

Testimony Concerning SB253
Louise LoMeli
PawSafe Animal Rescue

I am thankful that the Environmental Committee has given me the opportunity to voice my opinion concerning SB253, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Animal Importation Statutes in Connecticut.

I live in Patterson, New York but I volunteer with PawSafe Animal Rescue, which does a lot of Animal Rescue work in Connecticut.

As a PawSafe volunteer I work hard to do the very best I can for the rescued animals in our care. All of our puppies and dogs have extensive medical care, including spay/neuter and they are all micro-chipped. All of our rescued animals have valid health certificates and meet or exceed all of Connecticut's requirements for import into the state.

The changes to the Animal Importation Statutes have made it almost impossible for PawSafe to continue operations in Connecticut because the cost for most people to rescue an animal is now unrealistic. Notifications to both the state and local regulatory authorities have now made it impossible for the families that are willing to foster one of our animals because of the prohibitive cost. PawSafe prescreens applicants prior to the events in an attempt to minimize the duration hold time while the new regulation extends that period and increases cost considerably.

Fostering an animal takes a very special person to open up their hearts and their homes. The changes to the Animal Importation Statutes will effectively push these people away and lead to innocent, healthy puppies and dogs being euthanized.

Thank you for your time,
Louise LoMeli
PawSafe Animal Rescue
www.pawsafe.org