

## **Testimony Concerning HB5844**

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Mansfield Animal Shelter  
Storrs**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5844, which would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and which would require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

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

I am deeply concerned about the welfare of our animals, out of concern for their wellbeing as well as for our own need to be responsible human caregivers. Our pets depend on us completely for adequate care and for kind treatment. This bill represents the minimum of what should be provided for humane care for a pet exposed to the elements. It is imperative that dogs have access to shelter when chained outside; and that chaining outside at night be prohibited. A dog deserves at least this level of care. In addition, consideration for neighbors in the community is essential, in that the barking of a dog confined outside at all hours can obviously readily become a nuisance. The critical concern, however, remains the welfare of the pet. I have witnessed dogs chained in their owners' yards without regard to rain and cold or to hot sun and dry conditions, without adequate shelter or even at times fresh water to drink. This constitutes a situation of mistreatment and neglect, and a community of caring people would consider it unacceptable. Understanding and sympathy needs to be concomitantly offered to dog owners who have situations that seem to be faced with limited choices in this regard. Education and caring support with devising solutions should be part of our approach to solving social and animal-welfare problems such as these. But it is essential that the conditions of physical safety and comfort and humane treatment of our pets be assured. Passage of HB5844 would begin to address this basic need.

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

Thank you for your anticipated support of HB5844.

Sincerely yours,

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