

Testimony Concerning HB 5844

Jennifer L. Kelsey

Epidemiologist

I am pleased to learn that the Environmental Committee is considering HB 5844, which would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in Clinton, and perform a variety of volunteer tasks for organizations concerned with animal health and welfare. As an epidemiologist, I donate time to assist veterinarians with research involving the health and welfare of companion animals.

Tethering a dog for long periods of time in any weather is likely to be injurious to the physical and mental health of the dog. However, doing this at night and during severe weather is particularly cruel, thereby putting dogs at high risk for a variety of illnesses, of being attacked, and of death. A dog is not an inanimate object to be subjected to whatever an owner finds convenient. When people acquire a dog, they take on several responsibilities, including providing adequate shelter. Not providing shelter, especially under hazardous conditions, should be made illegal. In addition, dogs tied up outside tend to bark, thus creating a nuisance for an entire neighborhood.

Passage of HB 5844 is urgently needed for the sake of both dogs and humans, and I strongly encourage you to vote for its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Jennifer L. Kelsey
25 Tower Hill Road
Clinton CT 06413
jennykelsey@comcast.net