

**Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5446**  
**Jessica Corsaletti, March 16, 2012**  
**New Britain CT Animal Control Volunteer**

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 have been working with animals for over ten years. I worked as a Veterinary Technician and in recent years I've volunteered in New Britain Municipal pound where I've worked directly with pound dogs and people looking to adopt. I am a huge supporter of raised bill 5446! In screening potential adopters of pound dogs, I've met many individuals who come to the pound (with no education on breeding) looking to adopt dogs, especially pit bulls. Because the dogs are often found roaming with no history, this means that the person intending to breed would have no history on the temperament or health conditions of these dogs. These people are what's referred to as "street breeders" They usually take any unfixed dog and look for another unfixed dog to breed them with. I have witnessed them sell the puppies for as little as \$25 to whomever will buy them. Most of the time, the puppies have no vaccines and have not been dewormed. The female dog they used for breeding is often dumped on the streets after she has had her puppies and ends up in animal control. One individual looking to adopt a pit bull once showed me the deplorable conditions where he kept his breeding bitches outside. He stated that he came to New Britain Animal Control looking to adopt because he heard they adopt out unspayed and unneutered dogs and he just wanted to use her for breeding. I explained that he should be very cautious about using a dog with an unknown history, for breeding, but he was not concerned at all. After being a volunteer for a couple years and working very closely with the community and the dogs, I was able to witness many of these puppies dumped once they grew larger and remain unclaimed in animal control. Often times the city ends up euthanizing many dogs because there are so many.

At one point, the Mayor asked me to do research regarding various laws to control the animal population. I researched the effectiveness of such legislation as breed specific laws which target certain breeds and others such as spay and neuter in general. It appeared that laws which targeted specific breeds were not effective for several reasons, not to mention discriminating and unfair to responsible owners. Mandatory spay and neuter however, was very effective. It is irresponsible to assume that an adopter will have their pets spayed and neutered. I was informed by the State Dept. of Agriculture that in New Britain, only 60 percent of the adopters

used the voucher they received, to have their animals altered. That left 40 percent open for repopulating, in a city where pit bulls and chihuahuas are being bred and dumped at an alarming rate.

When approximately 3000 animals are euthanized per year in CT pounds, it is time to take a responsible approach to controlling our animal population. By making sure CT pound animals are spayed and neutered prior to leaving, we can reduce the amount of animals being targeted for street breeding, reduce the amount of animals entering the pounds(long term) and thus hopefully spend less money on euthanasia. Animals would be going to more responsible adopters and not people just looking to make money off of breeding. Spay and Neuter also reduces the animals desire to roam as well as improve temperament and reduce risk of cancers. I completely support raised bill 5446 more than any other bill proposed. It is very important that all municipal pound officers are proactive in reducing the animal overpopulation problem. When puppies and kittens who are only weeks old, are receiving needles in their veins to be put to sleep, there is most definitely a need for this bill to be passed. Its time CT no longer allows street breeders and irresponsible people, to target these helpless animals and use them for breeding and eventually dumping.

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

Thank you,

Jessica Corsaletti  
22 Mattabassett St  
Berlin, CT