



January 16, 2015

Dear Governor Christie,

As a New Jersey resident, an ASPCA Equine Welfare Ambassador with deep roots in this state's equine and business communities, and a dog lover, I respectfully urge you to sign S.1870. S. 1870 is a bipartisan consumer rights and dog protection bill that will help consumers make informed decisions about the dogs they buy and avoid the heartbreak of buying a sick dog, and also eliminate some of the most inhumane puppy mills from our state's pet shop supply chain.

It is hard to believe, but currently, New Jersey pet shops do not have to tell consumers where the puppies they sell come from. S.1870 will change this by requiring pet shops to disclose the identities of the commercial breeders and brokers from which they purchase puppies for resale. This bill will also begin to address the inhumane treatment of puppy mill dogs—often resulting in sick puppies being sold in the Garden State—by requiring pet shops to screen out those breeders and brokers that fail to comply with state and federal minimum standards of care. In addition, S.1870 will educate consumers regarding the origins of the dogs sold in pet shops by requiring pet shops to post USDA breeder and broker inspection reports.

Having ridden horses and adopted rescue dogs since childhood, I understand the important role companion animals play in our lives, and I believe New Jersey residents have the right to know where their pets come from. It's unfortunate but true that large-scale commercial breeders and brokers typically confine dogs for their entire lives in tiny, stacked, wire-floored cages, waste falling on them from above, their paws injured by the wire threads, and the female dogs bred continuously to exhaustion. However, by creating a more informed public, as well as preventing some of the most inhumane brokers and breeders from selling puppies in New Jersey pet shops, S.1870 will constitute an important step in the effort to secure more humane treatment for this state's pet shop puppies and the often forgotten breeding dogs left behind at the mills. This bill will also importantly reduce the financial burden on consumers who may unknowingly purchase sick puppies from pet shops.

I hope that New Jersey will choose to be a leader in protecting both dogs and consumers by holding pet shops, breeders, and brokers accountable for the welfare of the dogs in which they deal. Again, as a longtime New Jersey resident and animal advocate, I respectfully urge you to sign S.1870.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica Springsteen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Springsteen  
Colts Neck, NJ