
New Brunswick Kennel Club (NJ)
Thunderkatz, Inc. (OK)
St. Croix Valley Brittany Club (MN)
Fanciers Cocker Spaniel Club of Southern WI
Susquehanna Brittany Club (PA)
Salisbury Kennel Club (NC)
LNC Pet Supply (CA)

October 23, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing
on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

Subject: **Oppose S. 1139 PAWS**

Please **vote against** S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S.1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I ask that you **vote against** this bill that violates the privacy and freedom of thousands of Americans. The favor of a reply is requested.

Thank you.

Melissa Bullock
7814 Leaning Oak Drive
Texas City, TX 77591

October 26, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing
On S1139 PAWS
Fax: 202-228-8282

From: Kathy Cooling-Triola
10006 Pinehurst Drive
Baytown, TX 77521

Subject: **Oppose S. 1139** -- After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we do not need to spend taxpayer's dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders and volunteer animal rescuers do not need to be subject to federal regulations. Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139 when enforced.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing and/or proper individual socialization.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding and animal rescue groups.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill and protect my personal freedom and privacy. The favor of a reply is requested. Thank you.

K. C. Triola

U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, For Inclusion in the Official Record

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am opposed to S.1139.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

The real effect of PAWS will be to increase the worst quality imports. It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia DeLanoy <dreamsindiamonds@zianet.com>
509 El Prado Ave.
Las Cruces, NM 88005

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

If S. 1139 passes, vital USDA resources will be diverted from helping farmers along Gulf coast to telling breeders how to raise puppies. This is a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

This bill, S.1139, will promote puppy mills and shut down decent breeders and dog shows. Please do the right thing and vote against it.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Marcia Deugan <ZIYADAHreg@aol.com>
26400 Morton Ave.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

DARREN BATTERSON <darrenb@ci.ottumwa.ia.us>
6428 CEMETERY ROAD
OTTUMWA, IA 52501

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Tammie Lind <TLlind1@aol.com>
TLlind1@aol.com

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Many hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than build a separate facility away from their living quarters to raise puppies and kittens like livestock.

Please vote NO on Paws Bill

Thank you for your vote against S.1139.

Tracy Smith <tsmith@gadsdengov.net>
3724 Concord Rd.
Havana, FL 32333

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

If S. 1139 passes, vital USDA resources will be diverted from helping farmers along Gulf coast to telling breeders how to raise puppies. This is a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

The bill?s supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Marie Ow <barnyardblitz1@aol.com>

To: Jacob Chaney
U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee Deputy Hearing Clerk

Fax 202.224.1725

RE: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the Official Record
U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee

Nov 8 hearing

I fervently **oppose S. 1139, PAWS**, as a longtime purebred dog owner/caregiver. My dogs are therapy dogs, hunting dogs, obedience dogs, agility dogs, conformation show dogs, and very much a part of my family. We don't need big business or government controlling this part of our leisure-time lives.

Brenda Bridges

From: Brenda Bridges
bridges@tamhsc.edu

Fax 979.458.7202

THE CAT FANCIERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.

World's Largest Registry of Pedigreed Cats

CFA Executive Board

Joan Miller
Director-At-Large
Chair, CFA Legislative Committee
CFA Legislative Coordinator
100 Harbor Drive #604
San Diego, CA 92101
619-269-0107 • 619-269-7188 (fax)
JMillerArt@aol.com

November 8, 2005

Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

FAX 202/228-8282

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S 1139 (PAWS)

On behalf of the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. I request that our views regarding the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) be made part of the official public record.

CFA is a non-profit organization founded in 1906 and the world's largest registry of pedigreed cats with over 600 member clubs throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and other areas of the world.[1] The PAWS dramatically changes the concept of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) as established by Congress in 1966. CFA is concerned that portions of this bill pose a significant threat to the preservation of pedigreed cat breeds and the very existence of our organization. I regret that CFA, as a prominent stakeholder, was not given the opportunity to provide testimony at the above hearing

The following will outline our primary concern with the PAWS bill. Federal regulation of breeders selling direct to the public will not achieve the stated goals of this bill and would result in unintended consequences including several specific to breeders of pedigreed cats.

PAWS has been promoted as a way to diminish the problems related to substandard dog breeding facilities. The legislation is actually targeted toward breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public at retail and impacts sellers of other species as well. PAWS is based on assumptions that there is huge selling of pets through mass media channels direct to the public. A quantitative threshold method for exclusion has been established to determine an arbitrary definition of "commercial" over which all breeders/sellers would be USDA regulated.

[1] *CFA participants breed, register and show pedigreed cats. Part of CFA's mission is to enhance the well-being of all cats. Fanciers are active in cat health promotion, cat breed rescue, shelter support and other animal related programs. CFA is a positive force that has helped to educate the general public about proper cat care, spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. CFA is proud of its self- regulation programs to encourage high standards of care for cats in multi-cat breeding environments. A "Breeder Code of Ethics" and breeder mentoring program are part of ongoing efforts to ensure responsible breeding programs and good feline husbandry.*

There is no compelling reason to justify discarding the historic concept of the Animal Welfare Act. The wholesale selling of dogs and cats by breeders to brokers and pet stores or for research as well as those engaged in animal transport or animal exhibition has been long established as the activity representing commercial business that warrants federal regulation.

- **PAWS would extensively broaden federal regulation to include an unknown number of private home-based breeders who are not motivated by profit-making but instead are interested in preserving and improving upon their chosen breeds.** Home-raised pedigreed pets are desired by many in the general public who want healthy, well socialized pets with predictable characteristics. PAWS would discourage this optimum source of pets. If a large number of breeders reduce their breeding and selling activity to stay under the arbitrary threshold the public will be forced to find the breeds they desire from larger more commercial sources or through increased importing.

- **The PAWS bill uses quantitative thresholds intended to determine who is breeding/selling at a commercial level that supposedly warrants federal regulation.** These arbitrary thresholds are derived from the American Kennel Club's idea of breeders with "high volume" activity (7 litters or more or the sale of 26 or more). Because of reproductive differences in cats this concept is entirely unrealistic for cat fanciers and means breeders with as few as 4 or 5 intact females would be regulated by the federal government.[2]
- **The PAWS thresholds do not take into consideration feline husbandry issues or reproductive physiology, which differ significantly from those of dogs.** Cats come in heat year round with periods of rest every 2 to 19 days if not bred. The norm for domestic cats is to have two litters per year. Queens vary in cycling frequency and cats in some breeds do have fewer estrus cycles.[3] Generally for most breeds litters spaced every 8 to 9 months apart is optimum when considering the health of the cat. However, when female cycling is continuous, holding off cats from pregnancy can lead to health problems such as uterine infection, loss of body condition and stress-related conditions. A breeder has few choices. Side effects preclude the use of contraceptive drugs for avoiding reproduction in felines. Progressive uterine disease in an unmated female cat is also an important cause of infertility.[4]
- **The quantitative measure includes private home breeders of pedigreed cats with small or moderate breeding programs.** It is this core group of breeders that assures genetic diversity. They produce bloodlines critical to the preservation of many rare and beautiful cat breeds. They provide high quality cats with outstanding pedigrees to other smaller and more novice breeders/show exhibitors.[5] These catteries with 5 or more female cats are not sub-standard "facilities" that justify regulation. CFA registration records for 2004 show that 1136 breeders registered 7 or more litters (1248 in 2003). Moderate sized catteries with serious breeding programs fall in this range.
- **CFA is unaware of any demonstrated need for federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public.** Claims by supporters of PAWS that there is a growing problem of dogs or cats sold through mass media channels or the Internet are anecdotal and not verified by any facts, examples or data. This is especially true for cats. Several studies show

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[2] *Five female cats may have 1.5 to 2 litters per year with an average of 4.2 kittens per litter – this can easily mean 7 or more litters and more than 26 kittens to sell.*
[3] *"Feline Reproduction and Breeding Management" (2005), Susan Little, DVM, Dip.ABVP, Certified Feline Practice.*
[4] *Feline Husbandry: Niels Pedersen, DVM, Ch.3 "Reproduction and Reproductive Disorders, pg.134, pg. 144,pg. 147*
[5] *Feline Husbandry: N. Pedersen and Joan (Wastlhuber) Miller. Ch.8 Cattery Design and Management.*

that over 90% of all cats in American households are random-bred and not pedigreed. At least 34% of cats arrive as strays. Most owned cats are spayed/neutered (85% to 87%), few are obtained from pet stores other than through adoption events and only 3% of owned cats are obtained from breeders.[6] Large commercial breeding of cats simply does not exist to any great extent either at the wholesale level or retail. Commercial cat breeding on a large scale is neither a viable nor profitable business venture because of the well known vulnerability of cats to infectious diseases and stress-related factors.

This legislation asserts that it is necessary to federalize the breeding of dogs and cats sold directly to the public because there is an increase in selling through mass media channels such as the Internet.

- **The advertising of cats through the Internet has no inherent relationship to large commercial selling nor does this imply inhumane conditions for animals.** Cat breeds are rare and almost all hobby breeders have websites to reach a desiring public throughout the US. Because of the many excellent Internet sources for educational material, including those of CFA and AKC, cat and dog buyers are more aware than ever concerning the informed selection of a breed to meet their expectations and how to find a reputable breeder.[7] The Internet is merely a newer, more efficient, method of communication between buyer and seller. The Internet is also widely accepted as a way for shelters to reach potential pet owners. Utilizing this means of communication has no relationship to a need for federal licensing.

- **The market for rare breeds has always necessitated interstate communication, advertising and transportation.** Dogs and cats have traditionally been sold through newspaper ads and national magazines and often shipped sight unseen to the new pet owner following lengthy communication/phone calls. Often there will be in-person meetings arranged or references provided.

Cat and dog breeders who are over the thresholds established by PAWS and raise their kittens/puppies in a home environment would be seriously discouraged from continuing.

- **The USDA standards of care are not appropriate for residential environments.** Federal housing facility standards emphasize hard surfaces and regular sanitizing. We question the feasibility or possibility of creating special "residential" standards for home based breeders. There will not be two "classes" of Class A Dealers. Compromising on the regulations in order to accommodate the newly added home breeder-dealers may potentially lessen the enforcement of the AWA standards of care for existing Class A wholesaler-broker-dealers. This is not in the best interests of animals.

- **Self-regulation of cat breeders selling at retail is accomplished by the Cat Fanciers' Association.** CFA has a successful Voluntary Cattery Environment Inspection Program. Veterinary inspection enables breeders to proudly advertise a CFA approved or "Cattery of Excellence".[8] CFA considers catteries that register litters representing 75 kittens or more in a

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[6] *American Pet Product Manufacturers Association National Pet Owners Surveys.*
[7] *http://www.cfa.org/ebrs.html*
www.akc.org

[8] http://www.cfa.org/articles/cattery-inspection.html

motivated and truly large sub-standard facilities as intended by the AWA. There is no authority in the current AWA to allow non-governmental organizations to take on kennel/cattery inspections.

- **Federal regulation of breeders selling at retail from their homes may mean individuals could face unintended problems.** Zoning laws in local jurisdictions would consider a USDA licensed facility or activity to be a commercial business and individuals could be forced to move or to apply for difficult-to-obtain variances. Extensive record keeping, health certificates, fees and unknown penalties for violations would be a substantial burden for most small/moderate private home breeders. Public availability of information concerning the names/addresses of breeders or buyers would be a privacy and security concern for residential breeders.

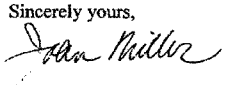
- **Factors related to those who rescue cats/dogs have not been considered.** Cat breeders sometimes take in, neuter, advertise and sell stray cats, rescued cats or cats bred by co-owners living elsewhere. Clubs and breeders are rarely entities exempt under IRC Sec. 501 (c)(3). Breeders of pedigreed cats may have fewer than 6 litters yet they could sell over 25 kittens/cats in a year including strays or rescues not "bred or raised on the premises" and would have to be

is usually related to the mental illness of "hoarding" and almost always the animals on the premises include stray or rescued cats. This addiction-related phenomenon can occur whether or not there is any breeding or sales of cats. The PAWS would have no impact on this particular animal welfare problem.

CFA encourages better enforcement of the AWA to protect the welfare of animals in facilities that breed and sell dogs and cats to the pet trade. We request that you consider limiting this bill to language that would increase the ability of the USDA to better enforce regulation of existing licensees. Should the PAWS be amended to exclusively address these matters CFA would reconsider our opposition.

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely yours,



Joan Miller
CFA Legislative Coordinator
JMillerArt@aol.com

November 3, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee
Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
FAX: 202-228-8282

From: Manuel Galvan
16725 County Road 191
Alvin, TX 77511

Subject: S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' and rescuers' homes.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already "stretched to the limit" federal budget. There is no need to reinvent the wheel.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Rescue operations are virtually always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employee comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

If U.S. hobby breeders and rescuers are burdened with federal regulation it will be creating an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in internet sales, which many are already complaining about. Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S. 1139 wipes out the 2003 Court of Appeals decision that is was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Animal RIGHTS or Animal WELFARE? Do you really know the difference? ———-
.....Animal Welfare supports humane use and treatment of animals and believes that humans have a responsibility to care for animals. Animal Welfare includes humane treatment and responsible care of animals used by humans for service, research, food, education, kept in zoos or sanctuaries, and especially those animals kept by pet owners.
.....Animal Rights (AR) is based on moral and ethical philosophies. While Animals Rights Advocates and Groups talk about humane care, the bottom line is to work for humane care and legislation ONLY until all animals can be removed from human use.

In summary S. 1139 is a useless redundant law that will result in a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars not to mention an unprecedented intrusion of personal freedom and privacy in hobby breeders' and rescuers' homes. Your help in stopping S.1139 (PAWS) is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

October 30, 2005

To: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee
Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)
Fax: 202-228-8282

From: Mary Elizabeth Galvan
16725 County Road 191
Alvin, Texas 77511

Subject: I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders and volunteer animal rescuers do not need to be subject to federal regulations.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139 when enforced. Few "puppy mills" are in compliance with the AWA now so a new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower and tax dollars should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA as written and not on federalizing hobby breeders and animal rescuers.

PAWS is in direct conflict with the present position of the USDA and would dramatically alter the concept of the AWA as established by Congress many years ago. PAWS expands the AWA beyond its intended purpose of regulating wholesale breeders who use middlemen, to regulating retail sellers, including hobby dog and cat fanciers who sell more than 25 dogs or cats a year, or more than 6 litters a year. Please use the USDA's resources to focus on the large scale, high risk breeding operations that Congress intended the AWA to regulate. If there is a need to scrutinize the hobby and small scale breeders, please leave this to the local and state agencies, not the federal government.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to direct opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Animal RIGHTS or Animal WELFARE? Do you really know the difference? ———
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.....Animal Rights (AR) is based on moral and ethical philosophies. While Animals Rights Advocates and Groups talk about humane care, the bottom line is to work for humane care and legislation ONLY until all animals can be removed from human use.

In summary S1139 is an unnecessary uncalled-for bill that will result in a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars not to mention an unprecedented intrusion of personal freedom and privacy in hobby breeders' and rescuers' homes. If you believe in Animal Welfare, please do not sponsor S. 1139 (PAWS). Thank you.

Mary Galvan

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL
P.O. Box 168, Millbrae CA 94030

Officers:
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November 8, 2005

Via Facsimile: (202) 228-8282

Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S 1139 (PAWS)

On behalf of The Animal Council, we request that our views regarding the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) be made part of the official public record.

The Animal Council, a California nonprofit, public benefit, tax-exempt [§501(c)(4)] corporation was founded in 1991 to seek positive, humane solutions to animal public policy issues through study, analysis and application of animal husbandry, statistic, economics and law, and at the same time preserve human benefit from all species, breeds and registries.

Sections 3 - Source Records, 4 - "Extension of Temporary Suspension Period" and 5 - "Authority to Apply for Injunctions" of S 1139 are provisions sought by and supported by the enforcing agency and consistent with the functionality of the Animal Welfare Act.

However, Section 2 – amended dealer and new Retail Pet Store definitions and Section 6 – repealing the "other person" standard and discretionary licensing authority of AWA Section 2133 are poorly conceived from the outset and would have anti-competitive consequences that favor large scale breeders selling to the trade and foreign sources of pets. Entire sectors of a little known market would be unable or unwilling to remain in operation due to regulatory costs and compliance requirements that exceed feasibility. The existing qualitative standards for AWA licensure of breeders have been judicially upheld and are consistent with operators' anticpation of regulation based on type of operation and not unpredictable quantitative thresholds. Retaining the statutory authority for the current standard of regulation is the best interests of animals and the American public seeking a variety of quality animals from local sources.

Accordingly, we respectfully recommend *deletion* of Sections 2 and 6 of S 1139.

Very truly yours,

THE ANIMAL COUNCIL

By: Sharon A. Coleman
SHARON A. COLEMAN, President

A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation
Telephone/Facsimile (650) 692-0126
TheAnimalCouncil@aol.com
http://www.theanimalcouncil.com

Sent on CFA Letterhead by
Joan Miller
Director-At-Large
Chair, CFA Legislative Committee
CFA Legislative Coordinator

July 11, 2005

Senator Rick Santorum
Chairman
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Senate Bill 1139 Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 – OPPOSITION

Dear Senator Santorum;

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. to express opposition to the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) as it is written. CFA is a non-profit organization founded in 1906 with over 600 member clubs throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and other areas of the world.[1] The PAWS dramatically changes the concept of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) as established by Congress in 1966. CFA is concerned with portions of this bill that pose a significant threat to the preservation of pedigreed cat breeds and the very existence of our organization. I regret that CFA, as a prominent stakeholder, was not given the opportunity for input prior to the introduction of SB 1139.

The following will summarize our primary objections to the PAWS including concerns specific to breeders of pedigreed cats. Attached is an article written by a veterinarian respected worldwide for her expertise in feline reproductive physiology to provide more detail on this critical issue.

Federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public at retail as required by the PAWS is not appropriate. There is no compelling reason to justify discarding the historic concept of the Animal Welfare Act, which is to regulate the wholesale selling of dogs and cats to brokers, pet stores or for research as well as those engaged in animal transport or animal exhibition. The PAWS would extensively broaden federal regulation to include an

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[1] *CFA participants breed, register and show pedigreed cats. Part of CFA's mission is to enhance the well-being of all cats. Fanciers are active in cat health promotion, cat breed rescue, shelter support and other animal related programs. CFA is a positive force that has helped to educate the general public about proper cat care, spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. CFA is proud of its self- regulation programs to encourage high standards of care for cats in multi-cat breeding environments. A "Breeder Code of Ethics" and breeder mentoring program are part of ongoing efforts to ensure responsible breeding programs and good feline husbandry.*

unknown number of private home-based breeders who are not motivated by profit-making but instead the goals of preserving and improving upon their chosen breeds.

The quantitative measure to determine "high volume" breeding/selling or commercially motivated activity is arbitrary and includes private home breeders of pedigreed cats with small or moderate breeding programs. The PAWS bill uses thresholds based on the American Kennel Club's idea of breeders with "high volume" activity (7 litters or more or the sale of 26 or more). Because of reproductive differences in cats this would mean that cat fanciers with as few as 4 or 5 intact females could be required to be regulated by the federal government.[2]

The PAWS thresholds do not take into consideration feline husbandry issues or reproductive physiology, which differ significantly from those of dogs. Cats come in heat year round with periods of rest every 2 to 19 days if not bred. The optimum for domestic cats is to have two litters per year. Queens vary in cycling frequency and cats in some breeds do have fewer estrus cycles.[3] Generally for most breeds litters spaced every 8 to 9 months apart is adequate when considering the health of the cat. However, when female cycling is continuous, holding off cats from pregnancy can lead to health problems such as uterine infection, loss of body condition and stress-related conditions. A breeder has few choices. Side effects preclude the use of contraceptive drugs for avoiding reproduction in felines. Progressive uterine disease in an unmated female cat is also an important cause of infertility.[4]

In order to assure genetic diversity responsible breeding depends on exchange of cats, leasing, and other methods. In some breeds outcrossing to other breeds is imperative so breeders need to keep and mate more cats than others. CFA registration records for 2004 show that 1136 breeders registered 7 or more litters (1248 in 2003). Moderate sized catteries with serious breeding programs fall in this range. It is this core group of breeders that produce bloodlines critical to the preservation of many rare and beautiful cat breeds. They provide the high quality cats with outstanding pedigrees to other smaller and more novice breeders/show exhibitors.[5] These catteries with 5 or more female cats are not sub-standard "facilities" that need to be regulated.

CFA is unaware of any demonstrated need for federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public. Claims within the past few months of a growing problem of dogs or cats sold through mass media channels or the Internet are anecdotal and not verified by any facts, examples or data. This is especially true for cats. Several studies show that over 90% of all cats in American households are random-bred strays, cats obtained from shelters or from friends and family. Most owned cats are spayed/neutered (85% to 87%), few are obtained from pet stores other than through adoption events and only 3% of owned cats are obtained from breeders.[6] Large commercial breeding of cats simply does not exist to any great extent either at the wholesale level or retail. Commercial cat breeding on a large scale is neither a viable nor profitable business venture because of the well known vulnerability of cats to infectious diseases and stress-related factors.

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[2] *Five female cats may have 1.5 to 2 litters per year with an average of 4.2 kittens per litter – this can easily mean 7 or more litters and more than 26 kittens to sell.*

[3] *"Feline Reproduction and Breeding Management" (2005), Susan Little, DVM, Dip.ABVP, Certified Feline Practice. (ATTACHED)*

[4] *Feline Husbandry: Niels Pedersen, DVM, Ch.3 "Reproduction and Reproductive Disorders, pg.134, pg. 144,pg. 147*

[5] *Feline Husbandry: N. Pedersen and Joan (Wastlhuber) Miller. Ch.8 Cattery Design and Management.*

[6] *American Pet Product Manufacturers Association National Pet Owners Surveys.*

The advertising of cats through the Internet has no inherent relationship to large commercial selling or inhumane conditions for animals. Cat breeds are rare and most hobby breeders have websites to reach a desiring public throughout the US. Because of the many excellent Internet sources for educational material, including those of CFA and AKC, cat and dog buyers are more than ever aware of how to find a breed to meet their expectations and a reputable breeder.[7]

The USDA standards of care are not appropriate for residential environments. Federal housing facility standards emphasize hard surfaces and regular sanitizing. We question the feasibility of creating special "residential" standards for home based breeders. There will not be two "classes" of Class A Dealers. Compromising on the regulations in order to accommodate the newly added home breeder-dealers may potentially lessen the enforcement of the AWA standards of care for existing Class A wholesaler-broker-dealers. This is not in the best interests of animals.

Self-regulation of cat breeders selling at retail is accomplished by the Cat Fanciers' Association. CFA has a successful Voluntary Cattery Environment Inspection Program. Veterinary inspection enables breeders to proudly advertise a CFA approved or "Cattery of Excellence".[8] CFA considers catteries that register litters representing 75 kittens or more in a year to be "high volume" and this triggers a required veterinary inspection. In the year 2004 there were 66 catteries that registered more than 20 litters with CFA (21 litters x 3.6 kittens average would = 75) in the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and elsewhere.

There are numerous unknown or unintended consequences of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 that could affect both the USDA and individuals.

- **The PAWS would greatly overextend the enforcement capacity of the USDA.** The numbers of facilities/homes that would be added cannot be accurately determined but a reasonable estimate is 4000 or 5000 AKC dog breeders and 1200 CFA cat breeders, plus those of other registries, added to the existing 3000 Class A Dealers. When the "facility" is the entire residence and breeding cats are in bedrooms or wandering throughout mingling with spayed and neutered household pets USDA inspectors would face unanticipated challenges. Since most home-based breeders work at a job elsewhere inspectors would experience many "call-backs". All of this is a waste of taxpayers' money and diverts the resources of the USDA from focusing on the business motivated and truly large sub-standard facilities as intended by the AWA. There is no authority in the current AWA to allow non-governmental organizations to take on kennel/cattery inspections.

- **Federal regulation of breeders selling at retail from their homes may mean individuals could face unintended problems.** Zoning laws in local jurisdictions would consider a USDA licensed facility or activity to be a commercial business and individuals could be forced to move or to apply for difficult-to-obtain variances. Extensive record keeping, health certificates, fees and unknown penalties for violations would be a substantial burden for most small/moderate private home breeders. Public availability of

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[7] *http://www.cfa.org/cbrs.html*
www.akc.org

[8] http://www.cfa.org/articles/cattery-inspection.html

information concerning the names/addresses of breeders or buyers would be a privacy and security concern for residential breeders.

- **Factors related to those who rescue cats/dogs have not been considered.** Cat breeders sometimes take in, neuter, advertise and sell stray cats, rescued cats or cats bred by co-owners living elsewhere. Breeders of pedigreed cats may have fewer than 6 litters yet they could sell over 25 kittens/cats in a year including strays or rescues not "bred or raised on the premises" and would have to be licensed as a dealer. Rescuers charging "adoption fees" are selling animals "for compensation or profit" – there is no distinction in the AWA. The AWA currently does not regulate any direct retail sellers, including shelters or rescue groups/individuals. With the broadening of the AWA through SB 1139, and considering many rescuers are involved in interstate activities including transporting of cats/dogs, it is unlikely that these groups would later be exempted under any new regulations. Most likely individuals would discontinue accepting rescued cats in order to stay under the threshold of 25 sales or less.

The Pet Animal Welfare Statute is not sufficiently thought out and is entirely too broad. The negative consequences are not balanced by worthy benefits for cats. There is a growing demand for well bred healthy pedigreed cats by those who appreciate their predictable personalities and appearance. This bill will discourage the public's best source of home-raised, well socialized kittens/cats.

All states have animal cruelty laws properly targeted to inhumane conditions for animals whether in a commercial or home setting. We recognize that in some states there may be commercial breeding of dogs at a level that warrants facility licensing but safeguarding the welfare of these dogs can and has been accomplished on the state level. Whenever there are reports of animal neglect or abuse involving large numbers of cats it is usually related to the mental illness of "hoarding" and almost always the animals on the premises include stray or rescued cats. This addiction-related phenomenon can occur whether or not there is any breeding or sales of cats. The PAWS would have no impact on this particular animal welfare problem.

CFA encourages better enforcement of the AWA to protect the welfare of animals in facilities that breed and sell at wholesale. We request that you consider limiting this bill to language that would increase the ability of the USDA to better enforce regulation of existing licensees. Should the PAWS be amended to exclusively address these matters CFA would reconsider our opposition.

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely yours,

Joan Miller
CFA Legislative Coordinator
JMillerArt@aol.com

Cc: Pam DelaBar, CFA President
Thomas H. Dent, CFA Executive Director

Louisa Buford
12835 Carvel Lane
Houston, TX 77072
(281) 495-4604
lbuford1@juno.com

Faxed to: 202 --228-8282

Subject:
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL.

This bill's proposals are a disguise - **appearing** to provide well meaning assistance for helpless companion animals but actually is a measure that eventually will put many independent "in their home" breeders and rescue groups out of business, not to mention the impact this will have on pet food and supplies, veterinary services and other companion animal related businesses.

The puppy and kitten mills this supposedly will regulate will continue their practices and will remain virtually unaffected by this additional restrictive legislation, and will remain sheltered by the increased budgetary, bureaucracy and the additional enforcement personnel needed to enforce this legislation.

Please register my complete objection to this bill, and I hope that the members of the Subcommittee are allowed access to the thoughts and concerns from those that are opposed to the passage of the bill.

Please also consider that you may be getting multiple communications from the same sources -- that are intended to misrepresent the number of opinions in favor of this proposed legislation.

I am also concerned that the hearing scheduled for Nov 8, 2005, may not be balanced with people representing the pros AND cons to the issues. This is a real shame.

Thank you for your time.

Louisa Buford 11/08/2005

Louisa Buford

The following is an email sent to you by an administrator of "Gamedog.info". If this message is spam, contains abusive or other comments you find offensive please contact the webmaster of the board at the following address:

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Include this full email (particularly the headers).

Message sent to you follows:

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.

PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home -based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

mailhtml:mid://00000009/

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: ROBERT J. NELEZEN Signature: Robert J. Nelezen

Address: 6650 County E. ABRAMS, WI 54101

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

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mailhtml:mid://00000009/

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Anne Renier-Nelezen

Name: Anne Renier-Nelezen Signature: Anne Renier-Nelezen

Address: 6650 County E
ADEAMS, WI. 54101

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

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RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

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Larry Nelson	21 Parker Estates Delco, NC	910-619-8027
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Roxanne Little	1453 Swimming Hole Rd Delco NC 28436	655-8064
Shelly Thomas	11242 Rosendale Rd Carver NC 28434	655-2383
Karen Stocks	PO Box 290 Delco, NC	655-1443
Nancy Kincaid	117 Cliffside Dr. Wilmington, NC	28401
Ada Rogers	1174 Jacob Loop Rd. Bolton, NC	28423
Judy Kluaf	348 S. GREEN SWAMP RD. BOLTON, NC	28423
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Tammy [illegible]	2653 East Arcadia Road Riegelwood NC	28456
Amanda Dunstan	906 Woodyard Road Riegelwood NC	28456
Kristina Smith	114 Cliffside Dr. Wilmington, NC	28409
Valerie Tigner	2663 E. Arcadia Rd. Riegelwood, NC	
Telana Barrett	1150 Garretts Way Leland, NC	28457

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ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY
RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

We the undersigned are OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS). PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
Mattie Jacobs	Greensboro, NC	336-457-6749	
IRA HINES	OLEANDER DR. WILMINGTON, NC	910-799-3783	
Nelly Torres	70 Fulton Dr. Bolton	910-655-2270	
12-8557 Norman Wayne Roberts	P.O. Box 938 Ringgolwood, N.C. 28456		
Cynthia Hall	108 S Palm Dr. Winnabow, NC		
Agnes Little	Lena Dale Rd Delco, NC	910-655-3737	
Bonita Powell	64 Lena Dale Rd. Delco, NC	910-655-3142	
Jon Nimetz	Los Angeles, CA	415-577-1745	jonnimetz@aol.com.

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am **OPPOSED** to **SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).**

PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.

PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home -based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Edward A Faron Signature: Edward A Faron

Address: 5636 Merlie Road, Millers Creek, NC 28651

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose Paws for the following reasons, that are stated in CFA's letter of opposition (which is included in this fax). I am a member of CFA and show a minority breed of cat. The cats are members of our family, live in our house and we have never made a profit. All kittens that leave our home are spayed/neutered before leaving, if pets, or placed with other responsible breeders. The only way that some breeds of cats will continue to exist is through the dedicated work of breeders.
I do oppose puppy and kitten mills, but the Paws bill is not the way to regulate it.
Sincerely,

Diane J. Dahms
12587 N. 55 E.
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 542-6344

TO: Senate Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition and General Legislation
FROM: Lisa Pinto, Registered Voter
SUBJECT: S1139/HR2669 PET ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTE - PAWS - OPPOSITION

Dear Senators,

I am writing to tell you of my strong OPPOSITION to S1139/HR2669, PAWS.

It is an astonishly badly written, poorly-thought out bill will will do nothing but harm hobby breeders, rescuers and many other people associated with dogs, cats and other pets.

It was never the intent of the USDA to regulate retail sales of pets. Commercial, wholesale facilities are covered under the Animal Welfare Act; PAWS is unecessary. The substandard breeders that PAWS proponents whine about constantly should be prosecuted, if necessary, under local animal cruelty and welfare laws. PAWS is not needed.

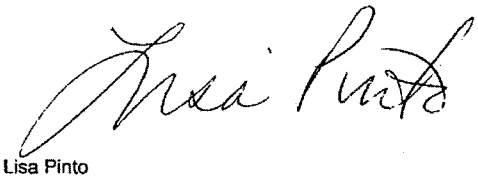
S1139/HR2669 is being pushed by Animal Rights groups such as DDAL and HSUS, backed (inexplicably) by the AKC.

None of these groups speak for me nor for the more than 300 dog and cat and hunting clubs that formally oppose PAWS.

Despite what Senator Santorum wants you to hear at the November 8 'hearing', a majority of constituents are not in favor of this intrusive bill.

Please vote 'NO' on PAWS.

Respectfully,



Lisa Pinto
6959 Orchard Station Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-792-9288

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

The USDA is the agency responsible for interpreting the unclear language in S. 1139. They are already overburdened with the regulation of food and agriculture and will be hard-pressed to provide interpretations or supply enforcement personnel for S 1139.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

German Shepherd Dog Fanciers of Northern California
<theresaroyer@hotmail.com>
4410 2nd St., Pleasanton, CA 94566

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

This bill hurts our 4-H kids, with their small pet projects. Also, animals cared for and breed in small groups get more love and attention than in large , but inspected production facilities. If laws make it hard to breed several animals in our American homes,are we really helping the animals? Our kids have 4-H rabbit and bird projects, This bill can affect these projects to not just dog and cats. American families do not want the USDA to come and inspect our homes any more than problable USDA wants to inspect family homes.
Our family tries to respect the laws of the land. If goverment pass a law and does not inforce it -it teaches kids and people not to respect the laws. Don't be part of the problem of the growing breaking of laws. Keep the laws you have - protect the animals! Protect our families homes, too and help parents who are trying to teach kids work value by 4-H projects.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Rosemary Paul <rpaulsstaracad@yahoo.com>
2093 Grammer Rd
Carbondale,Il
62903

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation?s Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Robert Long <Timmbs@citynet.net>
Rt 1 box 389 a Gallipolis Ferry WV 25515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation?s Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Colleen Reeder <creeder@infomagic.net>
8620 W Suzette Lane
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139.

I do not believe that this bill is far and akc has a special motive for there support of this bill. And i believe it is money and power over the ukc decause the hounds men of this usa use ukc and not akc for papers as a tax payer we should have some rights that the polititions should leave alone. (S. 1139)

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Russ McCarter <mccarter@cableone.net>
Box 581

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

The federal government has proven itself to be inept in among other things handling national defense, hurricane relief, and the ability to administer the national budget. It seems to me that the Congress ought to be working out how to do the things (i.e. national defense) that are fundamental to the nation and ought not to expand further. You have no legitimate business trying to regulate hobby breeders.

Most sincerely,

William K. Fulmer, II <wkfii@fuse.net>
76 Pelly Road
Independence, Kentucky 41051

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139.
Thank you.

jack deatherage <jdtreesrvc@sbcglobal.net>
2403 highschool dr. brentwood ,mo. 63144

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Sincerely yours,

Pedro A. Cofino Esq. President Greater Miami Dog Club
<cofino@bellsouth.net>
407 Lincoln Road
Suite 2 B
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Kristi Anglen <kristila@accnorwalk.com>
3032 Old State Rd.N
Norwalk, OH 44857

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

I oppose this bill as I see it as unneccessary regulation. I firmly believe that many of your constituents will be most unapproving of this law and how it will apply to small mom and pop operations.

Sincerely,

Cliff Thornburg <ririsi@yahoo.com>
210 East Dunklin
Jefferson City, MO

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

tom gingrich <gingrich5@pa.net>
1664pisgah rd Landisburg Pa 17040

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

brenda fye <hifye@verizon.net>
1405 school lane
bensalem, pa 19020

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

The real effect of PAWS will be to increase the worst quality imports.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

The bill?s supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

I am a very small hobby breeder of maine coon cats. PAWS, as it is written, will destroy my ability to hobby breed. Please do not pass it.

Thank you for your no vote on S. 1139.

Sherry DeLony <ociopia@comcast.net>
635-B Calle Grillo, Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Carol Locus <carollocus@earthlink.net>
11108 Allegheny St.
Sun Valley, CA 91352

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

In these times of failing economy, when our nation is struggling beneath the aftermath of natural disasters, we cannot afford frivolous legislation. SB1139 will be costly to enforce, will not acheive the stated results and violates every American's right to engage in a private hobby.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Dawn Panda <Angorawoolwitch@webenet.net>
54012 Shull Rd.
Myrtle Point, OR 97458

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers? demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Michele Domitrovich <sdomit@omcast.net>
502 W Kiernan
Spokane, Wa 99205

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Donna Powell <Donna@911parrotlaert.com>
16365 Woodmere
Baton Rouge
Louisiana 70819

Be Heard on PAWS! Block the ALF Terrorist Agenda! Read and FAX TODAY!

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SCANNED FOR KNOWN VIRUSES

From: admin@gamedog.info
To: admin@gamedog.info
Subject: Be Heard on PAWS! Block the ALF Terrorist Agenda! Read and FAX TODAY!
Date: Fri, 4 Nov 2005 12:04:00 -0700

The following is an email sent to you by an administrator of "Gamedog.info". If this message is spam, contains abusive or other comments you find offensive please contact the webmaster of the board at the following address:

admin@gamedog.info

Include this full email (particularly the headers).

Message sent to you follows:
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION
AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

Be Heard on PAWS! Block the ALF Terrorist Agenda! Read and FAX TODAY!

PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home -based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Perry C. Whitledge Signature: Perry C. Whitledge

Address: 1494 Old Port Drive Mulga, AL 35118

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

From: "Jeffrey Mcindoo" <jeffrey@jteconline.com>
To: "Jeffrey Mcindoo" <jeffrey@jteconline.com>
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2005 2:14 PM
Subject: MMMMMM

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.

PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home –based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders? homes.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Kimberly Hundley <Korgikim@aol.com>
214 Cedar St. Wyandotte, MI 48192

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

My family opposes S. 1139 the PAWS bill

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139.
Thank you.

Ellen Meyer Dougherty <ellenmeyer1@tds.net>
297 South Knight Road
Munger, MI 48747

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

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PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home -based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well-socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Brian T. Breikss (registered voter) Signature: Brian Breikss

Address: 13148 Haughton Lane SW Port Orchard, WA 98367

To: Members of the U.S. Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee
C/O Deputy Hearing Clerk, Jacob Chaney
Via facsimile (202) 224-1725

Subject: Opposition to S. 1139, PAWS, for inclusion in the official record

We are Airedale Terrier fanciers, and we are members of the Airedale Terrier Club of America (ATCA). We urge you to vote "No" to the bills known as PAWS, Senate Bill 1139 and House Bill 2669.

We subscribe to the objectives of the ATCA to encourage and promote the quality breeding and rearing of purebred Airedale Terriers. We espouse the performance aspect of Airedales in the obedience, agility and rally rings and encourage the use of Airedales in the field as one of the original versatile hunting dogs.

We adhere to the standard of excellence that the ATCA sets for our breed. Through the Airedale Terrier Official Standard, the ATCA Constitution and By-Laws, and the ATCA Code of Ethics, the ATCA holds us and all ATCA members responsible for improving our breed, preserving its breed characteristics through responsible breeding and puppy socialization, and protecting the health and well being of our dogs.

Why do we oppose this legislation?

PAWS would bring a dramatic increase in the number of licenses and a constant shift in individual licensees as many breeders do not breed every year.

The need to inspect private homes would change the USDA focus from the commercial facilities that pose the greatest risk to residential sellers of dogs that are already subject to a high degree of oversight by buyers, AKC, national breed clubs, and local and state authorities.

Most complaints about deplorable conditions are already violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

It is an unwarranted invasion of privacy to go into breeders' homes. The care standards established for wholesale dealers of dogs under the AWA are not appropriate for residences. These standards address care for high numbers of dogs; include specifications and procedures for large-scale facilities; and require materials and procedures that are difficult, unnecessary, and virtually impossible for small breeders to follow.

Currently covered commercial facilities are certain to resist cheaper standards for those in the same regulated class, and the USDA will likely be unable to justify more lenient regulations or standards for any group of regulated breeders like in-home hobby

The changes mandated by PAWS will in fact hurt consumers by driving small breeders out of the hobby and forcing consumers to turn to dealers who are interested solely in profit. The changes will thereby encourage the puppy mills and scurrilous breeders the AWA was designed to prevent and thus undermine the basic purpose of the Act.

The entire 30-year legislative history of AWA supports including residential sellers of dogs under the "retail pet store" exclusion.

PAWS reverses a United States Court of Appeals 2003 decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders

PAWS establishes the precedent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding, rescuers, all sellers of intact, breeding dogs, and for discrimination against certain types of dogs (such as sporting and security breeds).

USDA does not have the resources to enforce PAWS: it seems futile to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be needlessly appropriated by Congress when so many other more valid public priorities and problems exist. Should the USDA employ private contract inspectors associated with one of the dog registries or an animal rights group, very serious anti-competitive and/or animal ownership V. animal rights policy disputes are inevitable.

PAWS is a burden that the federal government should not undertake!

Sincerely,

Kimberly and Dale Burrier
Airecraft Airedales
Members, The Airedale Terrier Club of America
10594 Newton Falls-Ravenna Road
Newton Falls, OH 44444
330-872-3277

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If U.S. hobby breeders are burdened with federal regulation it will be creating an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, which many are already complaining about.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

Pat Harbert <ohmycats@cox.net>
P.O. Box 1538
Choctaw, OK 73020-1538

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

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programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

Name: Keisha Yonker Signature: Keisha Yonker

Address: 1396 Walkup Ave Monroe, NC 28110

FAX to (202) 228-8282 or (202) 224-1725

I completely agree with this Artical & believe that PAWS is the wrong way to control animal population.

TICA, PAWS Opposition to S1139/H2669

To: Senators Rick Santorum, Richard G. Lugar, Patrick J Leahy, Thad Cochran, Mitch McConnell, Max Baucus, Pat Roberts, Blanche Lincoln, Debbie Stabenow, E. Benjamin Nelson, Mike Crapo

RE: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

Honorable Senators:

Attached is The International Cat Association (TICA) letter for inclusion in t6he Official Public Record on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry, Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 on November, 8, 2005. While TICA supports enhancing enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act as it is currently written, PAWS is about controlling hobby breeders and ultimately eliminating them. Unfortunately the Hearing presenters are unfairly slanted to giving the supporters a voice while not giving opposing groups and individual fair representation on this very controversial issue.

Regards,

Kelly Crouch
Chairperson, TICA Legislative Committee
legislative@ticaeo.com

The International Cat Association, P.O. Box 2684, Harlingen, TX 78551
956-428-8046; Fax 956-428-8047; www.tica.org

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS), TICA Opposition Statement

11/7/2005

Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

To: Senators Rick Santorum, Richard G. Lugar, Patrick J Leahy, Thad Cochran, Mitch McConnell, Max Baucus, Pat Roberts, Blanche Lincoln, Debbie Stabenow, E. Benjamin Nelson, Mike Crapo

Dear Senators:

The International Cat Association ("TICA") requests that TICA's opposition to S1139 be made a part of the Official Public Record for the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on PAWS.

TICA cannot help but notice the stacked deck of speakers in support of the extremely controversial PAWS legislation. The last minute invitation of PIJAC to the hearing only emphasizes that the original intent of the hearing was to present only supporting viewpoints. PIJAC is a good addition as they represent the pet industry, however, the hearing is still a stacked deck that will conceal the high level of controversy surrounding PAWS. Where is the invitation to the Cat Fanciers Association or The International Cat Association to participate in the Hearing and provide a balanced view to the American Kennel Club assertions? Both cat registering organizations strongly oppose S1139. Even the American Kennel Club is not truly representative of its members when so many of its member clubs oppose PAWS. And how are animal rights groups like HSUS and PETA considered main stream America when they would like to abolish all animal use, including ownership of our beloved pets? **AKC, HSUS, ASPCA, PETA, DDAL and the AVMA do not represent the views of hundreds of clubs, organizations, registries, rescue groups and thousands of individuals who oppose the PAWS bill.** Why aren't these groups opposing PAWS being fairly represented?

Currently the Animal Welfare Act has a qualitative dealer definition that makes sense and has for nearly 40 years. Quantitative definitions are by their nature problematic and arbitrary. TICA opposes any change to the current definition of dealer in the Animal Welfare Act. Federal regulation of breeders selling directly to the public is unnecessary, expensive, detrimental and inappropriate where state and local law can and should handle such matters. To more fully understand TICA's position we submit the letter TICA sent in opposition to PAWS in July of this year below.

> The International Cat Association ("TICA") *strongly opposes* the federal PAWS bill. TICA is the largest genetic registry worldwide whose members breed, register and show pedigreed cats and exhibit non-pedigreed household cats. *The American Kennel Club does not represent TICA in this matter!*
>
> As written PAWS far exceeds USDA practice of nearly 40 years, largely obviates a very sound decision by the federal Court of Appeals in the Doris Day Animal League v. Veneman, 315 F.3d 297, 299 (D.C. Cir. 2003) and will ultimately destroy the hobby of breeding quality purebred cats.
>
> Since 1966 the Animal Welfare Act ("AWA") has appropriately distinguished between large scale commercial breeders selling at wholesale and retail pet stores selling directly to the public. Attempts by the Doris Day Animal League ("DDAL") to destroy this distinction and force the USDA into the private bedrooms of hobby breeders through a rulemaking petition and then the aforementioned lawsuit failed. Even the Court of Appeals recognized that retail dealers, especially hobby breeders operating out of their private homes, are already subject to self regulation via

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956-428-8046; Fax 956-428-8047; www.tica.org

breed and registering organizations and public oversight to a degree not seen by commercial wholesale breeders. The court also recognized that retail outlets are also subject to many state and local laws to monitor and deal with allegations of inhumane treatment and abuse. Increasingly local and state governments are enforcing and enhancing laws covering abuse and neglect, *thus it is more appropriate than ever that Retail Pet Stores (as currently defined in the AWA including hobby breeders) be regulated at the state/local level, not at the federal level.*

The current AWA definition is clear and does not rely upon an arbitrary number. PAWS creates an awkward and confusing definition of dealer which completely ignores the reality of breeding pedigreed cats. Unlike dog breeding, there simply are not many large scale commercial cat breeding operations at either wholesale or retail because of the inherent vulnerability of cats to infectious diseases, stress and other factors. The PAWS definition of breeder is simply not a reflection of large commercial sellers of pedigreed cats for the following reasons:

- Cat health sometimes requires the cat to be bred more than once a year making it impossible to predict the exact number of litters per year. Furthermore it is also impossible to predict the number of kittens produced by those litters. As in dogs, there is a high degree of variability in litter size. Genetic diversity often requires a cattery maintain 4-5 breeding female cats. As many female cats would deliver one litter every 8-9 months, a cattery with 5 females would have 7 litters per year (1.5 litter/year/female cat). With an average of 3.5 kittens per litter, this small sized hobby breeder would have 26 kittens in a year and be considered a dealer under PAWS.
- Cat breeding is a *private home activity* by individuals wanting to produce quality kittens. Does Congress really intend for the USDA to invade the private bedrooms of its constituents?
- The USDA facility requirements are impossible to obtain within the walls of one's private residence where kittens are generally raised underfoot and are detrimental to producing well socialized cats. There are no standards for in-home facilities nor are any proposed.

PAWS will ultimately destroy the public's only access to quality bred, well socialized purebred cats and kittens in the United States of America.

The realities of enforcement also make it clear that PAWS is an ill-considered bill. PAWS will easily double or triple the number of facilities to be licensed and inspected. The USDA does not have the resources to inspect the current level of licensed facilities. The increase in cost and manpower to effectively comply with the PAWS changes will be large. As large increases in resources and manpower are unlikely the result will be more, not fewer, substandard commercial facilities operating under the AWA. This is clearly not a step in the right direction. Furthermore, TICA is opposed to the possibility of allowing groups whose goals are to eliminate all breeding and even pet ownership to conduct such inspections. If you don't believe such groups exist, please read the following:

"We have no ethical obligation to preserve the different breeds of livestock produced through selective breeding. ... One generation and out. We have no problem with the extinction of domestic animals. They are creations of human selective breeding." ***Wayne Pacelle, Senior VP of Humane Society of the US, formerly of Friends of Animals and Fund for Animals, Animal People, May, 1993***

"I don't use the word "pet." I think it's speciesist language. I prefer "companion animal." For one thing, we would no longer allow breeding. People could not create different breeds. There would be no pet shops. If people had companion animals in their homes, those animals would have to be refugees from the animal shelters and the streets. You would have a protective relationship with them just as you would with an orphaned child. But as the surplus of cats and dogs (artificially engineered by centuries of forced breeding) declined, eventually companion animals would be phased out, and we would return to a more symbiotic relationship enjoyment at a distance." ***Ingrid Newkirk, PETA vice-president, quoted in The Harper's Forum Book, Jack Hitt, ed., 1989, p.223.***

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Is it really any surprise that TICA would be concerned about such groups and others like them conducting the inspections on behalf of the USDA if that is how the USDA chooses to enforce the PAWS legislation?

It is also unlikely the USDA would be able to enforce PAWS without access to the registry database of each of the registering organizations. *TICA strongly objects to such a use of its registration database.*

While PAWS supporters claim hidden puppy mills and internet/newspaper retail sellers escape regulation, there is no evidence that internet and newspaper advertising has any relation to the quality of the animals and the conditions under which those animals are reared and housed (is a furniture dealer immediately suspect because it has a web site?). The reality is the internet has made for a much more savvy purchaser not the opposite. *Breeders are getting more informed pet buyers in increasing numbers thanks to the internet.* Many web sites include information on how to find a reputable breeder and what conditions to look for when looking for a kitten. Drastic legislative action as required by PAWS is not required to protect the consumers – the information is readily available for the consumer searching the web. Here are just a few web sites:
http://tica.org/pdf/kittbroch2000.pdf
http://www.cfa.org/ezine/features.html#findkitten
http://www.mcbfa.org/Articles3.htm

The effect PAWS will have on rescue organizations is also of concern to anyone concerned about animal welfare. If a rescued animal is placed by a rescue organization for an adoption fee (hey we want those animals valued as well in addition to keeping the rescues operating) is considered a sale, then rescuers are considered retail sellers. By abandoning the wholesale-retail sales distinction, PAWS places many rescues in the same class as any other reseller meaning many *more dogs and cats will be euthanized because of PAWS* as there will be no rescues available to take them. What statutory authority to exempt rescuers is there? At the moment there is none. And what about shelters? They would be "retail pet stores" under current law. Is the USDA going to license and inspect the local shelters as well? What about shelters importing strays from Puerto Rico, Mexico and Taiwan? Save a Sato has sent over 14,000 animals to the US (Humane or Insane? Patti Strand. www.naiaonline.org/body/articles/archives/humane_insane.htm#N2) Why? To sell more animals because the shelter cannot meet demand! Is this not a dealer under PAWS?

At the 25 dog limit is there a shelter that would meet the dealer exclusion? Not likely. Yet, a shelter's mission is regular operation rather than the sporadic operation of many breeders (even breeders at higher levels). If state and local laws, ordinances and governance are a satisfactory control on a shelter business, why isn't that level of governance satisfactory for hobby breeders?

PAWS is not about animal welfare, it is about hobby breeder control and elimination. TICA support changes that would solely enhance enforcement of the current law but *opposes any changes to regulations that would expand the AWA to the retail sellers* who are already covered by state and local laws.

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please feel free to contact me for additional information.

Regards,

Kelly Crouch
Chairperson, TICA Legislative Committee
legislative@ticaeo.com

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

There is a distinct shortage of facts to demonstrate that alleged abuses by Internet sellers are not already subject to the jurisdiction of local authorities.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I've e-mailed my Senators that are on this committee regarding this bill urging them to get rid of this lousy, animal-rights based legislation. I will be watching how my Senators react to this bill.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Christopher Snyder <prairie_52577@yahoo.com>
P.O. Box 201, Fremont, IA 52561

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Elizabeth Cherry <ibis1_1@yahoo.com>
PO Box 484
Etoile, Tx 75944

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Jason and Brandy Webster <webster@alltel.net.>
325 Tripp Hill Rd Graysville, Pa

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

The passage of this bill will be disasterous for the future of our children- they will never know/recognize many of the animals that will be regulated by this bill because many breeders will opt out/be forced out by this unnecessary regulation. Time and money better spent going after the kitten and puppy mills who breed unhealthy animals.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Heather Hire <hbhire@aol.com>
321 SW 17th St
Ft Lauderdale,Fl
33315-1746

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

This bill, S.1139, adds nothing additional to AWA to protect pets. PAWS has a vastly different agenda from the 50+ million pet owners nor the many tens of thousands of dog and cat breeders that do not sell to pet stores but are committed to improving their breeds. Further, the Dept. of Agric. has better things to do with their limited funds than inspecting citizens' homes---a right now given to the States to prevent animal cruelity while PAWS wants to ultimatly eliminate human ownership of animals including those in zoos. Waste of money and anti-state rights.

With respect,

Julian Gladstone <juliangladstone@msn.com>
534 Forrest Way
Camano Island, WA 989282

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

The USDA is the agency responsible for interpreting the unclear language in S. 1139. They are already overburdened with the regulation of food and agriculture and will be hard-pressed to provide interpretations or supply enforcement personnel for S 1139.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Lake Hainz <imback753@yahoo.com>
4112 S. Native Court
Yorktown, IN 47396

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over stretched and under budget. They will need every available employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. This nation can not afford S. 1139.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Hans D. Holberg <hirocky@earthlink.net>
1401Se34Th. St. Cape Coral, Fl.33904

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that ?true rescue? would be exempt. ?True rescue? is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Sylvia Stribling <sstr@direcway.com>
1601 Sunnyside Dr.
Loveland, CO 80538

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

this bill is crazy all it is trying to do is hurt the small opperations that are trying to bred good hounds

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

charles w smith <CHIPSMITH209@MSN.COM>
2496 walnut st Hurricane wv 25526

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

The bulk of the language in S.1139 is vague and open to interpretation. The USDA should not be burdened with the responsibility of doing what the authors of S. 1139 failed to do. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. It should not pass.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

David Dottridge <beagledavedot@yahoo.com>
P.O. Box 95
Stetson, ME 04488

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Respectfully,

mike shannon <mikeshannon1@hotmail.com>

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Why not enforce the old PAWS bill instead of targeting hobby breeders, the ones who really care about their animals. It is a disgrace not to have opponents to this bill allowed to speak and give their views which are the views of most pet owners and breeders. This is America, so act accordingly.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Zoe Wright <zoewaynoka@aol.com>
PO Box 245
Napanoch, N.Y.
12458

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Tracy Petty <WAVELAND@GMAIL.COM>
11501 Lakewood Lane, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Linda Iorlano <liorlano@comcast.net>
30 Long Pond South
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Deborah Steenwyk <copper_22002@yahoo.com>
43641 65th Street
Bangor, MI 49013

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Henry Perkins <perk08@ao.com>
P.O. Box 242
Culloden, WV 25510

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA?s already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

S.1139 doesn?t "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders? homes.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

MIKE WRIGHT <cmwright@ball.com>
23206 TWIN OAKS RD ABINGDON VA 24211

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Any possible benefits of this bill are significantly outweighed by the potential disadvantages. The welfare of dogs and the interests of puppy purchasers could be better protected by enforcement of existing laws. The primary beneficiary of this legislation will be the Animal Rights Movement a quasi-religious philosophy that strives not for animal welfare, but for elimination of domestic animals. Implementation of PAWS wil negatively impact animal welfare, since very few rescue groups could comply with the requirements, creating the need to euthanize more animals. This will allow ARM propagandists to claim that ADDITIONAL laws are required to reduce the number of homeless animals.

ARM interests forward their agenda by instigating legislation that causes maximum inconvenience and expense for those who breed, raise, use or own animals and for the governmental entities that pass and must enforce those laws. When the government is in desperate need of funds to maintain essential programs, how can the enforcement activities of this law be financed?

The pet industry alone contributes $34 billion per year to the economy. Consider also the impact on the economy of eliminating animal agriculture, not to mention sporting and recreational events. All these would be wiped out if the ARM is allowed to implement its agenda. The majority of citizens do NOT favor elimination of animal ownership

Those who support legislation promoted by any animal rights organization, including the Humane Society of the United States, The Doris Day Animal League, and PETA, are not only helping to undermine the US economy, but also condoning terrorist activity. The history of the ARM is characterized by terrorism. Responsible legislators should distance themselves from a movement that advocates theft, arson and murder in pursuit of its goals..

Animal welfare could be better protected by enforcement of existing laws. If resources are insufficient to enforce those laws, passage of additional unenforceable laws will be futile.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Eileen Mason <eileenmason@lycos.com>
3934 N. Fraser St.
Georgetown, SC 29440

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more ?normal? living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

In the past I bred Parrots of various species. Although I no longer breed, I wish to safeguard the rights of others who wish to continue breeding. People who breed or keep exotics, of which birds are one, are regulated by the Fish and Game department here in Florida, and the dog and cat breeders are regulated by Animal Care and Control. This bill is a duplication of effort and expense that is totally unwarranted.
As a bird breeder, I am also concerned about disease transmission from inspections by people who have not been educated sufficiently about exotics, expecially in the face of the Bird Flu epidemic the government has been warning of.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Jeannette Dale <conure15 @netzero.com>
3218 Green St.
Jacksonville, FL 32205

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation?s Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer?s money.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Jose Barreras <Joe1013jr@aol.com>
13315 32nd Ave SO
Tukwila, Wa 98168

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting ?No? on S. 1139.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Russsell Rice <arrowheadsbeagles@yahoo.com>

Name: JEFF MCINDOO Signature:

Address: 526 S ORANGE AVE Brea CA 92821

NO!

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Thank you for your no vote on S. 1139.

Marion Steven Brock <lookoutpilotsvc@aol.com>
75 County Road 282 Fort Payne, AL 35967

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

The bulk of the language in S.1139 is vague and open to interpretation. The USDA should not be burdened with the responsibility of doing what the authors of S. 1139 failed to do. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. It should not pass.

It?s easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

S.1139 violates all that our constitution represents. The Federal Government is already in a state of despair financially and passing this bill will only make the burden heavier. The American people already feel a sense of having their privacy and rights lessened and now this. Where will it all end? Would the American Government like to see the United States run as a Communist Country, because that is exactly the direction we're going. Why not spend the money you will spend on this bill for other worthwhile things, like keeping illegals from entering our country and taking what the American people work so hard for. I see no justification for the way the American Government consistantly wastes taxpayers money. Let's stop with matters that will not affect the American peoples way of living and concentrate on ways that could.
Thank you for your time, I appreciate the opportunity to speak out on this matter.

K Taggs

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

K Taggs <ktaggs@aircanopy.net>
324 Woodhurst Place
Coppell, Tx 75019

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders? homes.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

lori loesche <lori@iowatelecom.net>
350 E 13th #19
Pella, Iowa 50219

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

S.1139 doesn?t "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Please do not support this bill. Animals have because a big part of peoples lives and for many people they are their saving grace. Please do not allow a few special interest groups take this away from the rest of us.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Kimberly Clement <kdclement@hotmail.com>
11995 Claim Stake Drive
Reno NV 89506

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

i think the goverment needs to stay out of alot of area and take care of the country there is alot of stuff that is more important then paws

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

david drake <ddrake2196@aol.com>
po box 22
cameron wv 26033

TO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

After reading about PAWS I could not help but to sit down & write this letter. I am a proud owner of an American pit Bull Terrier & could not imagine life without him. By passing this Bill you are making it virtually impossible to continue this breed. it is absolutely insane! Correct me if I am wrong but you are passing judgement on a dog you've never owned! if you want to sit at your office desk & think of a new law please do but make it a law against the owners that train these dogs to fight & attack & be aggressive towards humans — BAN BAD OWNERS - LEAVE THE DOGS ALONE!

This is my personal opinion
if you'd like to contact me
my e-mail address is:
LELEEHH@AOL.COM

Thanks —
Leanne

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

If S. 1139 passes, vital USDA resources will be diverted from helping farmers along Gulf coast to telling breeders how to raise puppies. This is a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

T.J RAYFIELD
GEORGETOWN,TN,

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already "stretched to the limit" federal budget.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Suzzane Kelleher-Duckett

Canyon Country, CA

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

If S. 1139 passes, vital USDA resources will be diverted from helping farmers along Gulf coast to telling breeders how to raise puppies. This is a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Steven Kitchen

LaGrange, IN

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Many hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than build a separate facility away from their living quarters to raise puppies and kittens like livestock.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

As a police officer for over 20 years I can tell you this is just 1 more law that can't be enforced. An unfair law that shouldn't be enforced.

With respect,

Steve Bundy

Mt. Vernon Il

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Stacy Marra
Salineville, Ohio

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Stacey Criswell
Webster, FL

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' homes.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Shirley Welch
Laddonia, MO

I am opposed to PAWS as it is written completely. As a very small hobby breeder of cats, PAWS will destroy me and that is certainly not its intention. Please consider those of us who love our cats and our hobby.

Respectfully,

Sherry DeLony

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

The real effect of PAWS will be to increase the worst quality imports.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

I am a very small hobby breeder of maine coon cats. PAWS, as it is written, will destroy my ability to hobby breed. Please do not pass it.

Thank you for your no vote on S. 1139.

Sherry DeLony
Santa Fe, NM

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Sheri John

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Sharon Yankay

Watha, NC

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

This bill will in the end just allow th PM'ers to breed dogs.The very ones that you should be trying to close out.This will end in most people quiting the AKC.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Sharon Heath
johns AZ

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I think that the PAWS bill is the biggest bunch of bull crap I have ever heard of. I think it is unfair and I will never give akc or any other group a penny from here out if they support this bill. We are free Americans and know one should be able to pass a bill like this.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Seneca Graham

Churchville Va

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Sarah Lingo [redacted]
Portland, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

I have been breeding one breed, one variety for 25 years in my home. I have been recommended by veterinarians to individuals looking for pets for their families. My puppies are healthy. happy, and very well socialized. I have bred selectivly for health and soundness of mind and body. If PAWS passes, I will no longer be able to do this. I will no longer be able to have my babies in my home but rather they would have to be in some sort of an outbuilding where they would not be picked up and loved everytime someone walks through the room.They would not have warm, clean, fleeces to snuggle in with Mom as that type of bedding would be "unsanitary." I would not be able to raise dogs in the environment that has produced such wonderful family members for people for all these years. I wonder what you people are smoking up there in the ivory tower of D.C. Does this make any sense at all?? Soon only commercial breeders will offer puppies to the public. Id this what you all really want?

Thank you for your vote against S.1139.

Sandra J. Golemb [redacted]
[redacted] Brooklyn WI.

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

If U.S. hobby breeders are burdened with federal regulation it will be creating an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, which many are already complaining about.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

S.1139 takes away my rights. I thought this was a free country? Am I wrong?

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Sandi Coy [redacted]
[redacted]
Hodgenville KY [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

The bulk of the language in S.1139 is vague and open to interpretation. The USDA should not be burdened with the responsibility of doing what the authors of S. 1139 failed to do. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. It should not pass.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

I don't like this bill. I ask that you vote against this bill S. 1139. My family And I are opposed to this bill. We ask you to do the same.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Roxann R. Jordon [redacted]
[redacted]
Crown Point N.Y [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Ronnie Phelps [redacted]
[redacted] lawrenceburg, ky [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

the federal government allready has enough freedom in the american's personal life allready, I appose s.1139 because what us home breeders do should be what we choose to do, without any regulations.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Ronnie Hensley [redacted]
[redacted]. Corbin KY [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I do not support this bill and us hunters will not support the one's that support it. If you vote on it to pass you will not get any more votes and be out of OFFICE!!!!!!!!

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Ronnie Green [redacted]
[redacted]
Noblesville In [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

When hobby breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139 it will only increase large commercial breeders ability to raise more puppies.

If U.S. hobby breeders are burdened with federal regulation it will be creating an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, which many are already complaining about.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

i very strongly appose this bill ..lets make sure it doesnt happen thanks....

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Ronald Brady [redacted]
[redacted] Ararat, nc [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Please accept my oposition to this bill. We raise a few PB litters every other year. I truly do not feel this bill will be advantageous for our dear respected animals or the people like us who attempt to do a clear and respectful job of pet and/or working dog improvement and population.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Robin Moore [redacted]
[redacted]
Eddyville, Iowa [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Thank you for your no vote on S. 1139.

Robert Polz [redacted] com>
[redacted]
Ravenna, Ohio [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby reeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Robert Pinkard [redacted]
[redacted]
League City, TX [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

This is a seriously flawed piece of legislation.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Robert Keese [redacted]
[redacted]
Highland, MD [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over stretched and under budget. They will need every available employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. This nation can not afford S. 1139.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Robert G.Webb [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Robert C Burden [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Robert Brown [redacted]
[redacted]
Camano Island, WA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already "stretched to the limit" federal budget.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

robby cooper [redacted]
[redacted] mount olivet ky. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Rob & Katina Childers [redacted]
[redacted] West Alexandria, OH [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Our tax dollars could and should be spent much more wisely than on trying to regulate peoples hobbies.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

RJ Nissen [redacted]
[redacted]
Estherville, IA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Emery Barg [redacted]
[redacted]
Dexter, MO [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' homes.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

let freedom ring!

I appreciate your "No" vote for S.1139

ricky taylor [redacted]
[redacted] tullahoma tenn. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Ricky Reynolds [redacted]
[redacted]
LaFayette, Ga. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

When hobby breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139 it will only increase large commercial breeders ability to raise more puppies.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Richard LaRosa [redacted]
[redacted]
clarksville, Pa. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Richard Isley [redacted]
[redacted]
Franklin, In [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Groups of delerious so called "animal lovers" are a danger to the American way of life that I served my country for twenty seven years to protect. None of them have ever served.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Reverend Thomas H. Kerr [redacted]
[redacted]
Muncie, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

As sportsman and breeder of coonhounds I would like to say that I oppose S. 1139.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Rev. James D. Lacey [redacted]
[redacted] Tulsa Oklahoma, [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

Interpreting this bill will be troublesome for the USDA. They already have many important tasks such as the regulation of food and agriculture. Adding the additional burden of supplying enforcement personnel for S 1139 will be very costly.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Rebecca Trollinger [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

R. Stanton Breon Jr. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation's Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Quinton [redacted]
[redacted] Carlisle, Pa

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

Socialized, well-adjusted puppies do not come from commercial breeders, they come from hobby breeders. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I urge you to reject S.1139.

Phillip Walls [redacted]>
[redacted]
newark ohio [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Respectfully,

Peter Foglesong [redacted]
[redacted]
Rockledge, FL [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I do not personally breeed dogs, but do work within the community. I feel this is an unecessary and over-regulatory step to make regarding home breeding.

I appreciate your "No" vote for S.1139

Andrew Thomas Caton [redacted]
[redacted]
Kalamazoo MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

In the wake of.Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Andrew Purnell [redacted]
Karthaus PA.
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

The PAWS hearing is a one-sided affair. For it to be fair and democratic, critics of the bill must be allowed to speak on their behalf. Thanks.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Andrew McLean [redacted]
Kalamazoo MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Andrea Chappa [redacted]
[redacted]
Kalamazoo MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Amy Bryant [redacted]
[redacted]
Ararat, NC [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Allison Sciullo [redacted]
Pittsburgh, PA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum:
I am a resident of Illinois, who grew up in Eastern Pennsylvania (most of my family is still in our home state). We are carefully watching your support of this bill. It is our firm belief that this bill is unnecessary and oppressive to the small, hobby breeder. It is a waste of taxpayer money that is better spent enforcing the laws already on the books.

It is beyond imagination that the retail pet store, many of which I have been in and been horrified at the condition of the animals and their care, are exempted while animals raised underfoot by a caring breeder would be subject to USDA regulation. Rather than enforcing the existing laws, this new legislation would require hundreds more USDA agents to perform the innumerable inspections required by the breeders that would now be included for inspection.

There is no empirical proof on record demonstrating that large numbers of animals are sold over the internet. It is a specious claim made by extremists who wish to outlaw pet ownership entirely (as detailed on the web sites of national animal "rights" organizations).

I have yet to see a demonstration of how the small, hobby breeder would be protected from this law. Instead, it is designed to encompass more breeders than before - not just the mills, which are already subject to laws which are not properly enforced, but all breeders, no matter what size. This kind of legislation can only serve to force breeders to go "underground," not report or register their kittens or litters for fear of USDA license requirements. These are people who raise their animals with love and care, who would now be forced to spend countless dollars for no reason other than a misguided attempt to pacify vocal animal rights extremists.

I also have yet to see how, according to the law as written, rescue organizations will not be swept up USDA licensing requirements and inspection. You have gone on record saying even unincorporated rescues would not be affected - yet no written proof of this claim exists. Is it your intent to decimate rescues at the same time you wipe out hobby breeders?

If you truly are interested in animal welfare, enforce the laws already on the books rather than creating new, oppressive, expensive and intimidating laws that will do no more good than the laws already in force.

Sincerely,
Alene Shafnisky

[redacted]

Yahoo! FareChase - Search multiple travel sites in one click.

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Please listen to another point of view.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Alana Morlock [redacted]
[redacted]
Winchendon, [redacted] MA

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

VOTE AGAINST THIS VERY BAD BILL!!!!!!

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Adam Seger [redacted]
[redacted]
Winslow, indiana [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The bulk of the language in S.1139 is vague and open to interpretation. The USDA should not be burdened with the responsibility of doing what the authors of S. 1139 failed to do. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. It should not pass.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Linda A Dietz [redacted]
[redacted] Carlisle Pa [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

By overburdening the breeders of the best U.S. pet dogs and cats, PAWS will force them out of their hobby. Replacement animals will come from foreign countries where there is no U.S. control over breeding conditions.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Amy Harlib [redacted]
2[redacted]
N.Y., NY [redacted]

(Please include this statement as part of the PAWS hearing record. I can send it as a word doc. if you prefer.)

TO: Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

RE: Opposition to S1139 (PAWS)

I oppose S1139, the PAWS bill. As a dog owner and fancier, who bred three litters several years ago, and as a dog obedience instructor for forty years, as well a former AKC kennel club officer with two different AKC-member clubs, I want you to know that AKC does not speak for me. Nor does it speak for the 41 AKC member parent clubs, representing well over half of all AKC registrations, and the 420 clubs and organizations of animal fanciers who oppose PAWS.

The witness list for this hearing does not contain anyone from organizations who are opposed to the bill, such as the Cat Fanciers Association, the United Kennel Club, or the 41 AKC parent clubs, nor does it contain any active fanciers who are opposed. Additionally, the Animal Rights organizations, Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and Doris Day Animal League (DDAL) are mis-identified as "animal welfare" groups. Some time spent exploring the statements and activities of these groups and the persons who are their witnesses, as well as Norma Worley, will expose their actual animal rights philosophy. HSUS and DDAL have long worked against breeders. HSUS this year supported a (defeated) bill in Massachusetts that would have required the breeder of more than ONE litter per year to be commercially licensed. I, and many others, are asking why the witness list for the hearing was stacked in favor of S1139. Sub-committee members need to be aware of this injustice, and to learn of the great amount of valid opposition to this bill.

Historically, the Animal Welfare Act has applied only to commercial breeders selling at wholesale to brokers, pet stores, research facilities etc. In 2003 the US District Court in DORIS DAY ANIMAL LEAGUE Vs VENEMAN ANN held that it was not the intent of Congress to alter the AWA to regulate breeders in home settings selling dogs and cats directly to the public. PAWS, with the support of the DDAL who brought the original lawsuit, seeks to overturn this ruling, and regulate home breeders.

While regulation of breeders selling wholesale and through middlemen is rightly subject to federal regulation, those selling directly to the public should not come under federal oversight. Home breeders are already subject to public oversight, peer review, and state and local laws that govern humane treatment of animals.

Changing the focus of the AWA from large commercial operations to residential breeders will overwhelm USDA's budget and ability to inspect where they are needed - large commercial kennels selling at wholesale - and expand federal authority into private homes, which was never intended. The bill will do nothing to "stop puppymills," and would, instead, put under federal regulation perfectly satisfactory animal breeders who sell direct to the public. State and local laws are the best way to deal with substandard and abusive operations. The USDA has

important work to do with its limited budget - protecting our food supply - not inspecting thousands of residential breeders.

Using a numbers threshold is inappropriate for the regulation of cat and dog breeders, as numbers of litters and animals sold by a breeder varies from year to year and with the species and breed of animal. Current AWA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding situations with their inherent variability. The fact that breeders and rescuers use the Internet or newspaper ads does not make them commercial entities, nor does the fact that an individual has more than a certain number of litters a year. If there is, in fact, a problem with imported animals, separate legislation governing permits, inspection, and quarantine can deal with the problem.

Private breeders and rescue organizations do not have facilities that conform to AWA regulations, nor should they have to open their homes to federal inspection. Should PAWS pass, regulations would have to be rewritten to cover home situations, otherwise private breeders producing quality animals would have to cease breeding since residential breeders cannot comply with current AWA regulations. Good hobby breeders may well decide to stop or limit breeding rather than welcoming federal inspectors into their homes. The result will be to reduce the number of quality pets available to the public. This would actually encourage more commercial breeding and importing of unregulated and uninspected animals from foreign sellers to meet the demand for dogs and cats. PAWS puts the breeding of quality animals in jeopardy.

Please reject the S1139, the PAWS bill, from consideration. I ask that you oppose it.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Cone
[redacted]
Livingston, NJ [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

The passage of this bill will be disasterous for the future of our children- they will never know/recognize many of the animals that will be regulated by this bill because many breeders will opt out/be forced out by this unnecessary regulation. Time and money better spent going after the kitten and puppy mills who breed unhealthy animals.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Heather Hire [redacted]
[redacted]
Ft Lauderdale, Fl
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

The federal government has proven itself to be inept in among other things handling national defense, hurricane relief, and the ability to administer the national budget. It seems to me that the Congress ought to be working out how to do the things (i.e. national defense) that are fundamental to the nation and ought not to expand further. You have no legitimate business trying to regulate hobby breeders.

Most sincerely,

William K. Fulmer, II [redacted]
[redacted]
Independence, Kentucky [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Wes Breedlove [redacted]
[redacted]
Astoria, Illinois
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Respectfully,

Wayne L. Wilkerson [redacted]
[redacted]
Meansville, GA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

I am against this bill

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Wayne D Gross [redacted]
[redacted]
Jackson KY [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Since hobby breeders are not keeping their puppies and kittens in horrific conditions like puppy mills do, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation of the worst offenders.

Socialized, well-adjusted puppies do not come from commercial breeders, they come from hobby breeders. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

State laws take care of "puppy mills" there is no need for Federal intervention in this matter.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Wayne A. Valentino [redacted]
[redacted]
Oakdale, Pa. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Valerie Harville [redacted]
[redacted].
Melbourne, FL [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Many hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than build a separate facility away from their living quarters to raise puppies and kittens like livestock.

Please vote NO on Paws Bill

Thank you for your vote against S.1139.

Tracy Smith [redacted]
[redacted]
Havana, FL [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Tracy Petty [redacted]
[redacted], Fairfax Station, VA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Tracy D. Crewse [redacted]
[redacted]
Salem Oregon [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

S. 1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I believe that the Paws bill is a diservice to all of us Americans that raise and train dogs. Why not spend more time worrying about people that actually break laws. Rather than try to make more regulations to handcuff the average American.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Tracy Beyer [redacted]
[redacted]
Sheridan, Michigan
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

TOM REEVES [redacted]
[redacted] Hampstead N.C [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

tom gingrich [redacted]
[redacted]d Landisburg Pa [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

There is a distinct shortage of facts to demonstrate that alleged abuses by Internet sellers are not already subject to the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Tom Galipeau [redacted]
[redacted] Anaconda, Montana [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Please oppose S. 1139 and help me continue my work of 25 yrs. Im a responsible small hobby breeder and I stand behind every one of my pups. This bill would put all of my years of work to rest. Please stop it now.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Tina Kuzniacki [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Hobby breeders raise our puppies in our own homes. They are well-socialized when their new owners come to get them. Commercial breeders raise puppies in cages with little or no human contact. S.1139 will require that the USDA enact commercial breeders' standards.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

Don't let the small breeders be affected. They are the ones nuturing and giving love to their puppies and dogs.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Tina Shepherd [redacted]
[redacted]
Powell, TN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Tina M. Grim [redacted]>
[redacted]
York Springs, PA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

this bill is crazy all it is trying to do is hurt the small opperations that are trying to bred good hounds

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

charles w smith [redacted]
[redacted] Hurricane wv [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Please oppose S.1139

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Chad Taylor [redacted]
[redacted]
Jacksonville, Texas
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

This is the stupidest bill I have ever heard of!!

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Chad Jordon [redacted]m>
[redacted]
Crown Point, New York
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Chad Butcher [redacted]
[redacted], Portland, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

The time & money spent by the S.1139 could be better used to monitor the real dealers in live animals as opposed to the 90% of us who truly love & care for the animals in question. The cost of owning a pet has sky rocketed with most of the cost going to the 10% of the population who exploit the poor animals continuously locked in small, individual cages, bred on every season, without comfort of a family environment. Some of the rescues that have gone through my home have come to me covered in fleas, feces, mange, missing toes from the wire cages, toothless from malnutrition, bones bent and/or broken, blind & absolutely scared beyond belief. The dogs came from the 'big' puppy millers who were already inspected by the USDA. Use the laws already on the books & close down the largest of the offenders before wasting money trying to find the 'needle in the haystack' among the hobby breeders/rescue groups.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Cecilia Barnett [redacted]
[redacted]
Puyallup, WA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I am very disturbed about the up coming meeting on the PAWS bill. This si a ONE SIDED meeting. Where are the opposing people?? Why are you only allowing your little group to speak? Are you afraid??? This Bill is WRONG and NOT in the best interest of any one or animal.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Cathleen Bennett [redacted]
[redacted]e Rialto, Ca [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

As a member of CFA, and as a small breeder and exhibitor of pedigreed cats, I want to express my opposition to S. 1139, PAWS and to urge you to please NOT pass it.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Caroline Seefchak [redacted]
[redacted]
Miramar, FL [redacted]

Dear Honorable Sir:

Please vote NO on S1139 (PAWS).

The Animal Welfare Act should continue to require licensing of commercial breeders selling dogs/cats to the pet trade, brokers and transporters of animals. The USDA should not regulate those breeders selling directly to the public, including individuals or organizations who rescue cats and dogs and re-home these animals.

The AKC, HSUS, ASPCA, PETA, DDAL and the AVMA do not represent the views of over 400 clubs, organizations, registries, rescue groups and thousands of individuals who oppose the PAWS bill.

At different times, I have been interested in home breeding cats and dogs and I have researched this a bit. I have not found any reason to regulate home hobby breeders who care very much about the improvement of their breed. The rare people who take it upon themselves to rescue cats and dogs to then find them homes some ask some nominal fee to recover their vet bills and pay for supplies also should not be regulated.

This bill would be very detrimental to animal welfare.

Thank you very much.
Carol Locus
[redacted]
sun Valley, CA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

As a USDA licensed breeder I am totally against the passing of this bill: S. 1139 !!!

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Carol Huddleston [redacted]
[redacted]
WEST PLAINS, MO [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Carlene Hammond [redacted]
[redacted] Butte Montana [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already "stretched to the limit" federal budget.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Beverly GAtes [redacted]

Plattsburgh NY [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S. 1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

A firm NO to this bill. I will be reporting the progress of this bill to my subscribers, and I've already made known to them my feelings about this bill. It's unconstitutional and a huge waste of taxpayer dollars when they are needed so badly elsewhere.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Beverley Saunders, [redacted]
[redacted]
Indianapolis, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Betty Jones [redacted]
[redacted] beloit, oh [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I oppose the paws bill as it is worded. it is not necessary to license and inspect homes of small breeders.
I believe it will be a impossiable job to monitor all the little guys.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Betty J Curb [redacted]
[redacted]
Mulkeytown,Il. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Bart Caudill [redacted]
[redacted]
Pikeville, KY [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Barbara Miller [redacted]
Yorba Linda, CA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

PAWS if passed is going to subject many animal lovers to a vicious witch hunt by PETA, HSUS and DDAL. Americans deserve better than to be subjected to such harassment and intrusion into their lives by Animal Rights groups who are trying to convince our children that eating an egg is murder while giving support to domestic terrorism groups like ALF and ELF. This is AMERICA, please vote NO on PAWS and send a clear message to those groups who seek to oppress us.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Barbara Miller [redacted]
[redacted]
Lincroft NJ [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

August C Dietz <[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

I sincerely hope that this bill, with it's many points that need to be clarified and/or corrected, will not pass. We do not need more laws on the books that are not able to be enforced as intended due to vague and ambiguous language. Please don't let this bill pass.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Arlene M Rauschl [redacted]>
[redacted]
Marine City, MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

With respect,

Anthony Ford [redacted]
[redacted]
Portage,MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Anthea Thacker [redacted]
[redacted]
North Little Rock, AR [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

I think you need to take another look at your priorities, Mr Govt. officials.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Wendy Basehore [redacted]
Middletown, PA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Anke Masters [redacted]
[redacted]
Brick, NJ [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over stretched and under budget. They will need every available employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. This nation can not afford S. 1139.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

In view of the Humane Societies mishandling of the Katrina Rescue, the private rescue groups should be left alone.

"Discussion" means hearing some opposing views...There are none for the November meeting. I would presume it's a self congratulatory party from the line up of the participants.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Angie Cross Bly [redacted]
[redacted]
Bellvue, CO [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

I oppose this bill as I see it as unneccessary regulation. I firmly believe that many of your constituents will be most unapproving of this law and how it will apply to small mom and pop operations.

Sincerely,

Cliff Thornburg [redacted]
[redacted]
Jefferson City, MO
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Claire Spettell [redacted]
[redacted]
Wyndmoor, PA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Christopher B. Cook [redacted]
[redacted] Fredericksburg Va. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Christopher T. Smith [redacted]
[redacted]
Dearborn MO [redacted]

I wish to enter my protest in opposition to PAWS. I don't care if the AKC or HSUS supports the bill, they do not speak for me and my fellow dog breeders and showers. The entire bill is a fraud as far as I and most of my fellow dog people feel. Almost every dog club in NJ is opposed to this bill!!! We feel we are the majority, not the AKC. I am very upset and disappointed that the AKC would allow itself to fall for such a bill.
If the purpose of the bill is to combat puppy mills it will not work. If only laws currently on the books were enforced those miserable people would be out of business. I've never made a cent on my dogs, I do it for the love of the game. My dogs are my family.
Please ask the Senator to think twice before he supports this bill!
Christine Haycock, MD
Newark, NJ

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

S. 1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

The PAWS bill was written as though all breeders breed from a commericial facility. Breeders who are on a small scale, and breed in there homes cannot possibly comply with some requirements--like drains, and separate buildings for whelping females. Think about it, which is better, dogs raised in a barn or dogs raaised in a clean, warm kitchen?

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Chris Wolff [redacted]
[redacted]
Clarkston, WA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

CHris Voiles [redacted]
[redacted] KOkomo In. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

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None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

CHris Voiles [redacted]
[redacted] KOkomo In. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I oppose paws.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Chiquita Weatherly [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Please read and understand the concern of all hobbist breeders in the U.S. We are not the problem. Puppy mills and those who breed to make money are, we have nothing to gain from this bill but, much to loose, as owners/handlers/breeders hobbists who only want to improve and enhance the quality of our own choosen breeds. Thank you for your consideration!

Thank you for your no vote on S. 1139.

Cheryl Mechalke [redacted]
[redacted] Mead, CO [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Cheryl Holyfield [redacted]
[redacted]
Byram, MS [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Charles Brown [redacted]
[redacted]
Pennville In. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Sincerely,

Darlene Pietrzak[redacted]
Chicago, IL [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

As a hunter and breeder of beagles, I'm asking you to vote NO when the PAW'S bill comes before your committee. Thanks for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely, Danny Lanier....Metter, Ga.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Danny Lanier [redacted]
Metter, Ga. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Danny Jones [redacted]
lincolnton N.C

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

I don't believe the USDA has any business in our lives or the lives of our dogs!

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Daniella D. Keukelaar [redacted]

Sacramento, Ca [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Daniel R Vincent [redacted]
[redacted]
Brown City,Mi [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

dale gibbs jr [redacted]
[redacted]
somerset oh [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

With all of the press about unnecessary government spending, passage of S.1139 would greatly add to this problem. What ever happened to "government for the people, by the people"? The current elected persons are there because the voters felt these people would reflect the opinions and concerns of the voters. If the majority of Americans are against S.1139, how then can it pass? By the elected persons NOT listening to the ones that put them in office! One reminder: remember how you voted for this bill, because come election time, you may have to answer for it!

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Cynthia Grooms [redacted]
[redacted]
Rockingham, NC [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Craig Kline [redacted]
[redacted]
Royal Center, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

There is a distinct shortage of facts to demonstrate that alleged abuses by Internet sellers are not already subject to the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

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For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Coriann Smith [redacted]
Fort Worth, TX [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Constance Peake [redacted]
[redacted]
Durhan, NC [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation's Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Colleen Reeder [redacted]
[redacted]
Flagstaff, AZ [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Dolores DeGroat [redacted]
Oviedo, FL [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

derek anderson
[redacted]
kingsport tn
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

USDA does not have the manpower to enforce S. 1139. It is useless to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be appropriated by Congress.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Derald Boman [redacted]
[redacted]
Commerce, OK [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Denise Vavla [redacted]
[redacted]
Gobles MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am opposed to S.1139.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Denise Coulter [redacted]
[redacted]
Austintown, Ohio [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Deborah Steenwyk [redacted]
Bangor, MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppymills are in compliance with the AWA now. A new law encompassing hobby breeders will worsen the situation not improve it. Manpower should be spent on enforcing the existing AWA.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Zoning problems will occur for many who try to obtain a USDA license.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Deborah Marshall [redacted]
[redacted]
East Aurora, NY [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

If S. 1139 passes, vital USDA resources will be diverted from helping farmers along Gulf coast to telling breeders how to raise puppies. This is a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

By overburdening the breeders of the best U.S. pet dogs and cats, PAWS will force them out of their hobby. Replacement animals will come from foreign countries where there is no U.S. control over breeding conditions.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

As a former intern in the US Senate, Committee on Labor, Health and Human Services I worked on legislation to create opportunities for Women in Science. My hobby for last 30 years has been breeding and showing purebred dogs.
I am appalled that with all of the important issues facing this country; unemployment, war, environment, trade, etc. the US Senate is spending time on a bill that seeks to legislate the breeding and selling of dogs by hobbyists. This is a poor piece of legislation that seeks to control the wrong people. Enforce the rules we currently have and that will protect dogs.

Most sincerely,

Debbie Lynch [redacted]
[redacted]
Burton, Ohio [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Debbie Heaney [redacted]n>
[redacted]
Butte, Montana[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Considering the untold billions of dollars required by Hurricane Katrina, the USDA cannot afford to devote resources to regulating thousands of home breeders.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I appreciate your "No" vote for S.1139

Dean Thompson [redacted]
[redacted], Brookville, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

In these times of failing economy, when our nation is struggling beneath the aftermath of natural disasters, we cannot afford frivolous legislation. SB1139 will be costly to enforce, will not acheive the stated results and violates every American's right to engage in a private hobby.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Dawn Panda [redacted]>
[redacted]
Myrtle Point, OR [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already "stretched to the limit" federal budget.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

This bill takes away basic rights from average citizens. It does nothing in the interest of ending the suffering of animals. I will vote for no one who endorses this in any way, shape or form!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

David Ramey [redacted]
[redacted] Elkhorn city, Ky [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

David L.. Parker [redacted]
[redacted]low,New Hampshire [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

i think the goverment needs to stay out of alot of area and take care of the country there is alot of stuff that is more important then paws

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

david drake [redacted]
cameron wv [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

The bulk of the language in S.1139 is vague and open to interpretation. The USDA should not be burdened with the responsibility of doing what the authors of S. 1139 failed to do. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. It should not pass.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

David Dottridge [redacted]
[redacted]
Stetson, ME [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

We simply do not need more Federal Government involvement in which the cost of administration will far exceed the good it will do.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

David D. Quillen [redacted]
[redacted]
Seaford, DE [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

We simply do not need more Federal Government involvement in which the cost of administration will far exceed the good it will do.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

David D. Quillen [redacted]
Seaford, DE [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Please vote no onS. 1139, too much burden on the casuel breeder and sportsman

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Dave Sharer [redacted]
[redacted] Creekside,Pa. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

Hobby breeders raise our puppies in our own homes. They are well-socialized when their new owners come to get them. Commercial breeders raise puppies in cages with little or no human contact. S.1139 will require that the USDA enact commercial breeders' standards.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Please do not vote for this Paws Bill

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Dave Corey [redacted]
[redacted] Perryville MD [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

DARREN BATTERSON [redacted]
[redacted]
OTTUMWA, IA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Darlene Willey [redacted]
[redacted], Anaconda, MT [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

frank beam [redacted]
[redacted] Granitefalls, N.C. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Since hobby breeders are not keeping their puppies and kittens in horrific conditions like puppy mills do, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation of the worst offenders.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I am opposed to this bill and have been since its inception. I feel that it hurts those who are involved in animals for the right reasons while it really doesn't properly penalized those who are not. It is not thought out as to how it will impact those of us who are home breeders and involved for the good of dogs. For the future of purebred dogs who are well planned and researched. When you try to knock down those in volume and thoughtless breeding you are at the same time penalizing those who have put in the time and are doing it properly. We do not deserve that and it also seriously affects the future of all purebred dogs in this country.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Florence Bessemer [redacted]
[redacted] Rd
Port St Lucie, Fl [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Many hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than build a separate facility away from their living quarters to raise puppies and kittens like livestock.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Fern St Clair [redacted]
[redacted]... Cary....NC..[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

Hobby breeders provide healthy puppies with education for new owners as well as take back and rescue services. It is a labor of love. Please don't extend the federal government into our homes. Forcing out the hobby breeder will increase puppy mill sales.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Faith Jones [redacted]
[redacted]
Brielle, NJ [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over stretched and under budget. They will need every available employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. This nation can not afford S. 1139.

This will hurt are sport as breeder of field trial beagles and hunting dogs.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Eric W Mahon [redacted]
Rochester,ny [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

There is a big difference between Animal Welfare supporters and Animal Rights (AR) supporters. I am an Animal Welfare supporter because companion animals need to be part our lives.

Animal Welfare supports humane use and treatment of animals and believes that humans have a responsibility to care for animals. Animal Welfare includes humane treatment and responsible care of animals used by humans for service, research, food, education, kept in zoos or sanctuaries, and especially those animals kept by pet owners.

Animal Rights (AR) is based on moral and ethical philosophies. While Animals Rights Advocates and Groups talk about humane care, the bottom line is to work for humane care and legislation ONLY until all animals can be removed from human use.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Emily Pinkard [redacted]
[redacted]
League City, Texas [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Please don't let the animal rights activists slowly chip away at our right to own animals. Sometimes agendas are won just a little at a time and this bill just tips the odds of their ultimate agenda of NO ANIMAL OWNERSHIP at all just a little bit closer.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Ellen Penington [redacted]
[redacted]
El Paso, TX [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

My family opposes S. 1139 the PAWS bill

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Ellen Meyer Dougherty [redacted]
[redacted]
Munger, MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Eleanora Cole [redacted]

Mt. WAshington, Ky. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

A national problem is agressive dogs. Puppy mills and quantity breeding cannot provide the socialization each litter needs to become "good dog citizens," which is supplied by the care ond attention of "back yard breeders." Dedication cannot be legislated. Please hands off!

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Eleanor Winters [redacted]>
[redacted]
Goleta, CA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Elaine Hopper [redacted]om>
[redacted]
Renton, WA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Any possible benefits of this bill are significantly outweighed by the potential disadvantages. The welfare of dogs and the interests of puppy purchasers could be better protected by enforcement of existing laws. The primary beneficiary of this legislation will be the Animal Rights Movement, a quasi-religious philosophy that strives not for animal welfare, but for elimination of domestic animals. Implementation of PAWS wil negatively impact animal welfare, since very few rescue groups could comply with the requirements, creating the need to euthanize more animals. This will allow ARM propagandists to claim that ADDITIONAL laws are required to reduce the number of homeless animals.

ARM interests forward their agenda by instigating legislation that causes maximum inconvenience and expense for those who breed, raise, use or own animals and for the governmental entities that pass and must enforce those laws. When the government is in desperate need of funds to maintain essential programs, how can the enforcement activities of this law be financed?

The pet industry alone contributes $34 billion per year to the economy. Consider also the impact on the economy of eliminating animal agriculture, not to mention sporting and recreational events. All these would be wiped out if the ARM is allowed to implement its agenda. The majority of citizens do NOT favor elimination of animal ownership

Those who support legislation promoted by any animal rights organization, including the Humane Society of the United States, The Doris Day Animal League, and PETA, are not only helping to undermine the US economy, but also condoning terrorist activity. The history of the ARM is characterized by terrorism. Responsible legislators should distance themselves from a movement that advocates theft, arson and murder in pursuit of its goals..

Animal welfare could be better protected by enforcement of existing laws. If resources are insufficient to enforce those laws, passage of additional, unenforceable laws will be futile.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Eileen Mason [redacted]
Georgetown, SC [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

EARL BRUNER [redacted]

[redacted] WADDY KY. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

I am an occasional breeder of terriers and always test breeding stock for all possible heritable health problems. I know it is important to produce healthy, well socialized and high quality puppies. All my stock are AKC champions that are well loved and very well cared for.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Dr. Gerald M. Mager[redacted]
[redacted]
Amherst, MA[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Doug DePew [redacted]
[redacted]
Kendallville,IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I have been involved in the sport of purebred dogs for 5 years. I have bred 2 litters in the past 3 years. I consider myself a responsible breeder because I do health clearances of the breeding stock and I only place puppies in homes with spay/neuter contracts.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Dorothy Sizemore [redacted]
[redacted]
Mooresville, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

If U.S. hobby breeders are burdened with federal regulation it will be creating an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, which many are already complaining about.

S. 1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Don't know if you bother to read e-mails, but it just seems very unfair that at this hearing, there are only 6 people allowed to speak and those are just the ones in favor of PAWS - no opposition is allowed - is that what is called the democratic process.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Dorothy Cangson [redacted]
[redacted] Garden Grove, CA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I hope you will use your common sense and see that that this bill is intrusive to the American people. It would also be uninforceable and very expensive to police a program like PAWS. Please vote no to s.1139

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Dorothy Beier [redacted]
[redacted]
Columbia, SC [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Donald Martin [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am opposed to S.1139.

For the gov. to get involved in our hobbys is a little communistic,please vote against it

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Don Hicks [redacted]
[redacted] union Ponca City Okla. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

S. 1139 As tax paying Americans, my husband and I are outraged that the Federal gov't has the notion through the above mentioned bill to come inspect our home and our show dogs which are our pets first and foremost. These are dogs that sleep throughout our house in our bedrooms with our children and ourselves, their own bedrooms, the living room. This bill means welcoming the gov't into our bedrooms, our home! I THINK NOT!! Why doesn't the gov't do something important with their time and money, like enforce the laws already on the books! I am beginning to think there are few legislators with common sense these days when they support a bill that puts gov't into people's HOMES.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Don & Penny Mikeman [redacted]
[redacted] Robstown, TX [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

More laws aren't the answer. Enforcement of the laws we already have on the books should be our top priority in this matter.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

James D. Holbrook [redacted]
[redacted]
Crossville, Tn. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

James Clinton Neff [redacted]
[redacted]
Franklin, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Just a quick note asking that you oppose S.1139. I would rather see my tax money going to help people in need , homeless , hurricane victims , etc. , rather than paying someone to police home/hobby breeders.
Every home/hobby breeder that I know , myself included , raise a litter when we want a pup for oourselves. Not knowing which one we are going to keep right away , they "ALL" get the best of care. This is the way my father taught me and this is the way I taught my son and am teaching my grandson. Believe me , these are not the people that need to be policed. Therefore I believe it would be a "BIG" waste of taxpayers money to worry about such little breeders.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Jack R. Brooks [redacted]
Crystal,Michigan
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

I do not need any more government intervention in my life or my dog hobby.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Jack Eddy [redacted]
[redacted] Towanda Pa. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

jack deatherage [redacted]
[redacted] brentwood ,mo. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Henry Perkins [redacted]
Culloden, WV [redacted]

Senator Rick Santorum
Chairman
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Senate Bill 1139 Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 - OPPOSITION

Dear Senator Santorum:

I am writing to you to express opposition to the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) as it is written. This bill is inappropriate for dog breeders whose main goal is to promote and improve their specific breed and to the rescue orgainizations affiliated with the breed clubs.

Thank you for your consideration of my concern.

Frieda Steinjann
[redacted]
Ormond Beach, FL [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

harold hall [redacted]
[redacted] bristol va [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

We do not need S 1139 or any laws and regulation for the keeping and breeding of dogs. We need more laws and regulations on the huge number of cats that are killing song birds, baby rabbits, and other wildlife!

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

george H. Pirman [redacted]
Leslie, MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

gary thompson [redacted]
[redacted]
potosi mo. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

The bill doesn't contain a single word about the Internet, even though supporters say it's intended to address online animal sales.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I urge you to reject S.1139.

Gary Slick [redacted]
Hop Bottom PA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Gary Moore [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Respectfully,

Gary LaClair [redacted]
[redacted]
Loganville, Ga [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Gary Houston [redacted]
[redacted] Franklin, KY [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Garrett Nowack [redacted]
[redacted]
Spalding, MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Sincerely yours,

gabe stockton [redacted]
[redacted]
bowling green, ky [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Fred Channell [redacted]
[redacted]
New Martinsville WV
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Socialized, well-adjusted puppies do not come from commercial breeders, they come from hobby breeders. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Jeremiah Johnson [redacted]
Lawrenceburg, ky [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Zoning problems will occur for many who try to obtain a USDA license.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S. 1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subjected to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Jennifer Crocker [redacted]
[redacted]
Ventura,Ca
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am opposed to S.1139.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

I believe there is more pressing issues in this nation that need delt with Other than the inspection of Hobby Kennels and requlating and or taking away the freedom of Americans. God Help US All.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Jeffrey W. Huffman <[redacted]
[redacted] Spring Hill, Kansas

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Zoning problems will occur for many who try to obtain a USDA license.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

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Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S. 1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subjected to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Jennifer Crocker [redacted]
[redacted]
Ventura,Ca
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation's Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

this bill is totaly unconstitutional and an invasion of my freedom and rights. what happened to every one having the right to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness. the people who sponsered this bill are totaly wrong and voters should not reelect these people.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

jeff [redacted] rd glasford,il [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Jeannie Nielsen[redacted]
[redacted]
Mojave, Ca. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Jason Taylor [redacted]
[redacted]y,Westminster South Carolina,[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am opposed to S.1139.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

USDA has no place in the private homes of hobby breeders. Many rare breeds will become extinct because hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than be faced with the invasive requirement of federal regulation of their private homes.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Jason Robinson [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

When good American breeders are driven out of their hobby, poor quality imports will increase. Since prices will be lowest in foreign countries, growth of imported puppies will skyrocket.

I strongly appose the P.A.W.S. Bill & would greatly appreciate your help and support..

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Jason Bickford [redacted]
[redacted] Pikeville,Tn [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Janet Lugo [redacted]
[redacted], Norwalk, Ca. [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Hobby breeders raise our puppies in our own homes. They are well-socialized when their new owners come to get them. Commercial breeders raise puppies in cages with little or no human contact. S.1139 will require that the USDA enact commercial breeders' standards.

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Janet Butcher [redacted]
[redacted] Portland, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Some day in America the picture of a boy and his dog will be history if PAWS keeps going at it's pace. Please vote no on S.1139
Good breeders take the love and care necessary to assure healthy pets. Please give them a chance to continue.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Janele Caldwell [redacted]>
[redacted]
Elizabeth, CO [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

I bleive that this is an unacceptable Bill (s. 1139). It will be of no benifit to any one unless their goal is to stop the breeding of dogs for any thing; hunting, shows, ability shows, service dogs, etc. The public does not need more bureacratic red tape to work through nor do we need more people on the government pay roll. We need the federal tax dollars spent in better ways than someone trying to stop hobby breeders. I could write all day on reasons against S. 1139 but I can find no good reason to for it. Please vote NO on bill S. 1139.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

James W. Harper[redacted]
[redacted]
Washington, [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

James Rasmussen [redacted]
Ann Arbor, MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Please consider carefully before voting on this bill, it is not a good one. the Illinois State Coonhunters of which I am VP is stronly apposed to this bill also

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

James R Temmen [redacted]
Oconee, Illinois [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

Futhermore, the fact that there will be no opposing views allowed at this "public" hearing just reinforces the idea that this law will be passed regardless of wether it is nesacery. I believe that state laws dealing with animal welfare are more than enough regulation. This law would setback improvement of dog genitics and increase the importation of many breeds. Thank you for your time.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

James Plaisted[redacted]
[redacted]
Troupsburg, NY[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

As a long time breeder of beagles, I used to register my dogs with AKC but in this instance I want to make it clear they do not speak for me. I have informed them that as long as they continue to support PAWS I will not register my litters or adult dogs with AKC.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

James E Lowe PA-C [redacted]
[redacted]
Beckley WV [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

Interpreting this bill will be troublesome for the USDA. They already have many important tasks such as the regulation of food and agriculture. Adding the additional burden of supplying enforcement personnel for S 1139 will be very costly.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

JAMES DAVIS [redacted]
[redacted]
morganton, nc [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Lyn Harral [redacted]>
[redacted]
Ozark, MO 65721

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

This law is not fair to those who are doing it for the sport and not so much the money. People do know how to take care of their animals. Especially in the hunting world.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Marvin Browers <[redacted]>
[redacted]
Ironton, Missouri
63650

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

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For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Pat Harrison [redacted]>
[redacted]
Livonia Mi 48152-2988

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Richard Isley <[redacted]>
[redacted]
Franklin,In 46131

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Robert Brown <[redacted]>
[redacted]
Camano Island, WA 98282

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

If S. 1139 passes, vital USDA resources will be diverted from helping farmers along Gulf coast to telling breeders how to raise puppies. This is a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars.

It is very easy for a person who wants to purchase a dog over the Internet and have it shipped from South America or Canada. Those sellers will sell more while being free from any regulation.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Steven Kitchen[redacted]com>
[redacted]
LaGrange, IN [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

William Adams <[redacted]om>
[redacted].
Elkhorn, KY 42733

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

The federal government has proven itself to be inept in among other things handling national defense, hurricane relief, and the ability to administer the national budget. It seems to me that the Congress ought to be working out how to do the things (i.e. national defense) that are fundamental to the nation and ought not to expand further. You have no legitimate business trying to regulate hobby breeders.

Most sincerely,

William K. Fulmer, II [redacted]
[redacted]
Independence, Kentucky 41051

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I feel this bill is unjust, and unfair. It only will promote the existance of large puppy mills, and put the small hobby breeder out of business.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

William M. Ennis Jr. <[redacted]>
[redacted], OH. 45307-0069

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

William R. Harris <[redacted]>
[redacted]
Puyallup, WA 98375-2252

Subject: Comments for Hearing on S. 1139 (PAWS)

Dear Sir: We would like Senator Santorum and the members of his Senate Subcommittee to know that the Legislation Committee of the Bulldog Club of America will be reporting to the Annual Meeting of the BCA Council later this month regarding the PAWS amendments to the Animal Welfare Act.

We consider the bill to be basically flawed and that it should not become law in its present form. Licensing and regulation of retail hobby breeders is not the way to control imports and commercial breeder / dealers. The BCA will be asked to support PAWS only if hobbyist regulation is removed and other aspects of the bill are clarified.

George Cromer
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Any attempt to regulate Internet sales is doomed to fail. The strength of the Internet is that it allows commerce to be conducted globally. If S.1139 passes and a large, commercial facility selling at retail, one of the purported targets of the bill, had to choose between regulation and moving across the U.S. border, does anyone think that they would not simply move outside of the jurisdiction of the United States? They could then take Internet orders with impunity from any U.S. sanction or inspection of their facilities.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

The laws that presently exist are more than adequate to protect animals from harm and abuse.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

William W. Westmoreland [redacted]com>
[redacted]d.
Riegelwood, NC 28456

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

For sometime now groups like PETA, DDL and the Humane Society have been overstepping their boundaries.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

Woodine Roudebush [redacted]
[redacted]
Altus, OK 73521

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

Hobby breeders raise our puppies in our own homes. They are well-socialized when their new owners come to get them. Commercial breeders raise puppies in cages with little or no human contact. S.1139 will require that the USDA enact commercial breeders' standards.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

The best of breeders don't want the burden of USDA regulation. This will discourage many of them from producing high quality pets. If they reduce their good breeding, the public will simply purchase dogs and cats from someone who is not as committed to quality.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

This bill goes aginst the very freedoms we fought for so long to obtain. I along with hundreds of other texas houndsman feel that this bill is taking away some of my rights. Who is to say how many dogs or puppies I am to have per year. Who is to tell me what my kenel should look like or the way it should be set up. I am an animal lover or else I would not own dogs period. So why would I mistreat them? Yes there are those people that do and those people that are in it for the money. So aim your constitutional disgrace at them not all animal breeders. You dont see the government telling wood crafstman how many chairs or tables they can build a year. Or motorcross racers being fined because they had to many dirtbikes in one year so WHY hobby breeders? Why target us?

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Zack Fogle [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Tim Lovelace <[redacted]>
[redacted]Rd
Onaway Mi. 49765

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Hobby breeders raise our puppies in our own homes. They are well-socialized when their new owners come to get them. Commercial breeders raise puppies in cages with little or no human contact. S.1139 will require that the USDA enact commercial breeders' standards.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

At the hobby level, word travels fast whether a breeder is responsible or not. Hobbiest will often contact local authorities if they believe an animal is being mistreated. This self policeing will stop if the USDA makes it their responsability. The USDA will not have the manpower to enforce the new law as effectively as the current laws are now enforced.

I urge you to reject S.1139.

Tim Hartsock [redacted]
[redacted]
Fishers, In. 46038

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

THOMAS J WINGFIELD [redacted]
[redacted]LAQUEY MO. 65534

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

I strongly oppose the PAWS Bill,and will vote against ANY House or Senate member from my state that votes yes for it,and so will MANY others. This is a serious issue for Houndsman and Breeders from across the USA.

Thank you for your vote against S.1139.

Thomas Gunter [redacted]om>
[redacted] WV 26627

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

Hunting and working dogs are trained specialists. They are Not wholesale items as the writer/s of this bill would have you believe. Alot of time and training is involved. Just breeding two hunting dogs may or maynot produce another hunting dog. If my father and mother were both lawyers it would not make me a lawyer without the schooling and passing a bar exam.

Despite what this bill proclaims, there are no wholesale sellers of hunting dogs!

I urge you to reject S.1139.

thomas D. Kelleher [redacted]
[redacted]
Gillett, Pa 16925

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Theresa Kaminski <[redacted]>
[redacted] Salem, OR [redacted]

Dear Mr. Stoltzfoos:

Attached is a copy of our Statement, to be included in the official public record, which we have faxed as indicated.

Thank you.

[redacted]
Sharon A. Coleman, [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S.1139 is a waste of time and does not solve any of the problems it is trying to. It will only make it harder for true breeders to do their job and easier for the backyard breeders to make their money.
This is nothing but politics and the higher-ups trying to line their pockets.
Best thing to do is hire more animal inforcers and investigate and crack down on the real wrong doers, the bybs and puppymillers.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

The Nadeau family [redacted]
[redacted]
Bealeton, Va, [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

USDA does not have the manpower to enforce S. 1139. It is useless to pass legislation that would require multi-millions of dollars to be appropriated by Congress.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Terry Gregory [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Effort Pa, [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

I AM AGANIST THIS BILL, PLEASE DON'T PASS IT.

Most sincerely,

TERRY COLLEY [redacted]com>
t[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Terri Bishop [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

Zoning problems will occur for many who try to obtain a USDA license.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Teri Dugan[redacted]
[redacted]
Manchester, TN. 3[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

Since hobby breeders are not keeping their puppies and kittens in horrific conditions like puppy mills do, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation of the worst offenders.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Tanya M Raab [redacted]
[redacted]
Battle Creek MI [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

According to the American Pet Product Manufacturers Association (APPMA), National Pet Owner Survey, 2005-2006) "sales of dogs over the internet account for just one-tenth of one percent of dog sales in the US." A federal law regulating Internet sales is unwarranted.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Tammie Lind <[redacted]>
[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

Since hobby breeders are not keeping their puppies and kittens in horrific conditions like puppy mills do, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation of the worst offenders.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I urge you to vote against this S.1139 PAWS bill. I feel it is unfair. My future votes will definately reflect on supporters that support it.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Perry Lambert [redacted]
[redacted]
South Charleston,OH.45368

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Peggi Benson [redacted]
[redacted]
Silver Lake, IN 46982

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Sincerely yours,

Pedro A. Cofino Esq. President Greater Miami Dog Club [redacted]
[redacted]
Miami Beach, Florida 33139

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

I appreciate your "No" vote for S.1139

paul williford [redacted]
[redacted]
oxford nc 27565

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am opposed to S.1139.

When hobby breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139 it will only increase large commercial breeders ability to raise more puppies.

S. 1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

This bill promoted by HSUS and AKC,etc. is a rediculous bill. S. 1139 Please Reject This Bad Bill. Please oppose S. 1139. With everything else needing our attention, we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal
government into my family's life.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Paul Greenwood <[redacted]t>
[redacted]
Martinsville, IN 46151

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Paul Blackburn [redacted]
[redacted] london ky 40741

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Patrick Hannold [redacted]
[redacted]
Saegertown PA 16433

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

Sincerely,

Patrick Barrett [redacted]
[redacted]
Belmont, Wi 53510

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

S. 1139 will not help the welfare of dogs in large, substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of home dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over-burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the AWA. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Please spare us from more government interference into our lives.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Patricia J. Chinnici [redacted]net>
[redacted]
Reno, NV 89502

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

If U.S. hobby breeders are burdened with federal regulation it will be creating an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, which many are already complaining about.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

Pat Harbert [redacted]
[redacted]
Choctaw, OK 73020-1538

Subject: "Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

We need to let the Subcommittee members, including Senator Santorum, know that the AKC, HSUS, ASPCA, PETA, DDAL and the AVMA do not represent the views of over 400 clubs, organizations, registries, escue groups and thousands of individuals who oppose the PAWS bill

We understand that some modifications and clarifications will be proposed during this hearing but we have not seen the language.

We oppose the concept of federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs direct to the public at retail. No matter what clarifications or adjustments in the proposed thresholds that may be suggested by the supporters - our primary objection to S 1139 remains. PAWS would be detrimental to thousands of breeders raising cats and dogs in their homes who would be subjected to USDA inspection and inappropriate/commercial facility standards of care. There is no credible evidence to show that huge numbers of dogs or cats are being sold directly to the public at retail through mass media methods such as the Internet, which supporters claim. Newspaper ad selling has decreased. The Internet allows contact with the the public and is not inherently evil. Pet owners are now better educated concerning selection of a pet.

The Animal Welfare Act should continue to require licensing of commercial breeders selling dogs/cats to the pet trade, brokers and transporters of animals. The USDA should not regulate those breeders selling directly to the public, including individuals or organizations who rescue cats and dogs and rehome these animals.

It is important for the opposition to this bill to be included in the members' briefing books

Steve Webb
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Subject: PAWS

FOR YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE:

Federal regulation for selling pet cats and dogs directly to the public as required in the PAWS bill is NOT needed. The Animal Welfare Act already addresses issues related to brokering, research and exhibition. It is not necessary to focus on hobby breeders not motivated by profit.

The "High Volume" concept is not a reasonable quantifier for Felines.

What data supports a need to regulate hobby breeders? No need exists, this is a front for the Animal Rights Terrorists to destroy a hobby in this country. They are using the USDA to further their agenda. Are supporters of this bill the only ones chosen to testify at the Hearing on Nov. 8? Opposition deserves to be a part of public record, please include this email in the opposition.

Pamela Hill
[redacted]
Lafayette, Calif. 94549

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' homes.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

We have so many laws regarding the treatment of animals, and now that it is a felony to mistreat any animal, I think we have gone far enough, BSL is just that BSL!

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Nanette Doree-Sheckler [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already "stretched to the limit" federal budget.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job. No need to spend tax dollars on reinventing the wheel. Enforce AWA and local and state laws that are already established.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Missy Bullock [redacted]>
7[redacted]e
Texa City, TX 77591

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

I very much appreciate your voting no on S 1139.

MIKE WRIGHT [redacted]
[redacted] RD ABINGDON VA 24211

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

Currently, APHIS,the AWA Animal Care division has 106 inspectors for the entire U.S. and territories. They can't possibly handle the increased workload of regulating hobby breeders. Adding hobby breeders to the current ranks of dealers will significantly weaken enforcement where it is most needed.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Please do the right thing and don't cave in to politics.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Mike Winkler [redacted]
[redacted]
Hamilton MI 49419

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Respectfully,

mike shannon [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am opposed to S.1139.

If a proposed plan by the Agriculture Department closes more than a quarter of the nation's Farm Services Agency offices how would the passage of S. 1139 that will regulate hobby breeders benefit this nation? Federal regulation of hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Mike Hilty [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

Hobby breeders expend the time and effort to handle and condition each of their puppies multiple times every day; they dedicate one or more rooms in their homes expressly for housing puppies; their dogs are the beneficiaries of any discretionary time or income. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

I haven't started to be a breeder yet, but I would like to at some time in the future,,however, it's more for the betterment of my breed/line of dogs, than as a money making venture, my dogs are my pets first and foremost and I would not force them to have to live in a kennel situation just so I could breed, they have been in home pets all of their lives and I don't feel that I should have to change that to satisfy some mixed up idea that the government has makes a "good" kennel situation! I feel that my dogs and puppies would be better cared for in my home under my constant supervision!

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Michelle M Neubert [redacted]com>
[redacted], MN 56001

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

Michele Domitrovich <[redacted]
[redacted]
Spokane, Wa 99205

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

As an independent, individual animal rescuer, I take in and re-home between 25 and 30 dogs per year. I am not a 501(c)(3) as I cannot afford the costs involved with incorporating and filing for that status in addition to the expense of caring for the dogs that I save. I charge an adoption fee to offset my costs and typically recover less than half of my expenditures through the adoption fees. There is no profit here, but without those fees I'd be forced to close my doors to the animals that need me. Under the PAWS legislation I would be considered a dealer. I am afraid that even if non-profit rescues are exempted in re-written portions of the bill that my rescue activities would still fall through the cracks. There are many people like me and thousands of pets will die needless deaths if we are forced to close our doors.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Merrilee Slaton [redacted]
[redacted] Ok 74066

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Dear Sir Please please vote NO on S.1139 Paws

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Merri Pasquinzo [redacted]
3[redacted] Road Butte, Montana 59701

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Melody Ludwig [redacted]
3[redacted]
Ruskin, FL 33573

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

The United States is faced with the overwhelming task of rebuilding the Gulf Coast area. The USDA will play a key role in the rebuilding efforts. Diverting manpower and funding from this enormous task in order to federally regulate show/hobby breeders is a gross misuse of taxpayer money.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Maureen Foster [redacted]
[redacted]
Warwick, NY 10990

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Hobby breeders may be eliminated because of increased regulations, exorbitant regulatory fees and compliance costs if S. 1139 is enacted. Most hobby breeders will not want to build a facility separate from their home to raise puppies/kittens nor would zoning permit it in most cases.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

What we need is less intrusion into the Private lives of US citizens, and more control of radical animal rights groups such as PETA and HUSA. Thank you.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Matthew Barton [redacted]
[redacted], Dugway Utah, 84022

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S. 1139. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

S. 1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Many hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than build a separate facility away from their living quarters to raise puppies and kittens like livestock.

Rescue operations are virtually always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Dont you have more important issues to deal with then bothering people who breed animals what about the homeless or the poor spend our tax money on something more important

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Matt Wilson [redacted]
[redacted]MT.Pleasant MI. 44804

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

This law is not fair to those who are doing it for the sport and not so much the money. People do know how to take care of their animals. Especially in the hunting world.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Marvin Browers [redacted]
[redacted]
Ironton, Missouri
63650

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Marty Morgan [redacted]
[redacted]
Birmingham, AL 35235

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Socialized, well-adjusted puppies do not come from commercial breeders, they come from hobby breeders. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Marlene Minor [redacted]t>
[redacted]
Pittsville,WI 54466

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Thank you for your no vote on S. 1139.

Marion Steven Brock [redacted]
[redacted] Fort Payne, AL 35967

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

If S. 1139 passes, vital USDA resources will be diverted from helping farmers along Gulf coast to telling breeders how to raise puppies. This is a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars.

Raising puppies in a home environment is truly a labor of love. If the USDA begins invading the privacy rights of hobby breeders, these caring breeders will cease to exist.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Marie Ow [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

This bill is just another way to spend money on things that should be left alone.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Margaret A. Rimmel [redacted]
[redacted]
selma, nc 27576

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

This bill is just another way to spend money on things that should be left alone.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Margaret A. Rimmel [redacted]
[redacted]
selma, nc 27576

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Adding new animal regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

If S. 1139 passes, vital USDA resources will be diverted from helping farmers along Gulf coast to telling breeders how to raise puppies. This is a ridiculous misuse of federal tax dollars.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

This bill, S.1139, will promote puppy mills and shut down decent breeders and dog shows. Please do the right thing and vote against it.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Marcia Deugan [redacted]
[redacted]e.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention. The current Animal Welfare Act should be enforced as written. Amending portions of the Animal Welfare Act does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already "stretched to the limit" federal budget.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

M.B. Stoner [redacted]
Oberlin Ohio

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

M.a. Stoner [redacted]

Subject: Please, reconsider- can only result in goodness!

Hi,

Could you please explain why Sen. Santorum did not include any individuals that are opposed to PAWS at his November 8, 2005 Hearing?

I am aware of a few people (Cindy Cooke, for example) who is one of the most reasonable individuals and great speakers with regard to the PAWS topic. She is reasonable and is fair and kind.

Please, reconsider – and invite at least one individual who can provide some interesting information from a different point of view..

If anything --- it is good to hear the other side – you will gain respect from many who think this is a totally one-sided event.

Nothing bad can come from inviting one reasonable person with an opposing viewpoint – it would be a good move! ☺

Thanks.... Please, reconsider ☺

[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Current USDA regulations are written to cover commercial facilities, not in-home breeding programs. Raising a litter of puppies/kittens in your bedroom is not in compliance with USDA regulations. To cover in-home hobby breeders and rescue will require that AWA regulations be re-written. This is an enormous, complex and difficult undertaking.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

I ask this not as much for me, a breeder well able to comply with new regulations, but for the many rescue groups and small breeders who would be denied the oppotunity to produce small numbers of quality animals or to rescue those in need.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Lynn Wilson, Kennel Manager, Rocking W Coonhound Crew [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S. 1139 radically alters the existing Animal Welfare Act and for the first time allows federal intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

I do not trust some of those that are supporting this,they will use any means nessary to take what i enjoy.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Lynn Perkins [redacted]>
[redacted]YRA KY 41549

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different, their homes are different.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Lyn Harral [redacted]
[redacted]
Ozark, MO 65721

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

I would appreciate your vote against S.1139.

Lorna Boydston Corresponding Secretary To Spokane Kennel Club [redacted]
[redacted]
Colbert, Wa. 99005

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

S. 1139 infringes on the privacy rights of small and medium sized breeders by allowing federal inspectors into our private homes. We are the people who are breeding for the love of our breeds and working to produce the best quality pets possible, however many of us will stop breeding because we do not want to have our private homes turned upside down by government regulation.

Although I am totally against puppy mills and would love to have a law that would strictly regulate them, small breeders are the ones that usually produce happy, healthy loving puppies for pets. I don't feel that they small breeders should be regulated the same as puppy mills. I am not sure what the answer is but I don't feel that S.1139 PAWS is the right answer.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Lorie Shamaly [redacted]
[redacted]
Douglasville, GA 30135

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' homes.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

lori loesche [redacted]
[redacted]
Pella, Iowa 50219

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

The ease with which an American buyer can import a puppy or kitten from the foreign marketplace is astonishing. There is no regulation or inspection of foreign kennels and many of these puppies and kittens may carry diseases which threaten human health. In the perfect law of reverse consequences, importation of foreign animals will increase to meet American buyers' demands as American breeders scale back or stop breeding due to S. 1139.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Lori Dean [redacted]
Hilliard, OH 43026

I am requesting that my views listed below be made part of the Official Public Record.

I am opposed to the proposed bill for the following reasons:

- 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

- PAWS is detrimental to thousands of hobby breeders raising cats and dogs in their homes who would be subjected to USDA inspection and the Animal Welfare Act commercial facilities of care which are inappropriate for the home environment

- The AKC, HSUS, ASPCA, PETA, DDAL and the AVMA do not represent the views of hundreds of clubs, organizations, registries, rescue groups and thousands of individuals who oppose the PAWS bill.

- The Animal Welfare Act appropriately, and should continue, to license commercial wholesalers of dogs/cats to the pet retailers, brokers and transporters of animals. The USDA should not regulate retail breeders selling directly to the public or rescues (individuals or organizations).

Sincerely,

Lori A. Dean
[redacted]
Hilliard, OH 43026

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

USDA has no place in the private homes of hobby breeders. Many rare breeds will become extinct because hobby breeders would rather stop breeding than be faced with the invasive requirement of federal regulation of their private homes.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

As President of the Cat and Dog Rescue Associatiion in Los Angeles, our Board and our volunteers oppose this proposed law. Ou main reason for this is S 1139 (PAWS) is very probably unconstitutional. A US Supreme Court case, Sentell v. New Orleans and the Carrolton Railway (1897) very specifically states in its last paragraph that only the states have the right to control animals and all those kinds of decisions should be made through state legislation. Additionally the Slaughter-House Cases (1873), in the first ruling on the Fourteenth Amendment,the US Supreme ruled only a few rights deriving from "federal citizenship" were subject to federal protection and the states still protected most civil and property rights. And pet animals are personal property. Of course the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution protects everyone in the United States from unreasonable search and seizure "shalkl not be violated" and this certainly applies to S. 1139(PAWS). The 10th Amendment cela!
rly statex that "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, ae reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

If S. 1139 should be passed by the Congress and signed by the President, we will immediately obtain the services of a constitutional lawyer and take S. 1139 up through the justice system.

As another thought, has it ever occured to anyone wanting this bill that the cost would probably be prohibitive. Itg would require AT LEAST the hiring of 10,000 additonal USDA inspectors, require at least 12 monthw of training and cost us, the US taxpayer between $250,000,000 to $500,000,000 (a half billion dollars) a year when all the people that need to be hired to do recordkeeping are hired in additon to te inspectors. Costs could well go much hire when legal challenges and other leal challenges are added to the costs.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Lois Newman [redacted]
[redacted]
Los Angeles, CA 90039-2520

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Please don't pass this misleading bill!

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Lisa Pinto [redacted]t>
[redacted].
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

Zoning problems will occur for many who try to obtain a USDA license.

The bill's supporters initially stated that S. 1139 did not include volunteer animal rescuers. This claim was false. Then supporters claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. It's impossible to write a workable exemption for this. "True rescue" is in the souls of the volunteers who perform this charitable service at no cost to the taxpayers.

Please do not be misled by the testimony at the one-sided hearing scheduled for November 8.

I urge you to reject S.1139.

Lisa Pinto <[redacted]t>
[redacted]
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Few puppymillers are even in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare law. Creating a new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve the situation. Stretching an already overburdened task force of inspectors will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. The correct solution is to devote adequate manpower to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Thank you for voting no on S.1139.

LIsa Garrison [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Linda Nowack [redacted]
[redacted]
Spalding, MI 49886

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Because of supply and demand the foreign market will expand if S. 1139 passes. Foreign markets are beyond the jurisdiction of the USDA. Buyers will have no way of knowing the conditions in which their new puppy was raised. The day of the well-socialized, home raised puppy will be gone forever.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Linda Iorlano [redacted]
[redacted]
Ledyard, CT 06339

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 will wreak havoc with the USDA's ability to concentrate its resources on large facilities that pose the greatest risk of violations.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

Thank you for your no vote on S. 1139.

Linda Heitkamp [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Thank you. I ask again that you oppose S.1139.

Linda Hale <[redacted]om>
19[redacted].
Covington, WA 98042

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

I urge you to reject S.1139.

Linda Burley [redacted]
[redacted]
Altoona Pa 16601

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

PAWS is an unnecessary bill. Existing animal welfare laws at a state and local level, with adequate manpower and enforecment are sufficient to do the job.

Rescue operations are almost always staffed and run by volunteers, rather than the paid employees comprising commercial kennel staffs. S. 1139 will subject volunteer rescue operations to commercial kennel regulations, effectively ending the chances at interim housing that many animals need while waiting to be adopted. Please prevent this travesty by voting against S. 1139.

Animal RIGHTS or Animal WELFARE? Do YOU know the difference? ----------
Animal Welfare supports humane use and treatment of animals and believes that humans have a responsibility to care for animals. Animal Welfare includes humane treatment and responsible care of animals used by humans for service, research, food, education, kept in zoos or sanctuaries, and especially those animals kept by pet owners.

Animal Rights (AR) is based on moral and ethical philosophies. While Animals Rights Advocates and Groups talk about humane care, the bottom line is to work for humane care and legislation ONLY until all animals can be removed from human use.

I am opposed to S. 1139 (PAWS) because I am a Animal Welfare supporter and believe that companion animals need to be a part of our lives during this generation and generations to come.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Lester Pinkard Jr. <[redacted]>
[redacted]
League City, TX 77573

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. After Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma we do not need to spend taxpayer dollars to inspect hobby breeders.

The language of S. 1139 is so vague and open to interpretation that it is alarming! The bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be federally regulated. The USDA should not have the additional burden of interpreting and applying a law that is unnecessary and redundant, due to existing state laws and local ordinances.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Writing regulations for home hobby breeders will be a daunting task that cannot possibly cover all situations equitably. Breeding is not a one size fits all hobby. Breed requirements are different, breeders lifestyles are different and their homes are different. Please oppose S. 1139 and save in-home hobby breeders from federal intervention.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Lester Pinkard <[redacted]>
[redacted]
League City, Texas 77573

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

The USDA's responsibilities should not be expanded to an area already well covered by state laws and local ordinances. In the post Hurricane Katrina devastation, Congress has many more urgent places to spend our tax dollars than on federalizing hobby breeding.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Any attempt to regulate Internet sales is doomed to fail. The strength of the Internet is that it allows commerce to be conducted globally. If S.1139 passes and a large, commercial facility selling at retail, one of the purported targets of the bill, had to choose between regulation and moving across the U.S. border, does anyone think that they would not simply move outside of the jurisdiction of the United States? They could then take Internet orders with impunity from any U.S. sanction or inspection of their facilities.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Lesa Wamberg [redacted]
[redacted]
Magnet, NE 68749

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

Those breeders who do it right should be encouraged in their hobby. If they drop out, the public's demand for dogs and cats will be filled with lower quality animals which PAWS is supposed to address but does not.

please please oppose bill s 1139

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Leroy Perry [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Existing laws make S. 1139 unnecessary. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Local governments have more than enough laws on the books to satisfy the goals of S. 1139.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

With respect,

Laura Thompson [redacted]m>
[redacted] Brookville, IN 47012

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Responsible breeders should be supported and encouraged. S. 1139 discourages them from breeding healthy, happy, well socialized puppies and kittens.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Existing state laws and local ordinances, along with the current Animal Welfare Act as written, would accomplish everything that S. 1139 seeks to accomplish if the current AWA were adequately manned and enforced.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Larry E. Adams [redacted]
Eclectic,Alabama 36024

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

With all the talk about Internet sales, S.1139 does nothing to prevent Internet sales. Internet sales are not even mentioned in the bill.

This bill is dangerous and misleading. Hobby breeders should not be regulated by the USDA, nor should the USDA be responsible for interpreting the vague language of PAWS. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. Please vote against it.

Please vote against S. 1139. Thank you!

LANDIS A. HIRSTEIN [redacted]
[redacted]
WASHINGTON IL 61571

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby brreeders.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

The bulk of housing for rescued animals is provided by volunteers who offer their private homes, food, vet care and other necessities for the animals, at no cost to the taxpayers. Short- and long-term foster homes are one of the primary benefits of volunteer rescue operations, offering a much more "normal" living environment for animals waiting to be adopted than a commercial kennel environment. If S. 1139 passes, many foster homes will be eliminated. Please reject S. 1139 so that animals desperately needing rescue will not have to die.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Kristi Anglen [redacted]
[redacted]
Norwalk, OH 44857

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

Conscientious breeders should be encouraged and supported. PAWS discourages us from breeding happy, healthy, well socialized pets. PAWS discourages us from breeding at all.

Many have stated that Internet sales are a problem. All of these sellers have physical locations and are subject to existing state animal welfare laws, existing neglect, cruelty and consumer protection laws, along with local ordinances.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' homes.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Kimberly Hundley [redacted]
[redacted] Wyandotte, MI 48192

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Please do not support this bill. Animals have because a big part of peoples lives and for many people they are their saving grace. Please do not allow a few special interest groups take this away from the rest of us.

My family thanks you for opposing S. 1139.

Kimberly Clement [redacted]m>
[redacted]
Reno NV 89506

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

More than a quarter of the Farm Services Agency offices may be closed. How can we justify passage of S. 1139, which will create a huge new program to regulate home hobby breeders? Federalizing hobby breeders is a waste of taxpayer's money.

The United States has no jurisdiction in foreign countries. Animals could bred, born and raised in deplorable conditions elsewhere, then shipped to individual buyers in the United States. S. 1139 does nothing to prevent this. Instead it aims to federalize American hobby breeding.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their pups are raised in their homes and well socialized, unlike those pups produced by commercial breeders. PAWS would take this option away from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

I am complete against this bill. Please hear the voice of the small guy, do not pass this bill.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Kim Causey [redacted]>
[redacted]
Oregon City, OR 97045

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Kevin Hanses [redacted]
[redacted]
Sheridan, MI 48884

Dear Senator Santorum,

My family and I ask that you oppose S.1139.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

Thank you for your help!

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

kenneth moyer [redacted]
[redacted]
wyalusing, pa 18853-9737

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

Please vote against S.1139.

Sincerely,

Kelly Littlejohn [redacted]>
[redacted]
Longview Texas, 75604

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

There is a distinct shortage of facts to demonstrate that alleged abuses by Internet sellers are not already subject to the jurisdiction of local authorities.

Commercial breeders raise pets on a large scale with little socialization while hobby breeders raise puppies as members of the family, interacting with children, sounds of a household, etc. The hobby breeder must be exempt from regulations that would require them to raise their animals not as household members but as commercial products. S. 1139 robs them of this option.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

After the wrath of Hurricane Katrina there are human beings who are homeless, hurting and destitute. Our government should spend its resources in dealing with people issues rather than animal issues that are adequately covered. Expanding the federalization of pet breeding is one of the most ill advised actions that could be taken.

Many independent solo volunteer animal rescuers or small groups do not have 501(c)(3) status. Even if those rescues with non-profit status are somehow exempted via amendment, the volunteer service of many who do not have non-profit status will fall by the wayside, causing the deaths of thousands of pets whose lives could otherwise be saved.

Its just wrong and AKC you can have your junk papers back I will never have a dog in your club you back stabbers

I sincerely appreciate your voting no on S.1139.

Keith Swick [redacted]
[redacted] Johnstown Ohio 43031

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' homes.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

The USDA is the agency responsible for interpreting the unclear language in S. 1139. They are already overburdened with the regulation of food and agriculture and will be hard-pressed to provide interpretations or supply enforcement personnel for S 1139.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Keith Pruski <[redacted]>
[redacted]6
New Orleans LA 70115

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you vote against S. 1139.

S. 1139 is an unprecedented intrusion of privacy rights in hobby breeders' homes.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

The USDA is the agency responsible for interpreting the unclear language in S. 1139. They are already overburdened with the regulation of food and agriculture and will be hard-pressed to provide interpretations or supply enforcement personnel for S 1139.

In closing, please vote "NO" on S. 1139.

Keith Pruski [redacted]>
[redacted]6
New Orleans LA 70115

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

The bulk of the language in S.1139 is vague and open to interpretation. The USDA should not be burdened with the responsibility of doing what the authors of S. 1139 failed to do. S.1139 is an unwieldy, cumbersome bill. It should not pass.

When good American breeders are driven out of their hobby, poor quality imports will increase. Since prices will be lowest in foreign countries, growth of imported puppies will skyrocket.

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Katrina Rosser [redacted]
[redacted] Cedartown, Ga. 30125

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Socialized, well-adjusted puppies do not come from commercial breeders, they come from hobby breeders. Please keep the USDA out of hobby breeders' homes.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

For these reasons I urge you to vote against S.1139.

Kathy Davidson [redacted]>
[redacted] Portland, IN 47371

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

My dogs are my family. They love, comfort, and protect me. If this bill is passed, how much longer will it be before my pets are regulated, or even removed from my home?

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Kathleen M. Truesdell [redacted]
[redacted]
Ypsilanti MI 48197

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am writing to oppose S.1139.

Few puppy mills are now in compliance with the existing Animal Welfare Law which they are already governed by. A new law that includes thousands of hobby breeders will not improve puppy mill compliance. Stretching an already overburdened regulatory agency will only add to the problems that S. 1139 proposes to solve. Adequate manpower needs to be devoted to enforcing the current AWA.

S.1139 doesn't "close a loophole" in the Animal Welfare Act, as proponents claim. The bill is due to opposition to individuals selling dogs, cats and other animals directly to the pet-owning public. S. 1139 is an enormous step toward ending the breeding of pure bred dogs and pedigreed cats in a home setting.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Karen D. Dwerlkotte [redacted]>
[redacted].
Long Beach, CA 90806

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Karen Cessna [redacted]
[redacted]
Vienna,Ohio 44473

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

Most sincerely,

[redacted] <kthayer@ukedogs.com>
8[redacted]le
Po[redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

There is a distinct shortage of facts to demonstrate that alleged abuses by Internet sellers are not already subject to the jurisdiction of local authorities.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Good breeders who do all necessary health testing and whelp and raise puppies in a home environment will not want to allow the government into their homes. If they breed fewer good quality pets it will not reduce the public's demand for pets. That demand will be satisfied by others who don't do any health testing.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I've e-mailed my Senators that are on this committee regarding this bill urging them to get rid of this lousy, animal-rights based legislation. I will be watching how my Senators react to this bill.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Christopher Snyder [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S. 1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

It's easy for American buyers to import dogs and puppies. S. 1139 does nothing to stop this practice. If the bill passes, importing from foreign marketplaces where no oversight or inspection is in place will only increase as conscientious American hobby breeders drop out of breeding. The end result will be a greater threat to American pets and even humans by imported animals who can carry contagious and zoonotic diseases.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

S. 1139 is nothing more than additional federal intervention in our homes. The current AWA should be enforced as written. S. 1139 does nothing to protect the welfare of dogs and cats but will increase the burden of an already overstretched federal budget.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

For these reasons and many more, I implore you to vote against S.1139. Thank you.

Sylvia Stribling
1601 Sunnyside Dr.
Loveland, CO 80538

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am an animal lover, pet owner, and breeder of Siberian Huskies. I only breed about 1-2 litters per year, however, I co-own a number of females who live with other people. My name is on their papers, and if they breed their bitches, I will be over the "25" puppies per year without even lifting a finger. I am writing you to voice my opposition to S1139 (PAWS). The laws currently on the books regarding animals are good laws. They would be better laws IF there was time, money, and manpower to enforce them. The new regulations, as described in S1139, would take MORE TIME, MONEY AND MANPOWER to enforce. As a small – time breeder, I resent the Federal Government's intrusion into my home. Please rescind S1139 PAWS.

Sincerely,

Cindy Nobile

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

My dogs are my family. They love, comfort, and protect me. If this bill is passed, how much longer will it be before my pets are regulated, or even removed from my home?

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Kathleen M. Truesdell <kmtmuffy@hotmail.com>
140 S. Mansfield
Ypsilanti MI 48197

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139 and protect home hobby breeders and rescuers.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

Because the USDA is already overburdened with the regulation of food and agriculture in this country, it will be hard-pressed to provide either interpretations or enforcement personnel for S. 1139. Much of the language in S. 1139 is vague.

Almost no volunteer rescue operation can comply with the volumes of regulations required of commercial breeders. Rescue animals, many of which come from less-than-ideal circumstances, need to be housed in home environments that can more closely simulate their prospective new homes than commercial kennels can possibly do. I implore you to help these good Samaritans continue their important contributions to the animals and their communities by voting "No" on S. 1139.

The PAWS bill will most severaly affect the middle sized breeder. The smaller "home" breeder -- with just a itter or two a year will not be affected. And you can be certain that the very focus of this bill -- to elimminate puppy mills will be unsuccessful. I can assure you that these operations are already making plans to avoid inspection called for in this bill. However, the middle sized breeder--the family hobby breeder who owns a number of dogs in order to AVOID LINE BREEDING and to AVOID OVERBREEDING females will be most adversely affected. These middle sized breeders take good care of their animals, where they are raised in a family atmosphere. Their health needs are looked after and they are adequately fed, housed and are giving appropriate attention to prepare their puppies for new homes. If the middle sized breeder is eliminated, then it will open the borders of our country for amimals raised outside the United States. Not only is there the risk that these animals will be of poorer quality, but there is a TREMENDOUS RISK OF DISEASE IN IMPORTING ANIMALS. And the number of dogs and cats that would be imported should the PAWS bill pass will be enormous. To comply with the intrusive regulations proposed in PAWS could cost breeders many thousands of dollars. If this PAWS bill were to pass, it would be cheaper for a consumer to purchase an animal outside the United States and pay to have it shipped into the United States than to purchase an animal from a conscienous U.S. breeder. Many quality middle-sized U.S. breedres would effectively be put out of business by the passage of PAWS.

When we have a litter of puppies -- and we have several a year, it is not unusual for the mother and her puppies to be in my bedroom or my kitchen. To say thaat I don't want the U.S.D.A. in my bedroom is an understatement!!

I understand the concern of some proponents of this bill concerning internet sales of animals. I, too, was concerned before I actually began advertising on the internet. Now I would MUCH RATHER deal with an internet purchaser than a prospective client who just picks up the Sunday paper and says, "Let go for a ride and get a puppy." The internet purchaser asks a LOT of questions! They are careful shoppers! They seek to get the pet that is right for their family! They want to see pictures! Pictures of the sire and the dam and the puppies and your kennel and your house and you!!! They want to come and visit. They want references!! YES!! I would much rather sell to an internet purchaser than to the spur-of-the-moment buyer who has given no thought to the fact that it is actually adding a family member to their household.

And I am also somewhat confused by the position of the American Kennel Club. The AKC is

backing the P.A.W.S. bill, which opposes internet sales of animals. However, for a fee of $30, you may advertise your puppies on the AKC website!!!! If the advertisement of animals over the internet is alleged to be wrong, then how does a fee of $30 make it right?!?!

We have planned for years for our retirement, as we know that we cannot count on the federal government to provide for our needs through Social Security. We have invested many thousand of dollars in our kennel areas, our insulated whelping boxes, in heating pads (to keep puppies warm and healthy), many kinds of equipment,in high quality food and in proper provisions for procedures to keep the puppies and dogs healthy, such a worming and immunizations. We take our animals to the vet when they need attention.

I can assure you that we do NOT need the supervision of the U.S.D.A. in the bedroom of our home to tell us how to best take care of our beagles! We already provide excellent care and produce fine quality puppies. We are able to provide references because we are a quality operation.

There are many more important issues and measures that the U.S.D.A. needs to focus on thaa to come inside my home and into my bedroom to see my beagle puppies and mamas.

There is the increasing danger of terrorism through our food supply. If they are in my bedroom looking at a litter of beagle puppies (beautiful and precious though they may be!!), then the U.S.D.A. IS NOT IN A FOOD FACTORY making an inspection and perhaps preventing terrorism.

For example, my husband works in a food factory that turns out a million pounds of margarine a day. The potential for terrorism is unprecedented. One new employee who is affiliated with a terrorism group, could possible maneuver a substance in the vat that could enorous potential for harm to millions of people.

Personally, I think this should be a high priority and in the scope of the all that has happened recently -- with the hurricane damage, etc., I think that on the scale of important issues that must be dealt with immediately, the PAAWS bill needs to be dealt with. The PAWS bill needs to be voted against, dumped, and completely dismissed.

While the intent to do away with puppy mills is an honorable desire, the passage of the PAWS legislation will actually have the OPPOSITE EFFECT. The PAWS legislation will put the middle-size breeder out of business. And in so doing, will provide even more business for the puppy mills and out of country breeders who are not subject to this legislation.

If you have read this far, then congratulations! You may really CARE about animals.

I know there is a hearing scheduled for November 7. I know that probably the HSUS and PETA and perhaps the AKC -- all of whom are supporting passage of this bill will be invited to appear before the committee and speak.

Where are the represenative who will speak for the breeders? Where are the representatives who will speak for the thousands of families who have gotten their pets from reputable U.S. breeders.

One side of the coin is only half the picture. Will this Committee present the WHOLE PICTURE and invite breeders to speak! Will this Comimttee invite some of the FAMILIES who purchased their pets to come before you and tell how they came into our homes and witnessed the love and care of our animals?

Will you seek the ENTIRE TRUTH -- by presenting both sides of this issue? No, we don't have the expensive lobbists. We have only our votes. Don't be misleead by those with the "money" to ask for favors.

DO THE RIGHT THING AND VOTE AGAINST S 1139 KNOWN AS THE PAWS LEGISLATION.

Please vote against S.1139 and protect our privacy rights.

Faye Davenport [redacted]
[redacted]
Ashland, Alabama [redacted]

July 11, 2005

Senator Rick Santorum
Chairman
Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Senate Bill 1139 Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 - OPPOSITION

Dear Senator Santorum;

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc. to express opposition to the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) as it is written. CFA is a non-profit organization founded in 1906 with over 600 member clubs throughout the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and other areas of the world.[1] The PAWS dramatically changes the concept of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) as established by Congress in 1966. CFA is concerned with portions of this bill that pose a significant threat to the preservation of pedigreed cat breeds and the very existence of our organization. I regret that CFA, as a prominent stakeholder, was not given the opportunity for input prior to the introduction of S.1139.

The following will summarize our primary objections to the PAWS including concerns specific to breeders of pedigreed cats. Attached is an article written by a veterinarian respected worldwide for her expertise in feline reproductive physiology to provide more detail on this critical issue.

Federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public at retail as required by the PAWS is not appropriate. There is no compelling reason to justify discarding the historic concept of the Animal Welfare Act, which is to regulate the wholesale selling of dogs and cats to brokers, pet stores or for research as well as those engaged in animal transport or animal exhibition. The PAWS would extensively broaden federal regulation to include an unknown number of private home-based breeders who are not motivated by profit-making but instead the goals of preserving and improving upon their chosen breeds.

The quantitative measure to determine "high volume" breeding/selling or commercially motivated activity is arbitrary and includes private home breeders of pedigreed cats with small or moderate breeding programs. The PAWS bill uses thresholds based on the American Kennel Club's idea of breeders with "high volume" activity (7 litters or more or the sale of 26 or more). Because of reproductive

differences in cats this would mean that cat fanciers with as few as 4 or 5 intact females could be required to be regulated by the federal government.[2]

The PAWS thresholds do not take into consideration feline husbandry issues or reproductive physiology, which differ significantly from those of dogs. Cats come in heat year round with periods of rest every 2 to 19 days if not bred. The optimum for domestic cats is to have two litters per year. Queens vary in cycling frequency and cats in some breeds do have fewer estrus cycles.[3] Generally for most breeds litters spaced every 8 to 9 months apart is adequate when considering the health of the cat. However, when female cycling is continuous, holding off cats from pregnancy can lead to health problems such as uterine infection, loss of body condition and stress-related conditions. A breeder has few choices. Side effects preclude the use of contraceptive drugs for avoiding reproduction in felines. Progressive uterine disease in an unmated female cat is also an important cause of infertility.[4]

In order to assure genetic diversity responsible breeding depends on exchange of cats, leasing, and other methods. In some breeds outcrossing to other breeds is imperative so breeders need to keep and mate more cats than others. CFA registration records for 2004 show that 1136 breeders registered 7 or more litters (1248 in 2003). Moderate sized catteries with serious breeding programs fall in this range. It is this core group of breeders that produce bloodlines critical to the preservation of many rare and beautiful cat breeds. They provide the high quality cats with outstanding pedigrees to other smaller and more novice breeders/show exhibitors.[5] These catteries with 5 or more female cats are not sub-standard "facilities" that need to be regulated.

CFA is unaware of any demonstrated need for federal regulation of breeders selling cats and dogs directly to the general public. Claims within the past few months of a growing problem of dogs or cats sold through mass media channels or the Internet are anecdotal and not verified by any facts, examples or data. This is especially true for cats. Several studies show that over 90% of all cats in American households are random-bred strays, cats obtained from shelters or from friends and family. Most owned cats are spayed/neutered (85% to 87%), few are obtained from pet stores other than through adoption events and only 3% of owned cats are obtained from breeders.[6] Large commercial breeding of cats simply does not exist to any great extent either at the wholesale level or retail. Commercial cat breeding on a large scale is neither a viable nor profitable business venture because of the well known vulnerability of cats to infectious diseases and stress-related factors.

The advertising of cats through the Internet has no inherent relationship to large commercial selling or inhumane conditions for animals. Cat breeds are and most hobby breeders have websites to reach a desiring public throughout the US. Because of the many excellent Internet sources for educational material, including those of CFA and AKC, cat and dog buyers are more than ever aware of how to find a breed to meet their expectations and a reputable breeder.[7]

The USDA standards of care are not appropriate for residential environments. Federal housing facility standards emphasize hard surfaces and regular sanitizing. We question the feasibility of creating special "residential" standards for home based breeders. There will not be two "classes" of Class A Dealers. Compromising on the regulations in order to accommodate the newly added home breeder-dealers may potentially lessen the enforcement of the AWA standards of care for existing Class A wholesaler-broker-dealers. This is not in the best interests of animals.

Self-regulation of cat breeders selling at retail is accomplished by the Cat Fanciers' Association. CFA has a successful Voluntary Cattery Environment Inspection Program. Veterinary inspection enables breeders to proudly advertise a CFA approved or "Cattery of Excellence".[8] CFA considers catteries that register litters representing 75 kittens or more in a year to be "high volume" and this triggers a required veterinary inspection. In the year 2004 there were 66 catteries that registered more than 20 litters with CFA (21 litters x 3.6 kittens average would = 75) in the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and elsewhere.

There are numerous unknown or unintended consequences of the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 that could affect both the USDA and individuals.

- **The PAWS would greatly overextend the enforcement capacity of the USDA.** The numbers of facilities/homes that would be added cannot be accurately determined but a reasonable estimate is 4000 or 5000 AKC dog breeders and 1200 CFA cat breeders, plus those of other registries, added to the existing 3000 Class A Dealers. When the "facility" is the entire residence and breeding cats are in bedrooms or wandering throughout mingling with spayed and neutered household pets USDA inspectors would face unanticipated challenges. Since most home-based breeders work at a job elsewhere inspectors would experience many "call-backs". All of this is a waste of taxpayers' money and diverts the resources of the USDA from focusing on the business motivated and truly large sub-standard facilities as intended by the AWA. There is no authority in the current AWA to allow non-governmental organizations to take on kennel/cattery inspections.

- **Federal regulation of breeders selling at retail from their homes may mean individuals could face unintended problems.** Zoning laws in local jurisdictions would consider a USDA licensed facility or activity to be a commercial business and individuals could be forced to move or to apply for difficult-to-obtain variances. Extensive record keeping, health certificates, fees and unknown penalties for violations would be a substantial burden for most small/moderate private home breeders. Public availability of information concerning the names/addresses of breeders or buyers would be a privacy and security concern for residential breeders.

- **Factors related to those who rescue cats/dogs have not been considered.** Cat breeders sometimes take in, neuter, advertise and sell stray cats, rescued cats or cats bred by co-owners living elsewhere. Breeders of pedigreed cats may have fewer than 6 litters yet they could sell over 25 kittens/cats in a year

including strays or rescues not "bred or raised on the premises" and would have to be licensed as a dealer. Rescuers charging "adoption fees" are selling animals "for compensation or profit" - there is no distinction in the AWA. The AWA currently does not regulate any direct retail sellers, including shelters or rescue groups/individuals. With the broadening of the AWA through S.1139, and considering many rescuers are involved in interstate activities including transporting of cats/dogs, it is unlikely that these groups would later be exempted under any new regulations. Most likely individuals would discontinue accepting rescued cats in order to stay under the threshold of 25 sales or less.

The Pet Animal Welfare Statute is not sufficiently thought out and is entirely too broad. The negative consequences are not balanced by worthy benefits for cats. There is a growing demand for well bred healthy pedigreed cats by those who appreciate their predictable personalities and appearance. This bill will discourage the public's best source of home-raised, well socialized kittens/cats.

All states have animal cruelty laws properly targeted to inhumane conditions for animals whether in a commercial or home setting. We recognize that in some states there may be commercial breeding of dogs at a level that warrants facility licensing but safeguarding the welfare of these dogs can and has been accomplished on the state level. Whenever there are reports of animal neglect or abuse involving large numbers of cats it is usually related to the mental illness of "hoarding" and almost always the animals on the premises include stray or rescued cats. This addiction-related phenomenon can occur whether or not there is any breeding or sales of cats. The PAWS would have no impact on this particular animal welfare problem.

CFA encourages better enforcement of the AWA to protect the welfare of animals in facilities that breed and sell at wholesale. We request that you consider limiting this bill to language that would increase the ability of the USDA to better enforce regulation of existing licensees. Should the PAWS be amended to exclusively address these matters CFA would reconsider our opposition.

Thank you for considering our concerns. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely yours,
Joan Miller
The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.
Legislative Coordinator
J[redacted]

Cc Pam DelaBar, CFA President
Thomas H. Dent, CFA Executive Director

REFERENCES:

1. CFA participants breed, register and show pedigreed cats. Part of CFA's mission is to enhance the well-being of all cats. Fanciers are active in cat health

promotion, cat breed rescue, shelter support and other animal related programs. CFA is a positive force that has helped to educate the general public about proper cat care, spay/neuter and responsible pet ownership. CFA is proud of its self- regulation programs to encourage high standards of care for cats in multi-cat breeding environments. A "Breeder Code of Ethics" and breeder mentoring program are part of ongoing efforts to ensure responsible breeding programs and good feline husbandry.

2. Five female cats may have 1.5 to 2 litters per year with an average of 4.2 kittens per litter - this can easily mean 7 or more litters and more than 26 kittens to sell.

3. "Feline Reproduction and Breeding Management" (2005), Susan Little, DVM, Dip.ABVP, Certified Feline Practice.

4. *Feline Husbandry*; Niels Pedersen, DVM , Ch.3 "Reproduction and Reproductive Disorders, pg.134, pg. 144,pg. 147

5. *Feline Husbandry*; N. Pedersen and Joan (Wastlhuber) Miller. Ch.8 Cattery Design and Management.

6. American Pet Product Manufacturers Association National Pet Owners Surveys.

7. www.cfa.org/cbrs.html
www.akc.org

8. /www.cfa.org/articles/cattery-inspection.html

Please read also:

- Pet Lover Alert - The "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) (PDF)
- CFA's Position Statement re Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 - Jun.07.05
- The "Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005" (PAWS) - Apr.28.05
- PDF Flyer re PAWS alert

To correspond with the CFA Legislative Committee, please send email to

sincerely,
Steven Mariucci
feline fancier

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photographers. Many people have contributed to this site. Answers to frequently asked questions may be found on our FAQ
comments to cfa@cfainc.org.

Dear Jeff Stoltzfoos:

Being an animal lover resident of Cambridge, Massachusetts, a third generation Persian cat breeder, educated at Harvard and University of Chicago and California respectively a daughter of a geneticist and granddaugther of a physician both of whom enjoyed hobby breeding of their Persian cats, both loved their animals deeply, both devoted the time and attention of this hobby to other medically related benefits - Animal Therapy a significant and resultant public benefit derived from their and my hobby interests.

I find the current legislation on PAWS disturbing, tactics taken in instituting reform insultive, least an issue of governmental oppression and more an issue of misdirection of legislative efforts.

Senator Santorum has scheduled a S1139 "information hearing" for November 8, 2005 at 2:30 P.M. Only PAWS supporters AKC, AVMA, HSUS, DDAL and those chosen by the AKC and HSUS will be allowed to testify, in what will be a tightly controlled public relations exercise. Such a one-sided spectacle will permit Sen. Santorum to claim a PAWS public hearing had been held and assert that S1139-critics' concerns were addressed in any subsequent version of PAWS. To note: AKC met with groups like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and DDAL mere days before PAWS was introduced. Yet the AKC refused to meet with the Cat Fanciers Association (CFA), NAIA, PIJAC or other strong and steadfast allies at any time before PAWS' introduction. This raises a question of concern regarding the balance of information that will be testified thereon.

Working together, SAOVA, NCRAOA and DFOW have taken a leading role in educating legislators and fellow animal owners about the destructive federal bill known as "PAWS" - the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005. Please beware:

S1139/HR2669 is being promoted by Animal Rights groups as legislation that "will close a loophole in the Animal Welfare Act (AWA)." Typical of the animal rights agenda, their description of what PAWS does is disingenuous, at best. At worst, it absolutely misleads legislators and the public into thinking this legislation will put an end to "puppymills," when nothing could be further from the truth.

What PAWS does do is federalize a hobby - by subjecting home breeders and rescuers of cats and dogs to USDA licensure and over 60 pages of regulations. It further provides groundwork for imposing extra restrictions on "any person who buys, or sells any dog for hunting, security, or breeding purposes." Essentially, the best source for puppies and kittens - the home breeder - will be all but eliminated; thereby assuring that the only choice for consumers are commercially-bred pets.

Most home breeders attention to this hobby arises from the love of ownership and of the animals involved, they are not profit driven. Their hobby is a part of the larger concept of personal happiness from which beneficial creativity may spring.

Please OPPOSE federalization of animal breeding hobbies - if not many small type hobby breeders will not be able to continue - thus squishing their beloved hobby interests including less single entries from children and/or adults at dog, cat and 4H-shows.

Please favor me with a reply

Thank you for your time and attention to http://www.nopaws.org/

Yours truly,
Heidi K. Erickson

Cambridge, MA

Subject: S1139 OPPOSE

Florida Animal Owners Alliance

Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee Hearing on S1139 (PAWS)

REQUEST THAT OUR VIEWS BE MADE PART OF THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD.

The Florida Animal Owners Alliance, Inc. (FAOA) is a political lobbying group dedicated to protecting animal owners, users and enthusiasts against proposed legislation, harassment and propaganda put forth by animal rights activists. We support/lobby for reasonable, well-written legislation which serves to protect animal owner's interests. Our membership includes hunters, fishermen, trappers, gun enthusiasts, research scientists, rodeo enthusiasts, working ranches and farms, horsemen, cattlemen, pork and poultry producers, dog sportsmen, obedience trainers, and dog and cat breeders, both professional and hobbyists. We support humane and proper treatment of animals but do not believe they are superior or equal to humans. The FAOA Executive Board voted unanimously to oppose S. 1139, the Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005 for the following reasons:

- **S. 1139 will have absolutely no affect whatsoever on sub-standard kennels in foreign countries as the USDA will have no authority to inspect these facilities.**
- **The use of numbers to define whether or not a breeder's premises should be inspected is arbitrary and capricious. Some breeders can raise more than seven litters in state-of-the-art facilities – others raise one litter (no licensing required) in conditions that are sub-standard.**
- **The Animal Welfare Act originally intended to regulate commercial breeders who sold at wholesale. Breeders who sell directly to the public have public oversight of their operations.**
- **There is no substantive evidence that breeders who sell via the internet are producing puppies/kittens raised in sub-standard facilities or puppies/kittens with health/temperament issues. The internet has produced opportunities for consumers to become more informed before making a purchase.**
- **The cost of the federalization of breeding programs will be cost-prohibitive. In an era where our government has to deal with terrorism, the costs of natural disasters such as Katrina and Rita, health and welfare issues – surely the United States government has better things to spend tax dollars on than the inspection of kitten/puppy breeders' facilities.**

While the American Kennel Club has in the past always supported reasonable legislation for the protection and welfare of purebred dogs, they certainly do not speak for ALL animal interest groups. We feel they are severely misguided in their support of this legislation and certainly they do NOT speak for FAOA's constituency.

For the above reasons, FAOA asks that you vote NO on S. 1139.

Sincerely,

Pat Hawk
President
Florida Animal Owners Alliance, Inc.

2640 284 Blanding Blvd. #111 * Middleburg, FL 32068

Email: info@Flaoa.org

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3 FREE months of MSN Dial-up Internet service. Click for full details and to sign-up now!

Dear Senator Santorum,

Please oppose S.1139. It is an unjustified intrusion by the federal government into my family's life.

By overburdening the breeders of the best U.S. pet dogs and cats, PAWS will force them out of their hobby. Replacement animals will come from foreign countries where there is no U.S. control over breeding conditions.

By classifying them as dealers, S. 1139 puts home breeders in violation of many residential zoning ordinances.

Breeders who sell from their homes are already subject to self-regulation and oversight by those who purchase from them. There is no need to include hobby breeders in federal regulation.

Those who backed S.1139 first claimed that volunteer animal rescue would not be touched by the bill. This claim was erroneous. Proponents then claimed that "true rescue" would be exempt. "True rescue" is only in the hearts of the selfless volunteers who save the lives of needy animals. No exemption could be written to cover such an elusive concept.

I am shocked and deeply saddened by the upcoming PAWS hearing. What a joke. There are no opposition members testifying. Only animal rights activists like reps from HSUS amd DDAl. What kind of sick joke is Senator Santorum pulling? Radical rights activists have no right to try to force us all to live according to their wishes.
This is supposed to be Americal, Land of the free. What happened to thr rights of " We the People" ? Will it only be a memory soon as we are thrown into communism?
Senator Santorum and his radical activists must be stopped.
We can only pray enough of us will be able to vote him out of office next election. he has no right to destroy the lives of hobby show breeders. These are the people working hard to raise well socialized homebred puppies for companions and to improve their breeds. We all know the adgenda of the HSUS and DDAl is to end all breeding of companion animals. But remember this is America. Who gave them the right to tell everyone we must live according to their wishes? This hearing will be a joke. So many now are sick of Senator Santorum and his radical activist groups. I am praying are numbers will be strong enough to vote him out.
Isn't there a man or woman there who supports the freedom to kake a choice to be a home breeder/ show exhibitor of purebred dogs? We are not harming anyone, but the regulations in the paws bill insure most home breeders will not be able to comply and want puppies raised under horrific conditions in USDA approved kennel buildings. Today, a vet in NJ examined one of the puppies from my Fall litter. She told the new owner I can tell this is a home raised and socialized puppy. What a big difference in this pup and what I see from pet shops and puppy farms. I felt very proud. Please tell me there are members of this commitee who have the courage to vote for what is right.
These are the kind of people we want to support. We do not want a communist country. My Grandparents rsiked their lives to flee to this great land so their children and grandchildren could be born in a free land without Government oppression and control of our lives.
The support from AKC is a Joke too. They have become money hungry and probably got somekind of pay off for adding their support and betrtaying their breeders. Surely there are much more important ways to spend our tax dollars.
How about medical aid for the poor? Food for the poor?
Many people in this country are homeless , starving and going without much needed medical care and medicine. And Senator Santorum thinks this is where we should spend tax dollars? Is pacifying animal rights radicals that important to him that this is more important to

destroy the lives of those who enjoy showing/breeding purebred dogs, than to put tax dollars to the needs of the poor and sick in this country? Have any of you ever gone hungry? Suffered in pain and dying because you had no health insurance and could not afford medicine or had to watch loved ones go through that? Lost your home and lived in boxes and old cars wit your family and praying they would not starve or freeze? I know many people who never thought it could happen to them, but they lost everything .
Good people. But of course, I am sure it is much more important for Senator Santorum and the radicals to end the enjoyment of dog breeders. From what I am hearing from many dog loving voters, Senator Santorum has lost their vote. He has certainly lost ours.
Please , stop this hearing until everyone can voice their opinions. Let the people who oppose testify too. And get rid of the radicals. HSUS and DDAL. They have NO RIGHT to force their views on everyone. Who said tey ran the cvountry? They do Not represent me.
Thank you for your time.
I will now pray that Senator Santorum and is radical groups can be stopped.
Sincerely,
Michele Starkey

Sincerely yours,

Michele Starkey [redacted]
[redacted]
hazleton, Pa 18201

From: "Jeffrey Mcindoo" <jeffrey@jteconline.com>
To: "Jeffrey Mcindoo" <jeffrey@jteconline.com>
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2005 2:14 PM
Subject: MMMMMM

ATTN: SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

RE: SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON S1139 (PAWS)

I am OPPOSED to SB 1139, the "Pet Animal Welfare Statute" (PAWS).

PAWS IS A PETA SUPPORTED BILL! This is a group with terrorist ties with ELF and ALF. PETA is being investigated in North Carolina for the illegal killing and dumping of dogs and cats. PAWS is a step straight from the Animal Rights Agenda, which states: "We strongly discourage any further breeding of companion animals, including pedigreed or purebred dogs and cats." I strongly oppose the attempt of animal rights groups to use government to further an extremist agenda which will redefine breeders as commercial activity and restrict the rights of responsible breeders and animal owners. PAWS will lead to more restrictive local, county and state regulation AFTER it has been proven impossible to enforce at federal level.

PAWS is the first step to governmental control of all breeders. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has publicly stated that this is the "first step" in their goal to have all breeders required to be federally licensed. This is a government intrusion into hobby breeders' private homes. We do not need governmental control over hobby breeders. In fact, adding thousands of dog hobbyists to the existing assignment of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture will greatly over burden the Department, making it harder to properly enforce the Welfare Act at all.

PAWS limits on how many dogs sold (25) and how many litters (6) does not improve living conditions for animals. In fact, there has been no substantial proof that these numbers of 25 dogs and 6 litters have any connection to the quality of care or the need for regulation. To invade the homes of hobby breeders based on these numbers is wrong. This legislation will be detrimental to those who are doing the most to help animals such as the show/hobby breeders who breed selectively for the betterment of the breed. They are already health testing their animals and breeding for good conformation and temperament according to the breed standard. Their animals are raised in their homes and well socialized. PAWS would take away this option from hobby breeders and severely limit or possibly with some breeds, eliminate the best and most reputable source of puppies to the public. Home –based breeding programs offer mentally healthy dogs because they are raised in homes (some with children) and are handled regularly. These breeders are the optimum source of well socialized pets.

This bill is unfair to all the ethical dog breeders in the United States who love their animals and take great pride in their care and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to reject the PAWS bill.

OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORD
Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee on S 1139 (PAWS)

The American Rabbit Breeders Association opposes S 1139 (PAWS) as it is currently written for the following reasons.

- We oppose the concept of federal regulation of hobby breeders of rabbits and cavies (guinea pigs).
- We believe that this bill as written would be detrimental to our **30,000** member association, who are mainly rabbit and cavy (guinea pig) fanciers/exhibitors that raise their animals for competition and show.
- We do not believe that there is any credible evidence to show that huge amounts of rabbits or cavies (guinea pigs) are being sold to the public at retail through mass media or over the Internet. If one was to check, they would find that on rabbit and cavy sites of our membership that specific show or pet quality animals were being sold.
- We believe that S 1139 will harm existing youth rabbit and cavy programs that are sponsored by 4-H and FFA because it will regulate youth and families who raise these animals and sell a few of their project animals to others. Selling these animals is usually part of the project requirements.
- We oppose this bill because it is not clearly written as to the impact that it will have on hobby breeders of other species other than dogs and cats.
- We believe that commercial rabbit and cavy operations should continue to be regulated by the Animal Welfare Act.

The American Rabbit Breeders Association is the largest non profit volunteer group of rabbit and cavy fanciers in the world. Our organization represents a 30,000 membership comprised of adults, youth and families who raise rabbits and cavies (guinea pigs). We charter 1145 clubs and have a registration system for rabbits and cavies. There were close to 900,000 rabbits and cavies shown last year in sanctioned ARBA shows this past

year. This does not include all of the small county fairs which had rabbit and cavy exhibits within the United States where 4-H and FFA members competed. Our ARBA National Convention and Show several weeks ago in Indianapolis, Indiana had an exhibit of 25,000 animals. We have recently partnered with the American Livestock Breed Conservancy to protect our endangered breeds of rabbits. The ARBA has foundations for Youth Scholarship and Research. We promote responsible animal ownership and breeding or rabbits and cavies and would welcome the opportunity for any committee members to show our organization how we could help solve a problem that we can find no credible hard evidence that it exists!

Cindy Wickizer
ARBA President

Dear Mr. Chairman and Esteemed Committee Members,

Please vote against S. 1139. The Department of Agriculture does not need to be burdened with the task of inspecting American citizens' private homes.

There are thousands of volunteer animal rescuers across the U.S. who work to make a difference in the lives of discarded animals. Rescuers can not hope to continue their work without receiving compensation in the form of adoption fees which help to offset the costs of vaccinating, spaying or neutering, and taking care of numerous other health issues related to the animals that they rehabilitate and adopt out. PAWS prohibits compensation if over 25 animals are adopted out. This could be as few as two pregnant mama dogs and their offspring. Countless animals will die if this proposed legislation becomes law.

S.1139 does not protect pets. Puppy mills already are USDA licensed. Instead the bill will decimate the hobby breeders and breed enthusiasts who take pride in both their puppies and their hobby.

S.1139 classifies home breeders as dealers, putting them in violation of residential and zoning codes throughout the U.S.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

Hobby breeders provide healthy puppies with education for new owners as well as take back and rescue services. It is a labor of love. Please don't extend the federal government into our homes. Forcing out the hobby breeder will increase puppy mill sales.

I respectfully urge that you vote no on S.1139.

Faith Jones <billfaith@verizon.net>
812 Schoolhouse Rd.
Brielle, NJ 08730

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the USDA will be over-stretched and under budget, they will need every government employee to oversee the recovery effort on the Gulf Coast. Food is monitored and inspected by the USDA. Our budget deficit is expected to grow to over $350 Billion dollars as a result of recovery efforts of Katrina. Adding any regulation to the USDA's already over burdened department is a misuse of taxpayer money.

S.1139 does not benefit the health, welfare or quality of dogs in large substandard commercial kennels. To add thousands of dog and cat hobby breeders to the already over burdened USDA inspection system will make it nearly impossible to enforce the existing Animal Welfare Act. Where will the money come from to enforce more regulations?

Even if not-for-profit rescue groups are exempted from PAWS, small independent rescuers will still be classified as dealers if they save and adopt out more than 25 animals a year and receive any compensation. This number can easily be exceeded if a rescuer takes in two pregnant females who deliver large litters of puppies. Even if a rescuer only takes in and re-homes 3 adult dogs per month, they will still be subject to home inspections and required to build a separate facility to house their foster animals rather than providing them with a loving home environment until a "forever" home can be found.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Robbie Spears [redacted]
Virgie KY, [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I ask that you oppose S.1139. Home breeders do not need to be subject to federal regulation.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

S. 1139 puts federal inspectors in hobby breeders private homes, an intrusion that even the USDA argued against in federal court.

Establishing Congressional intent for federal regulation of home hobby breeding sets a terrible precedent that will only lead to demise of hobby breeders. S 1139 wipes out the 2003 U.S. Court of Appeals decision that it was not the intent of Congress to regulate in-home breeders.

PAWS will further burden the already over-burdened USDA inspectors. The current staff of APHIS is barely able to keep up with the wholesale puppy mills that are currently regulated by the AWA. Adding home hobby breeders to the list of those to be inspected will push APHIS past the point of usefulness. Since the hobby breeders are not keeping their pups and kittens in horrific conditions as the commercial breeders are, but will be taking the inspectors' time nonetheless, there will be even less regulation on the worst offenders.

Animal rescue operations, manned by volunteers, are not specifically exempted from S.1139 so these non-profit organizations will be subject to the same regulations as commercial breeders.

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. Many thanks!

Carol Locus [redacted]
[redacted]
Sun Valley, CA [redacted]

Dear Senator Santorum,

I'm writing to oppose S. 1139. Home hobby breeders do not need federal oversight of their hobby.

If S.1139 passes many home hobby breeders who will then be considered dealers under federal law will automatically be in violation of zoning ordinances.

Burdening U.S. breeders with federal regulation will create an advantage for breeders outside the U.S. This will cause an increase in Internet sales, not prevent them.

S.1139 does nothing to stop imports. Rather, it will cause them to increase. If hobby breeders stop breeding rather than accept federal intrusion into their private homes, the number of imports from completely unregulated foreign kennels will grow to meet the pet buying public's demand. Many of these foreign pets may carry contagious diseases that threaten our own pets and even human health.

S.1139 threatens the viability and very existence of hard working animal rescue groups across the nation that are staffed by citizen volunteers. It's highly unlikely, if not impossible, that a valid exemption could be written that would not create a loophole that would later need to be closed, catching these volunteers in the net.

This bill is a completely unnecessary intrusion and should not be considered as a legitimate use of taxpayers money.

I ask that you vote against this bill that violates the privacy of thousands of Americans.

Tim Wells [redacted]
Clemson, SC

Dear Senator Santorum,

I am asking you to vote against S.1139.

S.1139 will further burden the already over burdened USDA inspectors. The current task force is not able to keep up with the mass producers and puppy millers that are already governed by the AWA. Adding hobby breeders to the list that must be federally regulated and inspected will stretch an already too thin task force past the point of usefulness.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina we can not afford S. 1139. The already understaffed, under funded USDA is proposing to close 655 offices nationwide. The Gulf Coast is the port of entry and exit for foodstuffs: meat, dairy and seafood among them -- inspected and monitored by the USDA. Critical funding and manpower should not be diverted for federal oversight of hobby breeders.

None but the largest rescue groups have kennels for their animals. Most rescues house them in foster homes where they live as family until the right adoptive home is found. Most dogs are not happy in a kennel environment and would much prefer to live in a home with interaction with other pets and people. Many rescued dogs require this type of environment and interaction in order to become adoptable. If small rescuers are forced to comply with this type of regulation as well as invasion of privacy in their own homes, most will simply stop rescuing and countless animals that would have otherwise been saved and placed in loving homes will die.

For all these reasons I urge that you vote "NO" on S.1139.

Thank you.

Pat Harrison <[redacted]>
[redacted]
Livonia Mi 48152-2988