

Chair Witt and Representatives of the Committee, my name is Amira Streeter and I support HB3141 and -1 amendment.

For the record, I do work for Rep. Frederick, but I am speaking on this issue on my own behalf and do not speak for Rep. Frederick.

This is my dog, Lula.



She is a one year old Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and she is the little angel in my life. She is also Hannah pet. Hannah the Pet Society, a local organization that leases various animals has let me take possession of her for a monthly fee. They provide food, medical care, and obedience training. Even though I don't have legal ownership, Lula is my fur-baby and I am her pet parent.

When I took Lula into my home, I was very excited and knew she was the one for me and meant to be in my life. However, due to the recent issues surrounding Hannah I was hesitant. I kept wondering and continue to wonder where Lula came from. I had seen pictures of her siblings, but not her parents. How did I know she was really a purebred? How did I know whether five years from now, she would suffer a heart failure due to heart mitral valve disease, a common genetic disease in Cavaliers? How did I know that her mother hadn't suffered horrible conditions and mistreatment in a puppy mill? How did I know that she wasn't from a puppy mill, a rescue, or abandoned by a family and why?

I simply don't have the answers to these questions.

I looked to Hannah for answers because, surely, they cared enough to provide me with important information about a Lula so I can be the best pet parent for her. At first, they told me she was from a family whose dog accidentally had puppies. Purebred Cavalier puppies can be sold for up to \$3,000 and I knew no responsible breeder would ever give away or sell an animal without adequate documentation.

Then recently I asked again for information. They told me that due to privacy laws, they weren't allowed to tell me. Now I was suspicious. Responsible breeders form relationships with people they entrust their animals to and would be happy to say where their animals came from. Shelters also tell perspective pet parents the story on where a dog comes from and also give information on the medical and behavioral history of rescues. Why doesn't Hannah give the same information?

Another response within the same sentence was that they didn't even have the information or know where Lula came from. They also said that none of the dogs come from breeders. Now I don't know about you, but I'm confused. To my knowledge, my newborn puppy did not come from a shelter and not a breeder, so where did she come from?

In my mind, the remaining option is that she came from a puppy mill. I would shudder to think if I, as an avid animal lover and pet parent, was supporting puppy mills.

By supporting HB3141 and the -1 amendment, I and other pet parents might finally get some answers. Please carefully consider this bill for all the Lulas out there.

Thank you.