

## Testimony Concerning SB 253

Barbara Rudnick

**Volunteered with the Berlin and New Britain Animal Shelters and a member of CT. Votes for Animals**

**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 the town of East Berlin.

I have worked with animal welfare for almost 25 years. I was secretary of Compassionate Care Animal Center and a member of the Underhound Railroad, both rescue organizations. As a volunteer with the New Britain Animal Shelter unfortunately many times we were notified that "time was up" for a dog. For those of us that have worked with a dog in hopes of finding them a loving home, these words are agonizing. I can tell you personally many New Britain dogs have been saved from being euthanized because they were pulled last minute by rescue organizations contacted by us. So many dogs die everyday and we must do everything we can to save as many as possible.

Although the bill is an excellent one and the intent was to protect animals, the number of veterinarian visits required is burdensome and simply unrealistic. Every rescue I know has limited volunteers and funding. They do what they do for no other reason than their love for animals. We need to make their jobs easier, not more difficult, so they can continue their work..

I also would like to point out that although many animals do well with veterinary visits , there are those for who the trip is very traumatic. Their lives are difficult enough why put them through more? We will still protect the animals of Connecticut with the proposed revisions to this bill.

The rescue group that has saved more dogs than any other from the New Britain shelter has told me they probably will no longer be able to operate since they also rescue out of state dogs. This would have devastating consequences to so many dogs.

I ask you to please support the revisions so that the incredible work done by Connecticut rescue groups may continue. We need to work together to make Connecticut a state to be proud of when it comes to animal rights and welfare.

Thank you,

Barbara Rudnick  
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East Berlin, CT.