

Testimony of Angela D. Pugliese

259 Bounty Way
Windsor, CT 06095

Regarding:

- **CT HB 5493—“Puppy Lemon Law,” Fines for Pet Stores and Breeding Kennels**
- **CT HB 5798—Dog Tethering and Confinement**
- **CT HB 5808—Rabies Vaccination Certificates (to increase spay/neuter funding)**

As a Connecticut voter, and an active volunteer with Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary, plus a volunteer and supporter of CT Votes for Animals, I care deeply about the following bills and urge that you support them.

The Puppy Lemon Law, HB 5493, this bill will hold pet stores and kennels accountable for their neglect in failure to obtain the proper history of a pet. I strongly believe that we need to put measures in place that will require pet shops to obtain puppies/dogs from reputable and humane breeders, therefore eliminating the “puppy mill” cruelty. We need to require these pet shops provide the consumer with full information regarding the pet’s origin. By instituting a financial fine when the pet stores obtain dogs from puppy mills or they fail to provide the proper information to the consumer regarding the dog, the owners may be more apt to change their cruel policies.

Institute an enforceable ban on the unreasonable tethering and confinement of dogs - HB 5798 – I believe that it is cruel to leave a dog chained outside for an endless period of time. Not only is it cruel to the dog, but it makes the dog more likely to be aggressive, and therefore the dog will soon become a public safety risk. Neighbors are also forced to listen to the dog bark endlessly and watch the dog suffer from boredom and neglect. Even if the concerned citizen were to call the animal control officer, under the current law, there is little the officer can do. Please hold the owners of these dogs responsible for their well-being.

Rabies Vaccination Certificates (to increase spay/neuter funding). HB 5808 – By allowing animal control officers to request a listing from veterinarians of the dogs in their towns that have received a rabies vaccination, these officers will no longer be wasting their time canvassing their town looking for the unlicensed dogs. This bill seems like a no-brainer to me, because not only does it free up the officer’s time to do other things, but it will also increase the town’s funding by holding more owners responsible for licensing their dogs.

Thank you and I strongly urge you to support these bills.