



City of Middletown  
Animal Control Department

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Testimony Concerning HB 5844  
Gail Petras – Animal Control Officer  
March 15, 2013

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

I have been an Animal Control Officer in Connecticut for over ten years. Unfortunately, I have seen numerous animals suffer from improper tethering during my career. Our current tethering statute, 22-350a, has come a long way but we still have some work to do.

HB 5844 addresses the problems of dogs tethered outside during the overnight hours as well as during extreme heat, cold and weather. I have been to numerous calls regarding dogs left outside during snow storms, hurricanes, heat waves and sub-zero temperatures. This bill merely proposes to put some concrete boundaries for dog owners to follow which in turn makes it much easier for us to educate and enforce.

By defining proper tethering and sheltering for dogs, we can avoid suffering for many that are left to fend for themselves with no shade from the sun or protection from the elements.

I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Sincere thanks,

Gail Petras  
Animal Control Officer – Middletown, CT