

HB 1551_Rodriguez

The premises of HB1551 are false, shelters in Maryland are not full of dogs, certainly not purebred dogs. The dogs in shelters are pittbuls and mixed breeds. Rescue operations- independently owned are importing dogs from the south (North Carolina, Texas and Arizona) who in turn import dogs from Asia to supply to the pet homes. There are buses full of dogs coming in to supply the dog pet market. These dogs come with heartworms, intestinal parasites and even rabies as recently reported by the CDC. The dogs in the shelters are dogs that cannot be adopted due to aggressive or unruly behaviors namely pittbulls, dogs that in the hands of any responsible person should be euthinized.

To consider a bill to punish hobby and preservation breeders when it is us who select our breeding stock by participating in American Kennel Club Conformation dog shows. We ensure our dogs have stable temperaments, are properly health tested, the puppies microchipped, registered, dewormed, vaccinated and evaluated by a licensed veterinary before they go to the pet homes; is not only unfair but will have no effect on controlling the problem. There is very little profit in hobby and preservation breeding, a small litter of 3-4 puppies often barely covers the cost of producing it IF there are no complications for the dam and the puppies, sometimes we end up at huge loss because the expenses exceed the value of the puppies, but we still do it because we want to preserve well bred dogs that can perform the task the breed was designed for, and to serve as companion and service dogs for so many people in need.

I am a hobby breeder with two females; I breed one at most two litters a year and not every year. The instatement of this bill increases costs to unsustainable limits. By the time I pay to produce a litter and attend dog shows to select the breeding stock there is no profit left for anything else.

In addition, you should be aware that breeders have been robbed, assaulted, and killed, just to rob litters and breeding stock from them. Making our names and contact information public would seriously endanger our homes and ourselves.

I agree that for profit independently operated rescue organizations, back yard breeders, dog fighting rings and even shelters that do not control the pittbull and aggressive dog population should be held accountable. Owners that adopt/buy dogs from the overseas import rescues that end up taking their unhealthy, misbehaved dogs to the shelters should be held accountable. Pet owners who do not take the time to train the dogs and end up with unruly dogs that end up at the shelter should be held accountable.

Hobby and preservation breeders are not the problem in this equation, we do not make money from the dogs, others do.

Respectfully,

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