

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 2, 2006

LB 856

then some animals, some hunting dogs, need to be taken at a younger age and trained at a younger age before they become too set in their ways. But Nebraska is one of the five states that is known for puppy mills. They're generally in wretched, and I hope I'm speaking to the people that run puppy mills, they're in wretched conditions. The animals are not handled until they are...an order is placed for them. They meet at an intersection of a road, because they don't want you coming down into their facility. The dog has not been handled until it's taken out and bathed, and sometimes these are stacked four cages high, and maybe this was the animal at the bottom who got all of the droppings. It was bathed, it was placed in a vehicle and taken out to this intersection, money exchanged. The family didn't have a carrier in the car so the puppy was placed in with a young child in the backseat and the young child says, oh, thank you, Daddy, and hugs the dog, and they're bit because the dog has never had any socialization. Puppy mills are abhorrent. Females are bred and bred and bred and bred, and when they're finally unable to breed anymore or worn out, then they're killed. And we all desire a good product for our dollars, and some of these go for \$300-\$400, and you want to know who the female and who the male are because puppies don't come with a money-back guarantee. If they have hip dysplasia which shows up in the fourth, fifth, sixth year, you can't get your money back unless you want to spend \$5,000 to \$7,000 to send them to the University of Kansas for surgery. And puppy mills are terrible, but you'd be surprised how many people do buy from breeders. I went through the ads, the want ads, and called a couple people, wanting to know if they had this kind of a pet. And I said, fine, I'll come down; where are you located? Uh-uh, we'll meet you at an intersection or at a parking lot. And when you get a message like that, that means that they are an illegal breeder. All I asked was that they be licensed and regulated by Nebraska, and inspected once a year, USDA licensure. It just means that you get a better product for your dollar spent. And so, as I say, I'm very supportive of the Mines amendment. We all want a good pet and deserve to get a good product for our dollar. Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Price. Further discussion on AM2563? Seeing none, Senator Mines, you're recognized to