

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5446
March 16, 2012
Ashlee Leone, Assistant Animal Control Officer
for the Town of Ellington

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill, 5446, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PAYMENT PROCEDURE FOR THE STERILIZATION AND VACCINATION OF CERTAIN DOGS AND CATS AND PROVIDING FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER TRAINING.

I am a registered voter in Ellington, and I have been an Assistant Animal Control Officer for almost 5 years. I feel it is important to support the bills that pertain to my profession and give testimony as to why.

The first part of this bill, concerning the payment procedure for the sterilization and vaccination of dogs and cats, would benefit the animals and the pounds across the state tremendously. So many people turn away from adopting intact cats and dogs. To a lot of people it is just a hassle and not something they want to deal with when they first bring their new pets home. More importantly this bill will allow us to do our part by helping to control the population of dogs and cats. Too many people want their pets to have to “just one” litter. This is irresponsible and un-needed. There are so many dogs and cats already out there, that need homes. Why contribute to the possibility of more being reproduced. Overall, if we are able to spay/neuter and vaccinate before animals are adopted out, it makes them much more desirable to the public, especially first time pet owners.

The second part of this bill pertains to providing training for Animal Control Officers. I personally like to think of my job as a profession. We are doing so much more than picking up stray dogs and cleaning kennels. We are enforcing the law, providing peace in neighborhood disputes, handling all dispositions of animals both domestic and wild, and educating the public. By implementing a training program, this will bring us one step closer to getting the recognition of being an “OFFICER”. Many of us started our jobs by being handed the keys and the book of CT State Statutes, and sent off to do our work. Some municipalities don’t even have a continuing education fund for Animal Control in their budget. It is extremely important that the Animal Control Officers of CT are given the opportunity to receive training for our job duties. We are in a profession which is continuously evolving and presented with new laws almost every session. The training will not only give us creditability but also decrease liability. This training will be the next step in evolving our profession into something even greater.

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

Thank you,

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