

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: HB-05323 AN ACT CONCERNING BITING DOGS

My name is Cheryl Gagnon and I am the Animal Control Officer for the town of Cromwell CT. I am writing today because I Oppose the changes to HB-05323.

The main purpose of this original bill is for the control of rabies and the quarantine of dogs that bite to watch for signs of rabies in that biting dog. In doing so the victim of the biting dog does not have to endure the cost and pain of the post exposure rabies vaccine. The original bill already contains a provision for an animal control officer to issue Any restraint order upon on a biting dog.

The new wording in section 2 of this proposed bill actually removes the quarantine of the biting dog. If that is done how do we monitor such dog for rabies? How does the victim know if they are to receive the post exposure vaccines?

With the new wording in section 2 of the proposed bill it states that a dog owner can be ordered to take the biting dog to obedience classes for six weeks in lieu of a quarantine, exposing that dog to numerous other dogs and humans during the quarantine period, if said biting dog does have rabies it is a Huge health risk to unsuspecting others.

The new wording in section 2 also states that an officer can move said dog to another location where biting is less likely to occur. In doing so there is no provision for who monitors that biting dog once it is moved. If under that provision I take a biting dog from Cromwell CT and move it to another location in CT where it is no longer my jurisdiction, who monitors that dog so that all the provisions are being met? Just by taking the dog out of my town does not make it any less likely to bite again, it in fact is giving that dog more chances to bite again by not being properly monitored.

The existing statue already has provisions for the quarantine of biting dogs for the risk of rabies exposure which is a health issue and it already contains provisions for an animal control officer to make any restraint on a biting dog.

Again as an Animal Control Officer in the State of Connecticut I Oppose the new changes in HB-05323.