

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5446
Amy Harrell
Connecticut Votes for Animals, Board Member

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 would like to join so many others in my support of this important bill that I believe would truly make a difference. Until recently, I naively assumed Animals Control Officers needed special credentials: certain education, degrees, perhaps a training course certificate. I was appalled to discover they do not. I fear for an ACO's safety when they need to deal with dangerous animals, and I fear the animals they handle are not being cared for properly. A training program for Animal Control Officers is sorely needed.

The costs of pet over-population is staggering - not only does it cost taxpayer money, but it costs countless hours of time and energy for those trying to rescue and find homes for these animals. For anyone who loves animals, it also emotionally exhausting and overwhelming to face such an enormous and heartbreaking problem everyday. Allowing ACOs to spay/neuter animals before releasing them to adopters would go such a long way toward alleviating the ordeal of pet overpopulation.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify. I strongly urge you to take swift action on this bill so that it may pass this session.

Thank you,

Amy Harrell
4 Pleasant st
Vernon, CT