

March 09, 2012

Dear Senator Cassano, Representative Gentile and distinguished members of the planning and development committee,

I write to you in **support of Raised Bill 5408** An Act Concerning Adoption Fees for Dogs.

Animal welfare has been a lifelong passion of mine. As an intern at the CGA I aided in the investigation of the Connecticut Human Society's euthanization practices, animal cruelty cases in New Britain and Meriden and worked extensively on the Cross Reporting bill which passed in 2011. I can say with great conviction that HB 5048 is necessary if we are to stem the tide of unwanted animals that are destroyed by the tens of thousands each year. The over population of dogs has led to roaming packs which pose a threat to health and human safety. The great majority of dog bites come from unneutered male dogs.

I've submitted a DVD which I hope the committee will view and share with each other. The film is called "Reaching Out/ The Spay and Neuter Challenge." The film highlights the dog overpopulation on Indian Reservations and the safety issues that arise from this. These issues are no less prevalent in Connecticut as is evidenced by the "Pit Bull Ban" that was initiated by the Town Council of Bristol in 2011.

Giving municipalities the ability to charge a fee for animals they have spayed, neutered and vaccinated is forward thinking and is to be commended.

I strongly urge you to support Raised Bill 5408.

Very Sincerely,

Lori Fogler-Nicholson

Animal Shelter Commissioner

Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter-Branford Connecticut