

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5446
Doreen Brown
Volunteer with Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary

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 Ashford, and I am a volunteer with Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary.

I strongly support Raised Bill 5446. There are too many abandoned and unwanted animals in our Connecticut towns and as animals flow through animal control facilities, it's a disgrace that animals are not well cared for and a huge disappointment that the animals are not sterilized before adoption. While Bill 5443 can have a financial impact on the front end, it would benefit officers with proper training for their jobs as well as reduce the cost of sheltering & euthanasia with fewer animals being born and finding their way back to shelters. Education is imperative and especially when it comes to public safety. Police officers, EMT, Fire personnel are all trained for their positions and Animal Control Officers should be no different. The results of education and the control to vaccinate and spay/neuter could only be positive both for the municipality as well as the community it serves. Spay/Neuter before releasing for adoption from any facility, will eliminate additional unwanted pets that only fill animal control facilities and rescue facilities.

It's imperative that Raised Bill 5446 be passed. Education and training of Animal Control Officers and professionalizing this position would be hugely beneficial. It would empower this position and attract people with a true desire for animal wellness and public safety. It would provide a positive example to the people of the community that this is not only a vital position but worthy of investment. Lead by example. Let the Towns and Animal Control Officers lead by this positive example and let these Officers be trained to perform their jobs well and safely serve the community they work for.

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

Thank you,

Doreen Brown
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