

Mayor Fontana and esteemed Councillors,

I would like to clear up some points that were missed in the presentation by an AWAC member ,last Monday evening , concerning banning the sale of companion animals in ALL retail outlets.

--- I have been doing dog rescue for years and have had many foster dogs who were previous puppy mill breeders..., that the farmers sell because they are no longer able to breed, are too sick, too old, blind, crippled and /or mentally shut down...( they want the \$15. that they have spent on vaccines many years ago...or we know they will shoot the dogs. ) We in rescue bring these dear little tortured bodies into our homes , get them the appropriate vet care ( all are spayed or neutered ) ,healthy food, clean water and a huge dose of gentle patience and love. Many of these dogs have terribly painful glaucoma in their eyes and must suffer silently. THESE are the used-up parents of the puppies that are sold in pet stores and other outlets in our city ! Rescues fund-raise to get enough money to care for these released breeding dogs., and many of us are using our own money to give them a safe , loving spot to recover and hopefully find the best forever home.

---Dogs are presently under the Department of Agriculture and are considered property and chattel.! The farmers call their puppy mill operations "commercial kennels " or " breeding kennels"..and most are hidden away from public view due to the horrific conditions of these barns, sheds, garages because they do not want to be reported to the OSPCA for the cruelty inflicted upon their `breeding stock`! . To keep these operations hidden, some of the cruelest mills debark the dogs with a metal pipe rammed down their throats...thus no one hears the dogs cries and whimpers. The puppies from these poor imprisoned breeding dogs..are then bought by a puppy broker who takes orders from several retail places, picks up the puppies at under 5 weeks of age as they are crying like crazy for their mums. The mums are then bred again in a few weeks at her next heat...no time to recover. As a result, the huge majority of puppy mills are undercover and we cannot find them. Most of these kennels have no electricity or running water...so please envision the hottest summer days and the coldest well below zero winter days and nights..., in these barns and sheds. , and these dear k mums trying to care for their puppies , only to have them ripped from them at far too early an age. While rescue groups are able to get a few of these breeders, thousands are shot, drowned or left to starve to death--when they can no longer "produce" and are called "Ne'er do gooders" ! Please help to stop this now. We must stop their supply chain and expose this cruelty to all !

---Many of these "kennels" ..aka puppy mills...are licensed yearly by the townships. This is a huge money grab for the townships. As such , they are not interested in shutting these mills down because they would loose a ton of money. ! . There is supposed to be an inspection by the Bylaw officer but this rarely if ever happens. Also..usually the inspectors are farmers themselves and they would never report one of their own..and so the circle continues.

--- Sick animals should never be given a vaccine...says so right on the bottles..., however the inept Veterinarian who is hired and paid very well by the puppy millers..., just goes around and with the same needle..., jabs every puppy and never even looks at them . One should just be there to hear the screams of these tiny puppies...bound for the pet store and retail outlets in our city ! This veterinarian is the lowest of the low.

---I have heard that retail employees are coached to tell the customers that these puppies are from a reputable `licensed` breeder. Reputable breeders would NEVER sell their puppies in a pet store or by retail, the Internet or markets. They usually have a waiting list. Oh..by the way...some millers even have their puppies registered by the Canadian Kennel Club...which just shows you that the CKC only cares about getting the fee per puppy !! Another way to entice the ignorant to but a puppy .Often puppies are bought from the mills for \$25.. to \$150. and sold for \$400.-\$1500. and more ...HUGE profits !!!

---Several Canadian and U.S.cities have already moved ahead with this ban and I so hope you will see it in your hearts to do the same. A very large chain of pet stores called "P.J. Pets"....which has 45 stores across Canada..made the wise and compassionate decision to stop the sale of puppies and small companion animals in ALL of their stores 2 years ago. Instead they invite rescue groups and shelters to showcase their adoptable dogs ,cats and rabbits every weekend...and have as such, gained a whole new client list as a result of doing this without being forced to ! They stated that "it was just the ethical thing to do " ! As a result, the cities can deal with finding homes for truly lost and displaced dogs and cats, vs trying to find space for so many animals who are given up and dumped when they get too big, are too much work, too old, and cost too much to care for.

--- presently new owners of these puppies are spending a fortune to try to make them healthy and hopefully survive the effects of the sick mums horrifically poor care and diet, as she was trying to feed and care for her puppies. In many cases these puppies are born on a pile of sawdust..and we in rescue have seen puppies and breeding pairs with horrific diarrhea and vomit full of sawdust...since they are so hungry and end up eating these wood shavings to stay alive.

---I would be happy to introduce you to one of my adopted dogs...Ginger..a 6 lb Shihtzu .., who is BLIND from the ammonia fumes which burnt her eyes ( ammonia fumes from the urine build up because they have no water to clean the cages..) ..but they continued to breed her and cut open her little belly to get her babies, with NO anaesthetic...and sewed her back up with string or fishing line. The horrors are endless... I cannot understand why this is such a complex issue...and also WHY you keep referring this

back to staff !! Every day that you delay this ban.. used up breeders are shot or drowned. I ask you...how can you sleep at night , knowing that you could have helped to stop this horrific trade ?...

--This was presented back in 2010..and I want you to just imagine the numbers of these poor dogs who have been so horribly treated and over bred...just to satisfy the puppy sale industry...which is HUGE and one of the cruelest there is....and which seems to be totally supported by you, our city Councillors. --in these last 3 years.....while the CAPS committee sat on this and did no research with those of us who could happily share the issues. SHAME ON ALL OF YOU !!! .

Perhaps one day you will think about visiting one of these mills, if your heart can take it, ..., but you will never get the chance. All you have to do is Google "puppy mills" and there are many videos that you can watch if you can. . There are many rescues who take in and care for past puppy mill breeders and if you would like to visit [www.kismutt.com](http://www.kismutt.com) in the Thorndale/St Marys area..., you will see videos of the hundreds of mill dogs that this rescue person has saved... As stated they are hidden away and will not allow the public into their barns. Meantime, please look at your own pets and think about these other dear innocent dogs and cats who will never feel a kind hand, hear a kind voice, see or feel the green grass, eat healthy food , nor drink clean water. If the dogs cry or bark out of sheer boredom and fear..., a metal shovel is usually slammed against their cage and they learn to shut down and stay quiet. These dogs are kept in a metal cage and never get out except to be thrown in an other cage to be bred...

My friends, it is beyond me how you can allow this to continue, in order to allow these retail outlets to make huge money off the backs of these poor breeding dogs. The males of course , are totally ignored and live unbelievably terrible lives, and the male puppies are often drowned or shot if not bought by the puppy brokers by 8 weeks. Most buyers want female puppies.

Please do not allow this issue to linger with staff for one more minute...and please invite me to introduce you to several traumatized little souls....who were the lucky ones who were rescued by compassionate groups . . We are all well aware that the CAPS people are dealing with the AC tender issue..., but this has nothing to do with that happening...in fact, this would help AC in not having to deal with so many throw-away dogs and cats.

Thank you for listening..and I realize that the previous presentation appeared to be confusing to most of you. . I am happy to answer any questions you might have and as I stated.., would be happy to share many true stories and pictures of the dogs my groups and others have saved and cared for , for years. There are in fact close to 200 reputable rescue groups in Ontario !  
PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING AND SHOW THE COUNTRY THAT LONDON ACTUALLY DOES CARE FOR THE INNOCENT , most vulnerable ANIMALS. I am begging you to not delay this for one more day.

I am available to share more and would like to know that we have made an impact. These mill dogs deserve no less...and the only way to help put a stop to these cruel puppy mills...is to stop the sale of the puppies and kittens in ALL retail outlets. One city which banned the sale in pet stores only, had a Home Hardware then open a Pet department..and start selling puppy mill puppies !!!

Thank you for your attention ..

,  
Janet Robertson, London, Ontario.

[www.helpinglostpets.com](http://www.helpinglostpets.com)

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