

SB 460 (The Puppy Mill Bill) Update:

In the 2009 legislative session, SB 460 (The Puppy Mill Bill) made it through the Senate with a final vote 23-22. The bill then went on to receive a favorable ruling in the House Commerce Committee hearing. With only days left in the 2009 session, the bill was sent on to House Finance Committee (the last stop before a final vote on the House floor). Unfortunately, time ran out. SB 460 will pick up where it left off in the House Finance Committee when the 2010 legislative "short session" starts on May 12th.

What can animal advocates do now?

It is more important than ever for North Carolina animal advocates to get to know the legislators that represent each of you (to find out who represents you, go to www.ncga.state.nc.us). Schedule a time to visit with your representatives before session begins. This is a great time for a face to face meeting to explain why puppy mills are a problem in NC. Don't assume that all legislators understand the issues facing the animals in NC. They must review hundreds of bills each year and rely on their constituents to explain the impact on their districts.

If a visit with your representatives is not a possibility, call or send an email. You will be providing a voice for the dogs waiting for help in puppy mills across the state. They need you! Your representative is hearing from those that oppose SB 460.

Network! Network! Network! Many North Carolinians do not understand exactly what a puppy mill is and what the dogs within them must endure. Take every opportunity to talk about the horrendous conditions and explain that purchasing dogs from puppy mills and pet stores contributes to the pain and suffering of those left behind. Encourage friends and family members to contact their representatives as well....every call, email, and visit matters.

Finally, go to the link below and send an email to the Finance Committee members asking them to provide a favorable ruling for SB 460. Without regulations in place, the number of puppy mills in NC will increase. Our neighboring states now have regulations for commercial dog breeders, and puppy millers have been quoted as saying that they will simply move their operations.

http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/Committees/Committees.asp?sAction=ViewCommittee&sActionDetails=House Standing_24

Together we can save them!

Kim

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