

April 5, 2013

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony

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

Testimony from Laura Jordan
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Sanctuary Director, Our Companions Animal Rescue
Member, CT Votes for Animals

Dear members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify IN SUPPORT of H.B. 6690.

Animals, like children, cannot advocate on their own behalf. In Connecticut, children often have court-appointed advocates to speak on their behalf during cases of abuse. This bill, if passed, will allow court-appointed advocates for animals during legal proceedings that concern the animals' welfare or custody.

Animals are horribly abused in our State every day yet the outcomes of their cases rarely result in penalties that match the severity of the violent crime. This is not acceptable. Not only would this bill provide an advocate in court for an egregiously injured animal, but it would also document the animal's injuries and level of suffering, and help the court make decisions for the animal's welfare.

I am a life long resident of the great State of Connecticut and eagerly follow the progress of my elected officials as they make the world a better place. Thank you for your service and thank you for considering my testimony on this important piece of legislation.