

5, 2013

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony

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

Testimony from Daryl Carbone
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Member, CT Votes for Animals
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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.

Advocates for animals are desperately needed in our state. There have been many cases in the news of late about persons who have been responsible for animal abuse yet the outcomes of their cases rarely result in penalties that match the severity of the violent crime. Just as we are worried about gun violence, we should also be worried about those who abuse animals. It has been shown time and time again that these people go on to other crimes, including hurtful crimes against people. Not only would this bill provide an advocate in court for an 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.

Violent behavior should be treated seriously in our courts, and victims of abuse, whether person or animal, deserve to be represented. It is the responsible and moral thing for us to speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves!

I thank you for reading my thoughts on why this is such an important bill. We have to become a better society and show our humane side!

Sincerely,
Daryl Carbone