

My name is Margarette Wampold, and I appreciate the opportunity to comment on Raised Bill No. 253 An Act Concerning Revisions to the Animal Importation Statutes, which I urge you to oppose.

First let me state that I own two dogs and three cats, one dog and two cats are from rescue origins. So, I fully understand and appreciate the good intentions of rescue organizations. My first concern however, and I hope yours as well, will be for the health and well being of animals already living in Connecticut .....mine, yours, your friends, your neighbors and your constituent's....all their animals. It takes just one animal to start an epidemic.

Public Act No. 11-187 passed just last year is good public policy, as it is fair and took into consideration the health of the animals being imported into the state for adoption. It assures to the extent it can be assured that new animal owners would get a healthy animal to bring into their home. Removing these newly created safeguards undermines the whole intent of the law. The proposed changes weaken the health requirements established last year by eliminating the critical veterinary exam within 48 hours of arrival, and is replacing it with an exam within 15 days prior to sale. That change eliminates the health assurance gained by prompt examination after arrival.

Also, by exempting anyone who agrees to adopt/accept a dog from out of state for personal use before the dog is brought into the state a loophole is created that undermines the intent of the bill, that healthy animal cross our borders. This recreates the public health risks for adopters who might obtain animals without understanding the inherent health risks with those animals.

The inclusion of the word "Intent" is ambiguous and will only lead to a further lack of clarity in the variable situations that occur in the rescue world.

Public Act No. 11-187 is a good law and I have been told that other New England states are looking at it to copy, as their legislators are impressed with Connecticut's farsightedness in creating this law. I urge you not to alter any part of the current law. Please vote no on Raised Bill 253.

Thank you.

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