

## **Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5446**

Jane Peterson Matanga

Volunteer, Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary & Connecticut Votes For  
Animals

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 Cheshire, Connecticut and I am an avid animal welfare supporter and a Volunteer for Our Companions and for Connecticut Votes for Animals. I want to express my support of Raised Bill, 5446. I feel strongly that we need to advocate for animals and put standardized guidelines and training in place for Animal Control Officers.

I cannot stress enough that this bill needs to be supported. Everyone recognizes that it is important for us to have protections and safe standards and guide lines concerning and especially for the sterilization and vaccination of certain dogs and cats. Proper training for Animal Control Officers will require Animal Control Officers in Connecticut to be trained in the proper medical procedures involved in the sterilization process for adopted animals before they are released from the shelter. As a volunteer for Labs 4 Rescue, as well as a volunteer for Our Companions and Connecticut Votes for Animals, I cannot express in words what I have seen in terms of poor medical or nonexistent guidelines for proper medical sterilization of adopted animals. The results are unspeakable.

I have witnessed improper procedures performed on animals resulting in medical complications, infection and great pain to animals treated by improperly trained or untrained staff. I have also witnessed dogs and cats in need of medical care and the results of not getting the proper care that is necessary. Not a sight for the faint of heart. Not sterilizing dogs and cats creates the problems that all animal lovers and rescue organizations are currently addressing in the animal rescue world. Those issues would be dogs and cats that are not properly cared for those that are either, abandoned, mistreated, and homeless. The list goes on. Connecticut municipalities need to require appropriate care, I.E. sterilization and vaccination before dogs and cats leave our town shelters.

I strongly urge you to support this bill which will help to alleviate some of the problems we are currently experiencing in our municipalities and town shelters. If you want to continue to help working to protect these animals, please support Bill 5446!

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

Very Sincerely Yours,

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