

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 6303
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Board member, Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary

Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile, members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to share some of what I have learned in visits to municipal animal shelters throughout the state of CT.

Because of their very high (60%!) euthanasia rate, I focused on the Waterbury, CT Pound, where I was able to document many cases of animal abuse and neglect, which I presented to the municipality last year. Just some of the examples:

- On March 12, 2010 and April 1, 2010, two small dogs were rescued by a rescue organization. Both were unrecognizable as to breed, sex, etc. They were so matted and foul, they could hardly walk or move (Pictures enclosed). Both had been hosed over by high pressure hoses when the cages were cleaned because – according to a Waterbury ACO – no one wanted to touch/remove them. They had no vet care when impounded, a violation of 22-336-28 c. Many hours of grooming uncovered a young Schnauzer and senior Bichon, both of whom were eventually placed by the rescue into loving homes.
- Yorkie died from untreated maggots, due to lack of vet care at the Pound, which was captured on video and presented to the municipality.

These are just some of the many examples of animals denied critical veterinary care that I have witnessed first hand. The public would be outraged if they knew how poorly many animals are treated at municipal pounds. Passing this law will give these animals a chance and go a long way to bringing the treatment of impounded animal into the 21st century.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my statement.



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