

Environment Committee, Public Hearing: 3/15/13

Testimony from Gretchen LaBau, 67 Duncaster Road, Bloomfield, CT
Advisory Board Member, Our Companions Animal Rescue
Member, CT Votes for Animals

Thank you for your attention to my support of the following bills:

HB 5836, An Act Concerning the Availability of Funding for the Vaccination, Sterilization, and Heartworm Testing of Dogs and Cats Owned by Low Income Persons or Adopted from Municipal or Regional Shelters.

HB 5844, An Act Concerning the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outdoors and the Tethering of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions

HB 5207 An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs or Cats From Substandard Domestic Animal Mills at Pet Shops.

In regard to HB 5836, it is time to modify the program so that it meets the current needs of our communities. By increasing the funding available for low-income people in the APCP program (Animal Population Control Program), the funds of the APCP program can be used for their intended purpose. The Department of Agriculture, in their annual reports, has recommended that these benefits be increased in the low-income program.

In regard to HB 5844, it is only humane to make sure that dogs are not subjected to harsh weather conditions and are brought in at night where they will be safe.

In regard to HB 5207, a ban on pets being sold in pet shops would insure that people who acquire pets either by adopting them from a shelter or from a reputable breeder. Pets sold in pet shops are bred in puppy mills under cruel conditions and contribute to the overpopulation of dogs, many of whom end up being euthanized.

I urge you to support these three important pieces of legislation. Thank you.