

Testimony of Donna Keegan in support of HB 5368

Attention to Chairman Roy, Chairman Meyer and members of the Environment Committee:

I adopted a 2 year old Chihuahua back on March 13, 2008 from North Shore Animal League in New York when their van came to Southbury, CT. To my understanding; my dog was in perfect health. I was told he was a rescue from Tennessee and that he had been neutered, given shots and checked for heartworm, which he was negative. I immediately took my dog for a check-up at my veterinarian, Prospect-Wolcott Veterinary in Prospect and he checked out fine. They had also provided Heartgard for my dog to protect him from heartworm, which I started immediately. Two weeks later my dog had developed kennel cough and was really sick. I brought him to my veterinarian, where they provided medication for my dog and he was good within a week. They also suggested that I make a follow up appointment in September of 2008. I brought my dog in for his follow up and they routinely tested him for heartworm. My dog tested positive. This was devastating to both of us. One because I was unaware that I had a sick dog and two because he was new to us and our home and it put a lot of emotional pressure on him as well being at the vet for nearly 4 days. My instructions were too keep him in a quiet environment so he could heal properly. This was a hard task on both of us too because he is a very active dog and couldn't understand why he couldn't play. He felt like he was being punished. Not only that but the financial costs, which came to almost \$1,000.00, were hard to meet but they put me on a payment plan to make it a little easier.

Since then, my dog has been a very healthy, happy and fun individual due to proper caring of my dog. What we had to go through prior, I feel was from improper care and screening. I wanted to voice my experience to you in hopes to avoid a situation for future adopted individuals.

Best Regards,

Donna Keegan

203-217-1950