

(Your Street Address)  
(Town, OH, zip)

(State Legislator's Name)  
(Address, Floor)  
(Columbus, OH, zip)

Date

Dear So and So

I am your constituent and I am writing to you about the current state of the "pet store license" issue. While I very much appreciate that the legislature has the chance to re-examine and clarify this matter, it is a real wake up call as to how easily something so important to us could very quickly be made impossible.

We are not pet stores. We are, quite literally, from all walks of life. We are schoolteachers, veterinarians, nurses, attorneys, journalists, insurance agents. We are physicians and architects and farmers and pharmacists and engineers. We share a central and enduring quality: dogs play a central and beloved role in our lives.

We breed dogs. We are often called "hobby" breeders. But it is so much more than a "hobby" to us. We are dedicated to the preservation of breed type. We are tireless in our efforts to produce puppies of sound and predictable temperament and structure. When you get a puppy from one of us, you get a dog that can grow up to do the task that his or her breed was developed to do.

As breeders, we often sleep next to the whelping box of expectant mothers. We spend thousands of dollars on health tests, on competitions to earn titles that prove the dogs' merit. On care, and training and enrichment. It is often a point of pride how little return we get on the money we spend for our passion in dogs.

Our rewards are something different. A Malinois who can apprehend a criminal. A Retriever who can mark a falling duck at 300 yards and bring it back to hand through brush and water. A Border Collie who can move sheep in and out of pastures and gates. A Great Pyrenees who can keep predators from the flock. A Beagle who can pick up the scent of contraband, a Bloodhound who can find a lost child. And in every puppy, in every breed of dog, the most important role: our constant and beloved companions.

If we are regarded as pet stores, we cannot continue. Our dogs are our family members, their puppies are born in our homes. We'd be out of zoning compliance. We'd lose our homeowner's insurance. There are so many issues with taxation and labor and access to our homes. Please, help define this legislation in a way that will protect this important role in the legacy of purebred dogs. Help us continue to our endeavors to preserve the heritage of our marvelous breeds.

Thank you.  
Sincerely yours,

(Signature)

(Printed name)