

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5409
Susan B. Linker, March 16, 2012
CEO, Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary
Vice President, CT Votes for Animals.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my **support** of Raised Bill 5409. AN ACT CONCERNING PET SHOPS.

This bill strengthens a bill which passed in 2009 which holds pet shops accountable for sick the puppies they sell by requiring pet shops to reimburse pet owner of medical expenses for any animal who become sick 14 days after adoption. SB5409 would:

- Clarify that a purchaser of a dog or cat from a pet shop may receive reimbursement of up to \$500 in veterinary expenses from the pet shop, whether or not the purchaser returns the animal. This was clarified when the bill was passed (see below House and Senate discussion) yet some pet shops have been interpreting it incorrectly and demanding the pet be returned for the veterinary reimbursement. This bill will end any ambiguity about return of the pet.
- Require pet shops to provide consumers with notice of their rights and obligations under the Connecticut's "Puppy Lemon Law,"
- Authorize the state Department of Agriculture to fine pet shops \$500/animal for poor and improper animal care. Currently the Department of Agriculture only has the authority to suspend or revoke the pet shops license.

This bill is integral to protect and educate consumers and to protect the exploited dogs sold in pets shops that originate from the barbaric puppy mill industry.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,



Susan B. Linker
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House debate was June 2, 2009.

REP. HURLBURT (151st):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Camillo, is it true that an animal need not be returned in order to collect the reimbursement for veterinarian bills?

DEPUTY SPEAKER GODFREY:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes.

Senate debate was April 30, 2009.

SENATOR MEYER:

Colleagues, this is the pet lemon law coming to us because of complaints in many parts of Connecticut that there have been puppy mills exporting puppies from other states into the state of Connecticut, many with defects or diseases of various kinds.

And so what this bill seeks to do is to say that if you go to a pet store or a kennel and you purchase a pet and that pet has got a disease like kennel cough, you'll be able to return that pet to the pet shop or kennel within 20 days.

If that pet, instead of having an ordinary disease, has a congenital defect, as for examples, labradors are increasingly found -- found to have hip dysplasia, you'll actually have six months to return your pet. If you've fallen in love with your pet, on the other hand, don't want to return it, you'll be able to take the pet to the vet and the pet store or kennel will have to reimburse you vet fees up to \$ 500.

That's the principle -- that's the crux of this bill. There's another part of the bill that's important that will allow chief animal control officers in our towns to obtain rabies records from vets who have made a record of -- with respect to rabies vaccinations.

So that's the amendment and I urge its passage.