

Testimony of Lori Fogler-Nicholson

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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 (increasing spay/neuter funding)

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion on the above stated bills.

Regarding HB 5493 the "Puppy Lemon Law"...there is nothing more heartbreaking than walking into a pet store and seeing puppies sitting on metal grates with no toys or interaction. Then there are other puppies thrown into a huge group, some with weeping eyes who are obviously sick and yet are being man handled by dozens of people on a busy Saturday afternoon at the mall. Not to mention that these puppies have parents who have never been certified with a good bill of health. I worked with several professional breeders in this state and we had our dogs tested for every possible genetic defect possible **before** breeding them. The sad truth is that many of these facilities are strictly money makers that turn out weak dogs who most likely will develop genetic defects particular to their breed. My neighbor Betty from Milford bought 2 boxers from a so called breeder here in Connecticut. Both of her dogs died before the age of five years old. One died while chasing a ball in the back yard with her children (Cardiomyopathy) and the other died after large sums of money were spent trying to save it from parvo. Forget the financial aspect of the situation and imagine the heartache for that family who loved those animals. The parents of those puppies were never tested and litter after litter...these horrible traits get passed on and all because there are no "official" health guidelines for breeders or pet stores. It's a disgrace.

Regarding **HB 5798** "Dog tethering and confinement"...there was a dog training school in Milford where I took my boxer for obedience training...the woman teaching told me that the owner of the facility raised Rottweiler's and that his dogs were crated 23 hours a day. She felt awful about it but didn't know what to do. I recently tried to see if the man was still over in Devon. If you pass this law I will be the first to alert the authorities. How cruel, inhumane and unacceptable this behavior is. Secondly I can think of numerous occasions in East Haven that I brought fresh water and food over to a beautiful Siberian husky who was chained outside on a dirt lawn day and night. The woman who owned him died of a methadone overdose and her husband a drug user. I was too frightened to say much to them so I did what I could for the dog. Another woman in Milford had her Dalmatian outside on Christmas Eve in an open enclosure. The dog was barking and barking and barking. I walked over there in what was 17 degree winter weather. She said "Oh I'm sorry if his barking is bothering you"...I told her a Dalmatian should not be left outside in sub zero weather 24 hours a day. She told me he would get used to it. Not only was her confining this dog day and night despicable but to do so in dangerously cold weather is just unacceptable.

Regarding **HB 5808**"Rabies Vaccination Certificates"...First I apologize for being so wordy but after many years of seeing all sorts of abuse and mistreatment of animals I feel we as a society are better than this. If we can generate funds via the above bill and keep our pets rabies free it seems like the right thing to do.

Please support the above bills. I know so many fellow tax payers and citizens that feel the same way I do about these issues and we are counting on you to make these situations right for us.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.