

Testimony of Susan B. Linker

Chief Executive Officer, Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary

Vice President, CT Votes for Animals

Regarding:

- SB 856 An Act Concerning **Posting of Origin of Puppies Sold in Retail Establishments**
- SB 994 - An Act Concerning Leg hold Traps

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, members of the Environment Committee, thank you for this opportunity to comment on bills that are before this committee. As a Connecticut voter, Chief Executive Officer of Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary, and Vice President of CT Votes for Animals, I care deeply about the following bills.

First I would like to speak in support of SB 856- An Act Concerning Posting of Origin of Puppies Sold in Retail Establishments. SB 856 would require pet shops to advertise the origin of the puppies they sell. Current state law requires only that pet shops advise the public of the puppy's state of birth, and maintain a record of the person or company from whom the pet shop bought the puppy (but this could be the middleman or commonly used brokers and not the breeder).

Puppies supplied in pet shops come from horrible breeding factories called puppy mills. SB 856 would provide consumers with full information regarding the cats and dogs' origins. This is important because many pets are sold under the misrepresentation that they are from humane breeders and not from puppy mills.

I would also like to urge this committee to support SB 994 - An Act Concerning Leg hold Traps. Animals caught in traps suffer immensely while waiting for the trapper to come and kill them. Even a short period of time with a limb caught in a leg hold trap is excruciatingly painful. Animals will chew off their own limbs to escape the traps. Once the trapper finds the captured animal, if the animal is still alive after suffering for days, the trapper will usually club or stomp the animal to death.

Several U.S. states and many countries have banned leg hold trap, due to their barbaric cruelty. I know this issue has come up before. But this time, I hope the CT Legislature will make a strong stand and ban the use of what can only be described as a cruel and barbaric method of torturing and killing animals.