

**CONNECTICUT VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
TESTIMONY TO CGA ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REGARDING HB 5808
AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS AND THE RELEASE
OF RABIES VACCINATION RECORDS**

February 9, 2009

Messrs' Chairmen and Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, which represents 95% of Connecticut licensed veterinarians, would like to address our concerns with HB 5808, which seeks to make it easier to access pet owner's private records.

We strongly feel that the only situation in which a pet owner's private pet medical records should be accessed without their permission is in the case of a dog bite in which the animal control officer is unable to obtain permission from the owner to access those records to verify rabies vaccination information. We feel that any other situation would not appropriately justify such an invasion of privacy.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns regarding HB 5808.

Sincerely,

Eva Ceranowicz DVM
Chair, Government Affairs Committee
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association

**CONNECTICUT VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
TESTIMONY TO CGA ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REGARDING SB 499
AN ACT CONCERNING A PET LEMON LAW**

February 9, 2009

Messrs's Chairmen and Members of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, which represents 95% of Connecticut licensed veterinarians, strongly supports Senate Bill 499. This bill will serve to protect the public from establishments which sell unhealthy cats and dogs.

Too frequently individuals and families purchase pets that are sold to them in poor health. Some of these pets are ill with diseases that can be transmitted to their new families, especially to children and immune suppressed individuals. This results in the new pet owners and their families being burdened with personal health concerns, high expenses, and emotional heartbreak. The current pet lemon law does little to deter the sale of these pets with illnesses or disabilities because of the low monetary fine. We feel that if the liability of those who sell these animals were more in line with the medical expenses incurred by new owners then strict quarantine procedures and sanitary practices would be adhered to, as well as encouraging pet stores to buy their pets from sources that are of higher standard.

We strongly feel that SB 499 would benefit the citizens of Connecticut and the animals being sold with regards to public health, expense to new owners, and emotional turmoil for their families. We strongly urge you to support SB 499.

Sincerely,

Eva Ceranowicz DVM
Chair, Government Affairs Committee
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association

**CONNECTICUT VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
TESTIMONY TO THE CGA ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REGARDING SB 783**

February 9, 2009

Messrs Chairmen and Members of the Environment Committee,

The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association, which represents 95% of Connecticut licensed veterinarians, strongly supports Senate Bill 783. The bill will bring to bear more comprehensive regulation of the interstate movement of animals into Connecticut, in the interest of protecting both animal and public health.

Each month, individuals and groups quietly ship animals into Connecticut for adoption or purchase by citizens, without appropriate regulatory oversight. These transfers occur in park-and-ride parking lots and other out-of-the-way locations, scheduled and preplanned to avoid attention from authorities. The animals enter our state without proper medical evaluation or the oversight of the Connecticut Department of Agriculture. Indeed, an entire pet transport industry has sprung up, as certain self-interested animal organizations in Connecticut, working with similar organizations out of state, arrange the movement of animals into Connecticut for a shared fee. Still other contractors act as drivers on legs of the trips for which local drivers are unavailable, resulting in additional human exposure to the animals and further stress on the animals themselves as they are shifted from vehicle to vehicle. Animals imported in this way may bring unexpected diseases and parasites to Connecticut, which in turn expose our native animals and put a financial burden on the adopters, who are surprised with unexpected animal health expenses. This entire practice poses health risks to the animals, as well as to the public and makes adoption of Connecticut source animals less likely, as Connecticut is flooded with out-of-state originated animals.

SB 783 will serve to bring this practice under regulatory control and better ensure the health of the animals and the public. It will go a long way to closing the regulatory loophole which allows shipment of animals without proper health oversight. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Arnold L. Goldman DVM, MS
Government Affairs Committee
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association