

## Testimony Concerning HB5836

**Cynthia Opderbeck  
Mansfield Animal Shelter  
Storrs**

I appreciate the opportunity to express to the Environment Committee my support of HB5836, which would expand spay/neuter and vaccination benefits to pets belonging to low-income families, utilizing existing funds in the state's Animal Population Control Program (APCP).

I am a registered voter in Storrs Mansfield. I am also a volunteer at the Mansfield Animal Shelter and have been for the past three years.

It is mandatory that all pets be vaccinated for disease! This is a basic requirement for keeping animals and their human owners safe from disease, fundamental to responsible care of pets in our charge.

It is also essential that the pet population be carefully controlled by a well ordered spay/neuter program! This is of course in the best interest of the community in order to prevent animal overpopulation, which contributes to undue stress on human owners, to pet neglect and abandonment, to pressures and burdens on the community's good will and its shelters, and can result ultimately in elimination of unwanted animals, a most unfortunate outcome.

By far, most pet owners want to do right by their animals. Many homes where animals are kept as pets, however, find themselves in difficult circumstances financially, and the community should be ready to come to the assistance of owners when the need arises, to help them to be responsible and caring. The availability of assistance for immunization services and for spay/neuter programs is essential for those in need. Passage of HB5836 would go a long way toward achieving the goals of vaccination for all pets and amelioration of the pet overpopulation problem.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; I do trust you will strongly support this very important piece of legislation.

I thank you for your anticipated support of HB5836.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia N Opderbeck  
714 Storrs Road  
Storrs, CT 06268  
(860)786-7217

11 March 2013