

Roberta DiMezza

From: Lori Rizzo <rizzolori1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 11:54 AM
To: House Judiciary Committee
Subject: H6624 - Animal Abuse Registry Act

Dear House Judiciary,

Please do not pass H6624 - Animal Abuse Registry Act. I have been a breeder and owner of AKC purebred dogs and other animals for 50 years, along with working for three veterinary universities. In addition I am a Registered Nurse who has worked in psychiatric nursing and patient advocacy. Though the intent of the bill is good, the logistics of trying to fairly implement this registry would place undue burden on a legal and welfare system that cannot even protect human children as it stands! In addition, I have found in my 50 years of being involved in animal breeding that abusive and unethical pet owners and breeders have a way of manipulating the system to get the animals they desire regardless of barriers and constraints put into place. These people band with family and others of their type to lie and procure animals under other or false identities. Who has the money and time to track them down and prove they are associated with someone in the registry? Finally, how animal abuse is defined and offenders accused or sentenced is still a highly variable process and the legal system still needs to get that right. Ethics is never simple and there are plenty of cases where citizens have been accused of abuse by those who continue to anthropomorphize animals as having human traits such as husky dogs or those with fur coats don't like to be outside in the cold more than 15 minutes when this is untrue for many breeds.

Until we truly have a legal system that can support our citizens and our animals in a consistent way I see registries such as this as an added a potentially dangerous burden on society. I do not support it.

Thank you,

Lori Rizzo
Aristaios Farms Whippets & Heirloom Gardens Saltwater Kayak Fisherwoman MA/RI USA