



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE DIANA S. URBAN
FORTY THIRD ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 4057
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591
HOME: (860) 535-4868
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585
TOLL FREE: (800) 842-8267
FAX: (860) 240-0067
E-MAIL: Diana.Urban@cga.ct.gov

VICE CHAIRMAN
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**Testimony of Representative Diana Urban in Support of
SB 284- AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF PETS IN DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE CASES.
Judiciary Committee
March 5, 2007**

Good Afternoon Senator McDonald and Representative Lawlor. I am Representative Diana Urban from the 43rd assembly district, here to testify today on behalf of SB 284- an act concerning the protection of pets in domestic violence cases.

I would like to thank Senator Roraback for proposing similar language on Protective and Restraining orders for pets of domestic violence victims as I proposed in HB 6071, and also the Committee for raising the subject matter contained in both bills for this public hearing in SB 284.

I have long been an advocate of addressing the cycle of violence that too often begins with helpless animals and then ratchets up to children and domestic partners. It is well known that the FBI uses animal abuse as one of four indicators of future violent behavior.

Knowing this, it only seems logical that an abuser would find abusing a beloved pet an effective way to get at their victim. And, indeed, there is ample evidence of this. From an abuser cutting off a dog's ears and sending them to the abused to an abuser running over the victim's aged, blind and deaf border collie in the victim's driveway as a method of intimidation,

A study done by Utah State University in 1999 revealed that more than 70% of women surveyed in one domestic violence shelter reported that their abusers threatened to harm their pets, 54% reported that their pets were harmed or killed.

On a personal note, anyone that knows me, knows that harming my child or my pets is a sure fire way to get to me. I would much rather be hurt myself that to see pain inflicted on them. Rest assured that abusers know this too.

On a related note, I realize that there are many issues in the domestic violence arena that need to be addressed and I count on the wisdom of this Committee to do the best that we can for these victims and their future

Thank You.

SERVING STONINGTON AND NORTH STONINGTON