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**E-MAIL ADDRESS:**  
GRISANTI@NYSenate.GOV

**WEBSITE:**  
GRISANTI.NYSenate.GOV

THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK



**MARK GRISANTI**  
SENATOR, 60TH DISTRICT

**ALBANY OFFICE:**  
ROOM 902

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
PH: (518) 455-3240  
FAX: (518) 426-6738

**BUFFALO OFFICE:**

WALTER I. MAHONEY BUILDING  
65 COURT STREET, ROOM 213  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202  
PH: (716) 854-8705  
FAX: (716) 854-3051

**NIAGARA FALLS OFFICE:**

8701 BUFFALO AVENUE  
SUITE 201  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK 14304  
PH: (716) 283-0741

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Albany, NY 12224

July 17, 2013

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I write to you concerning bills A.740-A/S.3753-A, legislation that would allow for local regulation of certain sections of article 26-A of the agriculture and markets law which governs pet dealers, as long as the rule or regulation is not less stringent than state law.

The vast majority of animals sold at pet stores come from high-volume, wholesale breeders, commonly referred to as “puppy mills.” Inside puppy mills, dogs spend their entire lives in tiny, cramped, wire-floored cages that are stacked on top of each other – sometimes outdoors, with no protection from the elements.

These animals frequently suffer from serious and often life-threatening diseases, parasites and many congenital and hereditary conditions. Many unsuspecting consumers enter a pet store thinking that they are purchasing a dog from a reputable, even upscale breeder, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Instead, these consumers often learn after they bring their new pet home, that the animal suffers from a painful and expensive disease.

While the State Department of Agriculture and Markets regulates pet breeders and pet dealers selling at retail in this state, it falls to local shelters and SPCAs to care for pets that are abandoned by their owners when the cost of care exceeds resources or for animals that have been seized from unsanitary, dangerous and frequently unlicensed operations. In addition, neither the Department nor local governments currently have the ability to properly oversee the massive influx of sick and poorly-bred animals from wholesale sources supplying retail operations in New York. This legislation will not require any locality to take action; it will merely grant them the authority they seek to mitigate costs to municipal governments, local shelters and SPCAs and/or to protect consumers and animals.

I, along with Assemblywoman Linda B. Rosenthal (D-67) respectfully request that after careful consideration, you sign this legislation into law. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Grisanti".

Mark Grisanti