

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

December 2, 2010

**Oppose a Lame-Duck Session Vote on the  
Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety Act**

Dear Colleague:

We write to share our concerns about H.R. 5434, the Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety (PUPS) Act, and to express our opposition to scheduling a floor vote for this legislation during the current lame-duck session of Congress.

The PUPS Act would greatly expand federal regulation of dog breeders and create new requirements for those who breed and sell more than 50 puppies per year directly to consumers. A close look at the bill's provisions shows that it will have many unintended consequences for small volume breeders and dog owners alike.

Chief among our concerns is the manner in which the PUPS Act broadly defines "high volume breeder." Under this legislation, small hobby breeders, such as show breeders, hunting clubs and dog trainers, who breed only a litter or two each year, would be considered "high volume breeders" and forced to comply with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

As a result, the PUPS Act would greatly expand the responsibility of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to enforce AWA. A May 2010 report by the USDA Office of the Inspector General found that the existing capacity of APHIS to enforce AWA is extremely limited. This indicates APHIS would not be capable of undertaking the additional enforcement responsibilities that it would be required to meet under this legislation.

While we support the intent of the PUPS Act, animal negligence and cruelty such as improper care, constant confinement, overcrowded conditions, and lack of proper exercise, nutrition or social contact are already illegal under laws that exist in each of the 50 states.

Our concerns are shared by American Kennel Club (AKC), the world's largest non-profit registry of pure breed dogs and a leading advocate and authority for responsible dog ownership and care. The AKC is comprised of nearly 5,000 member clubs throughout the United States.

Again, we urge you to join us in opposing any effort to bring the PUPS Act to the House floor for a vote during the lame-duck session.



Dan Boren  
Member of Congress

Respectfully,



Paul C. Broun, M.D.  
Member of Congress