

Dear Members of the House Committee on Commerce Finance and Policy,

My name is Coleen Carroll and I've bred/owned/shown Bernese Mountain Dogs for 30 years. As a professional, ethical breeder and passionate animal lover, I am writing supporting the Humane Pet Store Bill / HF2627. I am a resident of Afton MN and am a lifelong Minnesotan. 95% of my puppies go to friends and/or repeat adopters. We raise our puppies in our home and our dogs are treated like our children. Our puppies have gone on to win Regional and National awards. Many are Canine Good Citizens as well as Therapy Dogs.

Small-scale professional breeders like myself reject any method of raising animals where they are treated as products void of emotional capacity. We demand to know where our puppies will end up and intensely screen all prospective families. We devote our lives to protecting every puppy we bring into this world by carefully selecting the families we sell to using stringent screening processes. In fact, as a member of the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, I have agreed to a code of ethics that includes the following ethical behavior that I will not sell/trade any of my dogs or puppies to any commercial animal wholesaler or retail pet dealers/ traders.

This is largely because the realities of these commercial animal dealers are known to all as inhumane, dangerous, and harmful to consumers and animals alike. Let me be clear: I do not believe there is a reality where an individual who genuinely cares for an animal's physical and emotional well-being would sell their puppies to a commercial "middleman" and relinquish control over what happens to the puppy from that point, including who that puppy ends up with.

A breeder like myself, and there are many, would never hand a puppy over to a truck driver to be shipped away to an unknown location or further brokered to unknown entities. Will the puppy end up in a loving home, or will it not? Sentencing one of my puppies to a life of uncertainty would haunt me.

Why are Minnesota lawmakers still entertaining bills that protect the interests of pet stores that sell puppies? Why not support local Minnesota breeders who do right by their dogs and the families whose homes they will enter? Your constituents pay the price when these dogs raised in terrible conditions develop health and behavioral issues. I do not believe there is a world where you can stand to support both pet stores and ethical breeders. Bills like the Humane Pet Store Bill do support local, ethical breeders. Not supporting this bill only perpetuate the suffering thousands of dogs endure yearly in Minnesota commercial breeding facilities.

Further, why not support all the pet stores in the state that don't sell puppies but instead offer the products and services that enrich our animals' lives and the products that pet stores rely on? Minnesota has tons of wonderful, family-owned pet stores that would never sell puppies! Will you help me end the suffering of thousands of pets each year? Let's start with the Humane Pet Store Bill.

I ask that you join me in supporting the Humane Pet Store Bill /HF2627 because it protects the interests of corporations that fail to protect our pets.

Please vote "yes" on the Humane Pet Store Bill / HF2627. My signature below stands next to other signatures of other ethical breeders in MN that have gathered to implore you to rethink your stance in this important matter.

Sincerely,

Coleen Carroll BernerGarden BMDs, Afton MN

Julie Latterall, Seven Pines BMDs

Shannon Chilar, Winsome BMDs

Teri Olson, Azize Ridgebacks

Cassie Rogers & Lexie Rogers, Afinity Whippets

Beth Keller, Ridgerun Ridgebacks

Kami and Jeni West, Jenda BMDs

Dawn and Joe Droel, Souverign Brittany's

Melissa Olson, Rubicon BMD's

Sandy Lissetta, Wagner MN BMDs

Annalisa Johnson, MN BMDs

Sherry Otto, Cameo BMDs

Laurie Copeland, Copeland BMDs

Deanna Scott, Driftless BMDs

Carri Borisch, Thistledown BMDs

Vance and Chris Knuth, Swiss Stars BMDs

Jane Hill, Jaberwauk BMDs

Mary Alice Eschweiler, Sheperdspatch BMDs

Bricie Marine, Holiday BMDs

Jeanne Whitton-Smith, Hoosier Roos BMDs

Layal Bouaoun, Lavish BMDs

Kathy Koehler, Kameridge BMDs

Sindi Leo, L-Sin BMDs

Heather Sherwood, Vida BMDs

Leslie Hettinger, Riversong Tollers

Danae Birkameier, Crown and Royalty

Buffy Kramer Hammann Veritas BMDs

Bobbi Kinley, Blewet Adesa BMDs

Paige Hess Bugziere's BMDs

Diane Waldman Timberidge BMDs

Christina Reedy Gridiron BMDs

Laura Fourre, Centerfold BMDs