

My name is Peter Kuck and I live in West Hartford Connecticut. I am here today to speak for myself and no other organization.

I am here testifying on Bill Number 5368 **An act extending certain pet shop licensee requirements to persons and organizations that import animals for adoption.**

I am limiting my comments to changes that I would like to see made to Section 22-344 sub (e) lines 70 thru 99.

My concern is that the new section (e) does not adequately differentiate between a “for profit” business and a non profit volunteer rescue organization. I belong to an organization that rescues Siamese cats in states from Florida to Maine. Rescue organizations such as the one that I am a volunteer for are not a businesses in usual sense of the word. They depend upon networks of volunteers who will, as I do rescue, foster, and find homes for abandoned and abused animals. Animals who if these organizations did not exist would become a burden on the states animal control officers and municipal budgets. These organizations run at a lose and exist only due to contributions.

The typical volunteer following the protocols of these organizations will foster either one or two cats at a time providing the love, shelter, food, and the cats’ kitty liter out of their own pockets. The organization provides the training, the money for veterinarian services, and the web presence re-home these animals.

I do not oppose the licensing of Rescue groups because I believe that it is one way to prevent puppy mills or backyard breeders from dumping animals in our state. My concern is that subsection (e) would not exempt the volunteers of a licensed Rescue organization from onerous regulation that would destroy the organizations volunteer pool and therefore condemn a multitude of abandoned animals to death.

Thank You

Peter Kuck
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e since World War II.