

Opposition to HB1551: Perspective from a Responsible AKC Breeder

Introduction

As a registered dog breeder with the American Kennel Club (AKC), I wish to express my opposition to HB1551 and share my perspective on its potential impact on responsible breeders.

Responsible Breeding Practices

I specialize in breeding Pembroke Welsh Corgis and adhere to stringent ethical standards to ensure the wellbeing of my dogs. Every contract with a new owner includes a clause requiring the return of the dog to me if the owner can no longer care for it. This ensures that none of my dogs contribute to shelter overpopulation.

Each puppy is microchipped before leaving my home, and I pay for lifetime registration to guarantee that, should a dog ever be separated from its owner, it can be safely returned. I also rigorously screen all prospective owners to ensure they understand the lifelong care and financial commitment involved in owning a Pembroke Welsh Corgi.

To further support healthy outcomes, I conduct DNA testing on my dogs to prevent debilitating genetic diseases that could make lifetime care difficult and costly.

The Impact on Shelter Populations

Research into Pembroke Welsh Corgis shows that they rarely end up in shelters. In fact, the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America seldom has rescues available, and these are only placed with club members. The families I work with carefully research the breed and select it to fit their lifestyle, and they are not interested in mixed breed dogs, such as pitbulls with unknown parentage, health status, or unpredictable behaviors, which often fill local shelters.

Financial Implications for Small Breeders

As a small breeder operating with slim profit margins, I strive to keep puppies affordable for new owners, made possible because I am retired. Proper dog breeding is not a lucrative venture; I have occasionally lost money due to medical complications with mothers or pups. Imposing registration fees and charges per puppy would place an additional financial burden on breeders like myself, inevitably increasing costs for new owners.

Concerns about HB1551

The bill does not address the root cause of shelter overpopulation. Backyard breeders responsible for producing mixed breed dogs that end up in shelters are unlikely to register as breeders or register each puppy. HB1551 would penalize responsible breeders who are not contributing to shelter populations, without bringing about meaningful change in shelter numbers.

Conclusion

For these reasons, I believe HB1551 would harm ethical breeders and fail to address the real issues affecting shelter populations.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bublitz

Pembroke Tails, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Breeder