

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5446

Noranne Nielsen

Mansfield Animal Control

4 South Eagleville Rd

Mansfield, CT 06268

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 Mansfield, and I am the Animal Control Officer in Mansfield.

I strongly support this bill. The job of an Animal Control Officer is multi faceted, complex and can be dangerous and you need to be properly trained to be able to serve the public well and keep the public safe. For example I'm NACA certified level 1 and 2, because I feel it's irresponsible to work as an ACO without being certified and not knowing the CT Animal Control Laws. I have been an ACO for almost 13 years and have met several fellow officers who are not familiar with the ACO laws and State animal control procedures, which is worrisome and needs to change. An Animal Control Officer fills a very important role in the community in helping animals and people.

Spaying and neutering adoptable shelter animals while they are still at the shelter totally makes sense. I have been doing this for years. I refuse to let pets (when old enough) leave the shelter unneutered. The new adopter fills out the state voucher, pays the fees and we bring the dog/cat to the vet. After the surgery the dog or cat recovers for a couple of days and then goes to it's new home. This works perfectly. Making it a law would be wonderful and would help especially the pit bull overpopulation in CT. Currently, 100% of the Mansfield shelter dogs are pit bulls. From my experience, State vouchers are not always used after adoption. Spaying/neutering through the shelter solves this problem. The only negative for some officers could be that it costs time, but in my opinion it's time well spend. It also weeds out the people that want to breed with shelter animals, because the moment they find out the dog will be fixed before it goes out, they lose interest.

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

Thank you,

Noranne Nielsen
4 South Eagleville Rd
Mansfield, CT 06268
860-487-0137