

Testimony Concerning SB 253

Lizanne M. Bennett, President Bandit's Place, Inc., Animal Rescue

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for the opportunity to express my concerns on SB253, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Animal Importation Statutes

I am a registered voter in East Hartland, and I am the president and founder of Bandit's Place, Inc., Animal Rescue.

As an animal rescuer as well as a veterinary nurse and a former animal control officer, I strongly support legislation to ensure the health and safety of all animals. I applaud Connecticut's efforts to ensure that animals brought into our state are healthy and well cared for, however since having the new law enacted, I can say, first hand, that there is a strong need to modify this law.

After much thought and consideration regarding the initial intake of animals from out of state, I submit the following suggestion for your review:

Make it mandatory that incoming animals are to be held by the receiving rescue for five days after arrival and that then, before the 7th day of being in state, the health certificate is to be issued by a CT veterinarian.

The reason behind this is that it forces the receiving rescue to have the pets in state prior to adoption. I was told by an employee of Banfield Vet Hospital in East Hartford that a rescue was late for an appointment to get pets JUST RECEIVED from a transport their health certificates. Apparently there were adopters already AT the store, waiting for their pets. The rescue apparently brings them in just off the transport, gets them health certs and then adopts them out on site.

In changing it to a 5 day mandatory hold, it forces the rescue to actually have facilities here on CT instead of being allowed to bring pets up by the bus-load and dump them the same day. I thought that the law was trying to prevent this and I believe this type of activity is in violation of the IDEA of the law.

If an animal is going to break with an illness due to the transport (or even due to exposure prior to the transport) it will usually show up within the first few days after arrival. Kennel cough is the most common thing they break with and this can take a few days or up to 5 days to show. Keeping these animals in CT, at the rescue, for the required 5 days will make sure that if the animal does break, it is treated by the rescue and not passed on to the adopter. Most transports arrive on Saturday or Sunday, so this would mean that healthy pets can get certificates on Thursday or Friday and be adopted out for that weekend following arrival.