

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Connecticut Joint Committee on Environment
FR: Rebecca Williams, NRA-ILA Connecticut State Liaison
RE: Senate Bill 274
DATE: March 10, 2010

With respect to SB 274, currently pending consideration in the Joint Committee on Environment, the National Rifle Association would like to convey our strong opposition. This proposal seeks to prohibit the confining or tethering of a dog in its primary enclosure with less than 100 square feet of space and would require 50 square feet for each additional dog. The bill would also outlaw tethering a dog and leaving the animal unattended for any amount of time unless the dog has access to food, water or shelter.

The requirements set forth by SB 274 would make the price of doing business for kennels, training operations and hunters excessively high. A costly redesign and expansion of virtually every kennel in the state would have to be undertaken in order to comply with this proposal. Some facilities would simply not have the space to expand or may not be able to afford to make the changes and would be driven out of business.

SB 274 would also put an end to the standard procedure for many hunters to tether the animal, particularly in the field. Breeding, owning and training dogs for hunting is an extremely expensive undertaking and hunters are very unlikely to treat these animals in any way other than safely and humanely.

It is the position of the National Rifle Association that this legislation blatantly seeks to target common hunting practices involving dogs and to make owning, training and breeding dogs prohibitively expensive. Currently, there are sufficient laws on the books to combat animal abuse and neglect. For the above stated reasons we urge you to OPPOSE SB 274 should the bill come up for a vote in the Joint Committee on Environment. If you have any questions regarding our position on this or any other legislation impacting our members, please feel free to contact me at (703) 517-8102.