

EXHIBIT NO. 5
DATE 4-2-2009
BILL NO. HB 548

421 N. Davis #11
Missoula, MT 59801

March 17, 2009

To whom it may concern,

Friday, March 6, 2009 I visited LDR Kennels of Charlo Montana. I would like to express my concerns regarding the conditions of the puppies and their parents. Several puppies were introduced to us. I immediately noticed the puppies were very timid and scared. All of the puppies had a very bad odor, almost unbearable. I got the impression, I was not allowed into the room where the puppies or their parents are kept. We were only allowed in a waiting room where the puppies were brought to us after they were retrieved from the back.

Originally, we went there to specifically look at a puppy that was listed on the LDR website. When we requested to see that puppy the owners spent a great deal of time trying to find him. The puppy was never found and it was explained that he was listed as a male but was actually a female and was not for sale.

After viewing a few of the puppies, they asked us if we would like to meet the parents. The parents' condition was even more concerning than the puppies'. Each of the parents that came out was very timid, matted and they also had a very bad odor. It is obvious that these dogs are not treated well.

The owners' own animals, two dogs that followed them out of their house for our appointment, appeared to be in very good condition and happy animals.

I had a strange and reluctant feeling about purchasing a puppy and supporting this business. I also felt compelled to remove this puppy from the environment. One of the little Yorkie puppies really caught my attention and I decided he would go home with me. Because he was more expensive than the one I originally went there to see, they reduced his price by \$100.00 but indicated they would not offer any warranty because of the discount. Against my better judgment, I agreed to these terms simply because I was anxious to remove the puppy from this situation.

24 hours later we ended up at the emergency vet clinic. He has visited three different doctors that have worked together to help him. After several hundred dollars in vet bills and prescription anti-biotic medication, my puppy seems to be thriving. He has gained some weight and has a lot more energy.

It is frustrating to support a business that I feel has sub-standard conditions for their puppies, but it feels great to have purchased a puppy to remove him from that environment. I wish that I could afford to purchase more puppies to remove them.

A good friend of mine went against my advice and adopted a puppy from LDR two days ago. The next day she took her puppy to the vet and she is suffering from an upper respiratory infection. It's so sad to realize how many of these little ones must be suffering. I hope that something can be done to help them.

Sincerely,
Teresa Thomson

2783 Bel Vue Dr
Missoula, MT 59801
(406)-721-6059

March 20, 2009

To whom it may concern,

Friday, March 6, 2009 I visited LDR Kennels of Charlo Montana. I would like to express my concerns regarding the conditions of the puppies and their parents. Several puppies were introduced to us. I immediately noticed the puppies were very timid and scared. All of the puppies had a very bad odor that was almost unbearable. I got the impression, I was not allowed into the room where the puppies or their parents are kept. We were only allowed in a waiting room where the puppies were brought to us after they were retrieved from the back.

My family and I visited with another couple that was also looking for a puppy. We went especially for a puppy named "Cartman", which we found on the LDR website. Cartman was billed as a tan and black Mini Schnauzer. I would be the first to point I am no dog expert, by any means of the imagination. When "Cartman" was brought out I found a terrified puppy that I swore was not a Mini Schnauzer. His hair was wiry and his legs were long (8 to 10 inches). The owners then brought out the mom and dad. The parents were dirty, dingy and matted. I don't think they had ever seen a bath. Both parents were smaller, with curly, white hair. The adult dogs were also very timid. We did not leave with a puppy. I just could not support LDR Kennels. My children even said that they felt uncomfortable when they walked in to the waiting room.

The couple that went with us was there to see a Yorkie puppy called "Skeeter" that was listed on the LDR website. When they requested to see that puppy the owners spent a great deal of time trying to find him. The puppy was never found and it was explained that he was listed as a male, but was actually a female and was not for sale.

Our friends did purchase a Yorkie puppy that has had some health issues, but does seem to be doing fine now.

We felt sorry for the animals of this kennel and would like to see them get help. I personally would be willing to help, if there is a way.

Sincerely,

Creg Dieziger

Patti Prato

From: <athompson623@aim.com>
To: <pratop@qwest.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 9:35 AM
Subject: Regarding LDR Kennels

To whom it may concern,

3-19-09

I recently bought a 12 week old female Chihuahua from LDR Kennels. After having her home for less than 24 hours we had to take her to the vet due to coughing all night. She ended up having an upper respiratory infection, draining of the eyes and a very runny nose. We called LDR kennels and let them know of the problems we had and let them know we were not to impressed and would appreciate if they would help out with the vet bills. They offered to take the puppy back and "Make it better for us." She then turned to her husband and said,"The puppy was sick," and laughed about it. I am not impressed about the whole situation and feel it is time somebody does something about this place. When arriving at the kennel and seeing some of the animals up there that they had brought out it made me want to adopt all of the puppies. Felt we couldnt leave without one. Any questions please feel free to e-mail me.

Thank you
Annette Thompson
"lil nettie"

Great Deals on Dell 15" Laptops - Starting at \$479

Mountain View Kennels

406 726-4006

73342 Lilac Flower Lane

Arlee, MT 59821

March 31, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Dogs are our companions because we have chosen to domesticate them and bring them into our lives. They are not livestock. Keeping a dog in a healthy and wholesome environment is time consuming and can be expensive. People who have chosen to perpetuate an economic based business by breeding their own dogs have every right to do so. However, the conditions in which they house their dogs should be of great importance to us as a society. When it can be determined that a breeder's dogs are:

1. Being kept in small cages (only knowing the feel of wire under their feet).
2. Getting minimal health care (many of these dogs have chronic health conditions).
3. Being sold as pets with no socialization skills.

We have an obligation to enforce changes for the better. I am in support of House Bill 548.

Very Respectfully,



Lora J. Hughes
Owner/Operator
Mountain View Kennels
Arlee, MT

Members of the Montana Legislature

Re: HB 548, Bill Draft Number LC1693

Short Title: Require inspection for dog breeding facilities

We are writing to request your consideration and support of HB 548, Bill Draft Number LC1693, for which Dave McAlpin is the primary sponsor.

We live next to a very large dog breeding facility. They have between 300 to 500 breeding female dogs. We have been told that they would like to increase the number to around 700.

They moved to Montana in 2003 from Kansas. When we heard they had purchased property next to ours, and that they would have a large puppy breeding facility of approximately 500 dogs we were very concerned. I called the County Attorney and asked him if we had any rights concerning this. I was told by him that "I guess it just depends on who has the most money for a lawsuit." So, basically we had no laws to protect us from a large breeding facility, such as this from coming in next to us.

Our experience living next to this facility has been anything but pleasant. The septic system for the dog operation is far too small for that many dogs. The first summer they were here, they had a septic service come to pump the septic system. They told the septic service to spread the sewer on their field, which joins our property. This was done, right in front of our house. This was in the middle of July. You can imagine how that smelled for about two weeks. I thought pig manure smelled bad, but it can't hold a candle to dog manure. We could hardly stand to be outside it was so terrible. The next summer they had the septic service come out to pump the sewer once again. This time, I called the county sanitation department. They got the first load dumped out in the field, but we got it stopped before they got the second load dumped. They were told that there is a dumping sight for that, and that it didn't cost anymore for them to take it to the dump sight. They were told that it was illegal to dump it on the field, and to have it taken to the dump sight from that time forward.

In the early spring of 2007, the sewer system was overflowing into the barrow pit of the county road. It was level full. The smell was so bad, we could hardly stand it. The neighbors and school bus driver could hardly stand to drive past the dog farm (puppy mill), the smell was so bad. We all got together and called the county sanitation department to complain. We telephoned and asked that something be done. The next day an excavator arrived. A trench was dug to send the overflowing sewer out into a pond in their field. We were told by the county sanitation department that this was just a temporary fix. It is now two years later and the temporary fix still stands. I don't think the county ever came out and even inspected it after that. They have not taken any measure to correct the problem. The sewer from this location, draining into that pond, ends up going through the neighbors property, and eventually ends up draining into Post Creek. We are concerned that this could contaminate peoples well water, and stock water.

We smell the dog sewer very strong everyday when they rinse the manure out of the dog cages.

The wind blows from the northwest 99 per cent of the the time. It blows the smell right to our place.

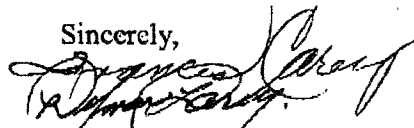
This dog operation has devaluated the property value of every neighbor around it. Nobody would want to buy property next to 500 barking dogs and a vry over capacitated sewer system that runs into an open pond, due to a severe overflowing problem.

The dogs are in cages, probably about 30 inches square, with wire floors. The dogs are never let out to exercise, but are kept in the cages. We feel this is an animal cruelty issue, a health issue, and a ground water issue.

Montana Cause for Paws is a group of animal advocates who have organized with the goal of ensuring the humane treatment of animals - specifically those animals who are victims of the commercial breeding industry. (See enclosed letter). We are in hopes of getting your support for this bill, HB 548. Montana needs some laws to prevent our state from becoming a dumping ground for these types of operations.

Your kind support for this bill will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Frances Carey

Delmar Carey

57254 Old Freight Road

St. Ignatius, MT. 59865

February 17, 2009

Testimony by Carol Bradley
In favor of House Bill 548

carolbradley@bresnan.net

Mister chairman, members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to speak in favor of House Bill 548.

I am a former newspaper reporter in Great Falls. I'm here today because I am writing a book about a large puppy mill case Back East. I've spent three years researching the problems caused by puppy mills, and I applaud you for considering legislation that would help rein in this brutal industry.

The Camp Collie case in Shelby opened my eyes to the underbelly of the dog-breeding world. The Humane Society of the United States estimates there are 10,000 puppy mills in this country. They are most prominent in the mid-west, but Montana has them too. You've heard about recent huge cases in Billings and Butte. Puppy mills also exist in Craig, Stevensville, Hobson, Vaughn and Charlo. Those are the ones we know about. And every one of you has constituents back home who have unwittingly purchased a puppy mill dog from a pet store or over the Internet.

Why is this a bad thing? Dogs produced in puppy mills are victims of bad breeding and poor care. They are under-socialized and often ill: It's not uncommon for puppy mill dogs to die within days or weeks after families have brought them home. My veterinarian in Great Falls has several clients who bought a puppy at a local pet store only to discover the dog was diseased or dying. Last Sunday at church a woman stopped to tell me about a breeder on the west side of town who houses dogs in deplorable conditions. "What can we do about it?" my friend asked.

If House Bill 548 becomes law, that kennel would be inspected by the state veterinarian's office to make certain the dogs have adequate housing, aren't exposed to searing heat and cold, and are being treated humanely. This bill would actually save the state money because shoddily run commercial breeding operations are ticking time bombs. They can cost a local government tens of thousands of dollars to dismantle.

Please vote yes to House Bill 548. Thank you.

Montana Cause for Paws is a group of animal advocates who have organized with the goal of ensuring the humane treatment of animals - specifically those animals who are victims of the commercial breeding industry.

Currently there are no laws in Montana that provide basic guidelines for the humane care of adult breeding dogs and puppies that are housed in commercial breeding facilities. Although the USDA has established guidelines, Montana has no authority to ensure that these guidelines are met.

There are currently about 40 puppy mills in Montana. As a consequence of our current weak laws, more unscrupulous breeders are moving to Montana. Because most of these operations are generally located in remote areas, they can escape notice by neighbors and authorities. Montana has become a destination for these breeders. The deplorable conditions of these operations go against the grain of our Montana values and our stewardship for the land and livestock of our state.

Montana Cause for Paws was organized because we were personally impacted by the consequence of poor and irresponsible breeding practices. Puppy mills mass produce dogs without regard for health or temperament, sending a large number of sick, unsocialized, and genetically inferior dogs into homes of the unsuspecting buyer. The financial and emotional burden experienced by the buyers of these dogs extends beyond them to the local shelters and eventually to the taxpayers.

On **February 17th**, Representative Dave McAlpin will be introducing a bill aimed at regulating commercial breeding facilities. The object of the bill is to ensure that dogs living in these facilities are provided with adequate housing and food, clean fresh water, exercise, and appropriate medical care. We are asking your help in supporting this bill.

We attempted to pass this bill two years ago and were unsuccessful. We learned then that people who are "against" things are far more vocal than people who are "for" things. This week we will be sending you a "fact sheet", a copy of the finished bill, and finally a plea for your voice in favor of this bill. Please help us to pass this bill by showing your ACTIVE support.

Sincerely,

Montana Cause for Paws

THE HEARING FOR THE PUPPY MILL BILL(1693) WILL BE HELD IN HELENA ON TUES., FEBRUARY 17TH AT 3:00PM IN THE HOUSE AG.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN TESTIFY.

The list of contact numbers will be forthcoming.

From: Jim & Donna Cook (diamondog@stignatius.net)
To: carey.fran@yahoo.com
Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 10:24:40 PM
Subject: Letter to legislature.

Members of the Montana Legislature,

I am writing to request your careful consideration of HB 548, Bill Draft number LC1693.
The short title is: Require inspection for dog breeding facilities.
The primary sponsor is Dave McAlpin.

I am in favor of a mandatory state inspection of commercial dog breeding facilities.
My name is Donna Cook. I own and operate a dog boarding, grooming and training facility in St. Ignatius, Lake County, MT. I have worked in various capacities in the pet industry and in Montana Law Enforcement, Animal Control for 15 years.

Some time in the summer of 2003 I visited a commercial dog breeding facility that had recently moved near my home. I was given a tour of that facility and was told by the proprietor that there were 280 breeding dogs on site. I saw two small buildings with wire cages on two levels lining both sides of a center passageway. There were automatic feeders and waterers. The cages were about 30" square and there was a passage door to a covered outdoor cage of the same size. They were made of wire and had washdown trays under them that caught the excrement and I was told that it flowed into a septic system. There was a third building where dogs with puppies were housed and I did not see inside that building. I counted over 15 different small dog breeds and some Border Collies on chains in another area. There were between 2 and 5 dogs in each cage. It was very hot inside the buildings and the odor was very strong. The dogs appeared anxious and I saw dogs with injuries to eyes and one nursing dog with an injury to it's back. My overall impression of the facility was that it was overcrowded, poorly ventilated and that it was automated to the extent that none of the dogs could receive any more than minimal human contact for maintenance care. The only source of exercise available to the dogs was frenetic circling from the indoor cages to the outdoor ones, approximately 60" of wire-floored space. I was told by the breeder that she intended to have 500 breeding dogs within the first year of arriving in Montana.

I provide pet care services to dog owners in Lake, Ravalli and Sanders Counties. I may have in my care up to 30 dogs at peak times. Caring for this many dogs takes me an average of 12 hours per day. I am convinced that dogs require several periods of exercise daily along with structured human interaction and affection.

Over the past 5 years I have groomed and boarded pets purchased from the local commercial dog breeder. Some of my clients have reported having to seek veterinary care for these dogs within the first weeks after purchase for intestinal problems, skin problems, eye problems and joint deformities. For 15 years I have taught basic obedience classes, trained dogs and educated clients as to responsible pet ownership, pet care and training. Selection of a puppy suitable for family companionship requires knowledge of health, soundness of temperament, socialization and careful handling. This should begin at the breeding facility and, ideally, the breeder is a continuing resource for information and support after the purchase of a pet. My customers have not reported having this support from this commercial breeder. Many of the dogs from the commercial facility are resold, given away or taken to the Mission Valley Animal Shelter.

Mass production of dogs without an understanding of their needs is unethical. Adequate resources and staffing to responsibly house, feed and provide for medical care should be required and inspected by a

state veterinarian. The USDA states on its' website that states have the authority to impose stricter regulations than those stipulated and monitored by their inspectors.

Recent legal interventions in cases of hoarding, transport of animals into Montana under cruel conditions, rescue of animals suffering neglect and abuse have cost our counties and our state and each of us. Stewardship of the land and of our natural resources is our states rallying call. Please vote to enact a law that will govern the practices of commercial breeding of companion dogs. Where did so many of us learn our love for animals and the outdoors but from our childhood pets?

Sincerely,

Donna B. Cook dba Diamond Dog Ent.
74570 US Hwy 93
St. Ignatius, MT 59865
406-745-3401