



Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association Testimony Regarding HB 5333  
AN ACT REQUIRING THE BIENNIAL LICENSING OF DOGS

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile and Committee Members:

We represent the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association and appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns regarding HB 5333, An Act Requiring the Biennial Licensing of Dogs. While we appreciate the desire to save administrative costs from the annual mailing of registration reminders, we have some concerns regarding its potential effect on public health.

Rabies vaccines can be effective for one to three years, depending on the type of vaccine, the age of the dog and how many vaccines that the dog has received. The first vaccine a dog receives is only considered effective for one year. There are some owners whose only impetus to boost that vaccine is the reminder, whether by mail or from their local Animal Control Officer, that they must license their dogs, which requires a current rabies vaccine. Therefore, with a biennial vaccine there would be dogs that could potentially be unvaccinated for a year or more. Since Rabies is a fatal disease that can infect humans, and it is present in Connecticut's wildlife populations, this is a concern.

If we were to change the frequency of licensing dogs, that license duration should correspond with the Rabies vaccine duration, be it one or three years.

Thank for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Chris Gargamelli DVM  
President, Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association

Eva Ceranowicz DVM  
Chair, CVMA Government Relations Committee