

Testimony Concerning HB5836

Caroline K. Gaetano

Program Manager Our Companions Animal Rescue and Member of CT Votes for Animals

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5836 AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR THE VACCINATION, STERILIZATION AND HEART WORM TESTING OF DOGS AND CATS OWNED BY LOW INCOME PERSONS OR ADOPTED FROM MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL SHELTERS.

I am a registered voter in West Hartford, and I am Program Manager for Our Companions Animal Rescue and a member of CT Votes for Animals.

As Program Manager for Our Companions, I am responsible for answering our Helpline Calls and for the intake of all animals being surrendered by their current owners. Believe me, there is no shortage of animals in need and often people are surrendering their pets because they can no longer afford care for them. Rather than crowd shelters and rescue organizations with animals from these types of cases, funding vaccination, sterilization and heart worm testing for low income owners will keep a significant percentage of animals out of shelters. Furthermore, animals living in shelters need to be sterilized, vaccinated and tested for heart worm before they are eligible for adoption.

Education is the key. By training the animal control officers and educating both them and the public, we can gradually reduce the huge number of homeless animals.

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

Warm regards,

Caroline K. Gaetano
89 LeMay Street
West Hartford, CT 06107