

**Testimony Concerning House Bill 5844**  
**March 12, 2013**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of House Bill 5844, a bill that would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in Meriden, a volunteer and supporter of Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary and a member of Connecticut Votes for Animals.

During the overnight hours, tied and left alone the dark, a dog is exposed to not only environmental menaces, but wild animals as well. This situation places great stress on the dog, as he is tethered and unable to escape harm if attacked by another animal. Coupled with insufficient shelter, a dog risks frostbite in winter, heatstroke in summer as well thunder, lightning and storms of all kinds.

There was a dog in my neighborhood that was never allowed in the house. His home was a broken down facsimile of a wooden doghouse under a very large old tree in the yard. This dog was out there, day and night, no matter how extreme the weather conditions were at that time. One night, during a very bad storm, strong winds broke part of the tree that the doghouse sat under, demolishing the doghouse and killing the dog.

Our dogs deserve treatment that is more humane than this and only we can ensure this is by passing laws to protect them.

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

Thank you,

*Gina M. Hoag*

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