

April 5, 2013

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony

HB 6690 AN ACT CONCERNING COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

Testimony from Karen Miller
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I am writing regarding Bill No. HB 6690, An Act Concerning Court Proceedings and the Protection of Animals and would like to see this bill enacted. The reasons I believe this is important is that pets do not have a voice. There are many animals who are neglected or abused yet have no one speaking for them. All animals deserve to have an advocate, especially in situations where they have been abused or have no loving family member to speak on their behalf.

Just as children are assigned an advocate, so should pets. Connecticut, like most states, has a problem with pitbulls being abandoned, abused or used for dog fighting and they need a voice and an advocate in their corner. Too often we hear countless stories of these dogs being put to death due to circumstances out of their control. We, as citizens, need to take a more active role in protecting animals. Not every animal has a loving family who takes care of them and for those that do not, we need to have an advocate in their corner.

Too often, many people treat animals as property. They are not property—they are feeling, caring beings that unfortunately, cannot speak up for themselves when bad things happen to them. As someone who has had many pets, I can tell you that they feel many of the same emotions that we feel—joy, love, happiness, pain, etc. It is disgraceful that they currently have no one to advocate for them. There are many rescue organizations out there with loving and caring individuals trying to protect those animals that are abused. But it is high time that each animal in need, have an individual advocate in their corner. The time has come to fully recognize that they are each caring, sentient beings and in difficult situations, need to be protected. No dog should ever have to be put down due to neglectful owners or due to their bad behaviors, which are caused by human hands. I have always believed that dogs are our angels on earth and are born inherently good. It is humans that do the damage to them. It is up to the state to allow other humans (advocates) to be their voice.

Thank you for your consideration.