

Testimony Concerning SB 253
From: Doreen Rymkiewicz

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

I am a registered voter in Milford and I have just started volunteering by assisting animals being transported by from the South. I also just got a rescue from Texas on February 4, 2012.

Our Hannah had been spayed, thoroughly vaccinated, and on heartworm preventative before she was put up for adoption. A certified vet in Texas examined her to make sure she was compliant with the following Federal Regulations:

"Federal Regulations require that all canines being transported within the United States have a current Department of Agriculture Interstate Health Certificate issued from a Veterinarian licensed by the state, which the canine was picked up from. Dated no longer than 10 days before the canine is dropped off in New England. This certificate MUST accompany the canine along with copies of all vaccine and medical records. This certificate insures everyone involved that the canine is healthy, up to date on vaccines, and not communicable in even the slightest way. The Health certificate should be addressed to the adopter or foster who is picking up the dog. If your Vet does not have Health Certificates from the State Department Agriculture, use this form: AGHIS form 7001 available from the USDA."

There is already federal regulation in place to protect against any danger to animals, north or south. I had my vet appointment, which was unnecessary, and cost over \$160.00. My Hannah was already examined, had blood work, and heartworm before she left. It would be kind to adopters and dog volunteers like me, if we could spend that money elsewhere. Any visit to the vet causes a varying amount of stress. These dogs should be allowed to develop confidence and flourish in their forever homes, not be subjected to a duplication of efforts.

I strongly urge you to support this bill which will help alleviate hardships on caring citizens and organizations who are working to protect and rescue animals. We can apply our energies and resources to saving more lives with your support.

Thank you for your consideration,
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