

Testimony Concerning SB 253
Jan Borreil
Foster Mom

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 Farmington and I foster homeless animals. I foster homeless animals from CT and other states. I do not discriminate if the animal is from another state. I help American animals in need. I am addressing our national problem of pet over population.

We vet, vaccinate, and alter (spay/neuter) all the animals that pass through our rescue. Each animal we alter reduces the over population and need to euthanize so many animals. Doing so is very costly. The rescue I foster for makes sure all animals are fully vetted and altered BEFORE they enter Connecticut. The current law, signed in last July, requires multiple additional vetting after arriving in CT thus incurring many additional expenses. I have been paying these costs out of pocket so as to keep the adoption fees, which do not cover expenses, as low as possible. Although this law was supported by the Ct veterinarians, and prior to the law taking effect, reported that discounted vetting would be available for the new requirements, we have not found this to be the case. The additional, and redundant vet visits add unnecessary costs as well as a heavy burden on our volunteer hours. The proposal of one health check by a Ct vet prior to adoption, per this bill, would be a more reasonable solution ensuring animals are vetted before they enter CT yet satisfying the proponents of the new law that animals will be vetted in CT before being transferred from foster care to their adoptive family.

The current law states that the imported animal must be seen within 48 hours of arrival in Ct. Transportation of imported animals typically comes on Saturday so people who work can pick them up. The majority of vets are closed on Saturday afternoons and Sundays thus we must scramble to get the animals seen Monday morning. We must take off from work or find a volunteer to take them to a vet. I am a stay at home Mom and the burden of collecting, transporting, and attending to the the animals has fallen to me and takes up my Mondays. Then, if the animal is not adopted in 14 days we must bring them to the vet again thus the animal has been to the vet 3 times in less than 3 weeks incurring high expenses and many volunteer hours. One health check by a CT vet before adoption should be sufficient as per this bill.

I believe the most important health check is the one before entering CT. The new law requiring redundant additional vet visits is making rescue to costly and difficult thus reducing the number of dogs we are able to help. I have been to the High Kill Shelters in Tennessee and Georgia. It is not by coincidence they are located conveniently next to landfills. The shelters are full of healthy, friendly, loving dogs who mostly will die. I know, I pulled some as all the dogs were scheduled to be euthanized within hours to make room for more dogs coming in. We quarantined, vetted, altered these dogs. All have wonderful loving homes including a beautiful well mannered healthy chocolate lab who lives with my 76 year old Dad on a lake and has brought enormous joy and love to his life. She was scheduled to euthanized in a matter of hours then tossed in the landfill but now enjoys daily walks and swims with my Dad. If you can't fathom why I rescue, please watch the video Kiss The Animals goodbye, visit a gassing kill shelter, or witness an unspayed dog on a chain surrounded by her litter of starving puppies. Please do not hinder rescue groups with unnecessary excessive costs and burdens.

I strongly urge you to support SB 253 so we can continue our volunteer efforts to help homeless pets and reduce the 4 million animals euthanized in our country annually.

Thank you,
Jan Borreil
Farmington, CT