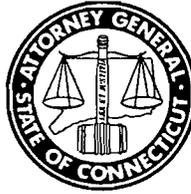


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**TESTIMONY OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
MARCH 21, 2007**

I appreciate the opportunity to support House Bill 7392, An Act Concerning Seizure and Custody of Neglected or Cruelly Treated Animals.

This legislation modernizes our statutes regarding the seizure of neglected or abused animals by the state or local animal control officer. The process mirrors certain procedures established for abuse or neglect of children, by providing an expedited method for the state to take custody while ensuring a fair, quick access to court review of such seizure.

Under this process, an animal control officer who has reasonable cause to believe there is imminent harm of neglect or abuse may take custody of the animal and within 96 hours of such seizure, apply to court for a hearing. If there is no threat of imminent harm, the officer may proceed civilly through a petition to court for a civil hearing on abuse or neglect or proceed criminally -- under current law -- to take custody through a warrant finding probable cause to believe the animal's owners have violated our cruelty against animals laws.

Animal control officers receive numerous complaints concerning abuse or neglect of animals. This legislation clarifies that abused animals may be taken without a warrant if there is imminent harm. Alternatively, a warrant may be sought if there is probable cause.

I urge the committee's favorable consideration of House Bill 7392.