

Hi everyone. Thank you for this hearing. My name is Karen Laski. I live at 279 Fern St. in Manchester.

I'm here to support **HB 5844, the dog tethering bill, HB 5836 the Animal Population Control Program bill, and HB 5027, An Act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats from substandard domestic animal mills.**

I have been involved in Animal Welfare for over 40 years and I am currently on the Board of CT Votes for Animals.

Many years ago, I would drive by places where dogs were chained and check on them in the middle of the night to see if they were still there. I was so frustrated that I could never help them because no law prevented them from being chained day and night and in the sweltering heat and frigid cold. Several generations of dogs later we are here with a bill that could give some relief to dogs enduring this endless misery.

Dogs who are continually chained are frustrated, bored and many times driven to extreme anxiety and depression. They pace back and forth repetitively. Chained dogs are vulnerable to attacks by wild animals or cruel humans. They suffer from pressure sores, frostbite and heatstroke. They are constantly on edge and can never relax.

Along with the wide constituent support for this bill there are many positive aspects and benefits. Less people will be waking up in the middle of the night to the barking of a frustrated dog. Homeowner's security could be increased by the presence of a dog being inside at night. Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to intruders is an inside dog. Outside dogs become aggressive not protective. Regulations against chaining give Animal Control Officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting, since many fighting dogs are kept in chains.

According to world renowned dog training expert, Victoria Stilwell, many common behavioral problems could be avoided if owners understood how severe confinement can compromise natural behavior.

Dogs teach us love and patience. They improve our health and lift our spirits. Our best friends are suffering. Let's give them a break.