

Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing: 4/5/13

Testimony Concerning HB 6690
AAC Court Proceedings and the Protection of Animals

Amy Harrell
President, Connecticut Votes for Animals
amy.cva@gmail.com
Vernon, CT resident

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, other leaders and members of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to express my support of HB 6690, An Act Concerning Court Proceedings and the Protection of Animals.

I was very dismayed to learn from a recent OLR report, that during the past 10 years over 50% of animal cruelty cases go unprosecuted – nearly 1,900 cases of animal cruelty. To me, this number not only indicates large-scale injustice to animals, but it also represents a lot of missed opportunities to identify and stem early violent behavior. Violence toward animals is very commonly followed by violence toward other humans.

Connecticut is fortunate to have a strong and talented network of animal advocates who are always ready to volunteer. This bill would mobilize that network to help ensure that more of these animal abuse cases are properly represented, that justice is served on behalf of animal victims of cruelty and their loving families, and finally, that potentially violent citizens are identified before their behavior escalates.

This is a wonderful bill, backed by volunteers who are ready to help – including Connecticut Votes for Animals. Our state only stands to gain from this bill, which beautifully brings together advocates to speak for the voiceless.

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