

Testimony Concerning HB 5844 and HB 5836
Cora Martino - President
Pitter Patter Feline Rescue, Inc.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844 and HB 5836 DOG CHAINING AND APCP VOUCHERS FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE.

I am a registered voter in Stamford, CT

In my travels of TNR (Trap Neuter and Release I often see many dogs chained up in their back yards with no shelter from the elements and definitely no human contact. This needs to come to an end. It is cruelty at its best.

I am very big on TNR the feral cats in my community. Most of these cats were at one time owned by someone and then just disposed of like a dirty diaper. None of these cats are vaccinated, spayed or neutered. Not being vaccinated alone is a health issue to the community. Not only have that but the pregnant females given birth to helpless babies that are just born to die. It's a disgrace what I see these cats go through in this state of CT with all the money we have here. Spy/Neuter laws need to be enforced and most definitely availability to those who need it financially for APCP vouchers.

A personal story: We were called upon when a low-income family in a very low income area of Stamford was having a birthday party for their daughter. A group of children were playing catch with a ball. One child missed catching the ball and it rolled into bushes. The child went to retrieve the ball and 2 cats bolted from the hedges. This child startled these cats and was very lucky she was not bitten by one of them. This child would have probably have gone through a series of Rabies vaccines, we trapped and neutered over 9 cats just in her and her 2 neighbors yard.

Please pass both of these bills. It is a necessity and very much a community health issue. I speak from experience.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Cora Martino
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