

# COALITION OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN

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Testimony presented to the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

## **IN OPPOSITION TO S.B. No. 274 (RAISED) ENVIRONMENT. 'AN ACT PROHIBITING THE UNREASONABLE CONFINEMENT AND TETHERING OF DOGS'**

by Robert T. Crook, Director

March 8, 2010

While everyone is opposed to cruelty to animals, this bill imposes unreasonable restrictions. The measure will prohibit the confining or tethering of a dog in its primary enclosure with less than one hundred square feet of space. Does this apply to a room in a house or within a carry cage in a house where the dog is kept for the night? Does the size of the dog matter? For each additional dog kept the bill requires an additional fifty square feet of space. I have two dogs, each about 5 lbs, so I need a 10x15 foot room for both dogs? Additionally, if passed, this bill would require many sporting dog kennels and breeders to spend thousands of dollars to upgrade their facilities or risk being put out of existence.

The bill will also prohibit tethering a dog and leaving it "unattended" for any amount of time unless that dog has access to food, water, and shelter. This would prohibit dog owners from letting their dogs outside while providing food, water and shelter unless the owner was within "visual range of the dog." When I owned a Coon Hunting Dog, the animal was kept outside, on a long leash with no area entanglements, in a comfortable dog house, with adequate food and water. He preferred being outside and did not want in the house. Was that an "unreasonable manner" of providing for the animal?

"Not within the visual range of the owner or not on the premises?" Do I have to take the dog every where I go, or cannot leave the dog at home (in the 100' enclosure) "on the subject premises" when I have business? Additionally, this bill could subject dog owners to citations for simply crossing the street to talk to their neighbor or being out of sight of their tethered dog by not following the above provisions. Fined \$100? Will the animal control officer be watching my house or me to insure compliance?

It is understood that parameters have to be set for law enforcement and the protection of animals. However, this is NOT the bill! This bill sets unreasonable and arbitrary requirements that would devastate many law abiding animal considerate citizens, kennels, and eliminate many practices commonly used by sporting dog owners.

We urge rejection.