



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE January 30, 2013

**Kathy Kudish, DVM, MSPH
Epidemiologist, Immunization Program
Deputy State Public Health Veterinarian
(860) 509-7929**

House Bill 5333 - An Act Requiring The Biennial Licensing Of Dogs

The Department of Public Health would like to provide the following information regarding House Bill No. 5333, which would provide for the biennial licensing of dogs.

The Department of Public Health opposes House Bill 5333 because of the potential for negative impact on rabies control and prevention. Annual dog licensing serves as a tool to encourage dog owners to keep vaccinations for rabies up to date. This proposal, however, would allow an additional year to pass before an applicant's dog could be denied licensure on the grounds of an overdue rabies vaccination. Consequently, it would allow for dogs with current licenses to be overdue for a rabies vaccine for the additional year.

Furthermore, the bill's statement of purpose indicates that the biennial schedule would "better coincide with rabies vaccination requirements." This statement is inaccurate. Rabies vaccine due dates are determined by the rabies vaccine product used and the number of previous vaccines an animal has received. Biennial licensing would not necessarily coincide with existing vaccine regimens.

*Phone: (860) 509-7269, Fax: (860) 509-7100
Telephone Device for the Deaf (860) 509-7191
410 Capitol Avenue - MS # 13GRE
P.O. Box 340308 Hartford, CT 06134
An Equal Opportunity Employer*