

April 5, 2013

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony

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

Testimony from Paula Fischer
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Volunteer, 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.

Advocates for animals are desperately needed in our state. I remember the case in Hartford where a man tied his dog to his pickup truck and dragged him down the road. I was sick after reading the article in the Hartford Courant and wanted the courts to punish him in a similar way, by tying him to his pickup truck and dragging him through the streets of Hartford. But I remember reading that they gave him his dog back!!! Nobody was there to protect this animal. Instead, what was communicated was that it's OK to abuse animals. What a sick society!

Violent behavior should be treated seriously in our courts, and victims of abuse, whether human or non-human, deserve to be represented justly. Our society needs not only to speak for our voiceless creatures, but we need to take such violent acts of animal cruelty seriously, as it has been proven time and time again that cruelty to animals is a precursor to future and escalating violent behavior toward people.

I thank you for considering my testimony on this important piece of legislation.

Paula Fischer