



OPPOSE: H1346 Commercial Breeders (Rep. Kujawski)

Problem:

People with no profit motivation who breed dogs and cats as a hobby would be labeled as commercial. This bill would make it impossible for hobby dog and cat breeders to conform to commercial rules and would limit rights to the private enjoyment of dog and cat enthusiasts' hobbies.

History:

Hobby dog and cat breeders have existed in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for over 100 years. Dog and cat shows bring a great economic benefit in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to the State because of the tourist dollars thousands of fanciers spend at dog shows, at restaurants, hotels, gas stations, pet supply stores, at veterinarians etc. Hobby dog and cat breeders have served as a good source of well bred, temperamentally sound, well socialized pets for animal lovers. The vast majority of hobby breeders who breed to show do not make any part of their living from raising dogs or cats. They generally work to afford their expensive hobby. The USDA already covers commercial breeders and specifically excludes hobby breeders. The AKC also inspects over 5000 kennels nationally that use the AKC registry for care and conditions.

What the Bill Does:

Any breeder breeding over one litter a year would be labeled as commercial. This would mean that a breeder who had two litters of puppies (or kittens), even if there was only one animal in each litter (which can and does happen, especially in small breeds) would be labeled commercial, whether or not there was any commercial intent. The bill would require state funding to inspect the hundreds of hobby breeders, most of whom raise their animals in their private homes. Breeders would be asked to conform to commercial breeder rules which would include excluding their animals from their homes.

Why You Should Oppose This Bill:

Every community already has animal control personnel to handle any complaints related to kennels in a town or city. Consumers buying from a hobby breeder are able to visit the breeder and see what they are buying and generally one or both parents. This is not true at commercial establishments that bring animals from out of state.

For More Information:

Massachusetts Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners

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