

**Testimony in *SUPPORT* of HB 5844: To prohibit the chaining of dogs outside at night between 10pm and 6am; also, requiring chained dogs to have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.**

Submitted by:

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Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

I am a resident of the Town of Stonington and I fully support HB 5844. It would seem a matter of common sense to prohibit the chaining of dogs between 10pm and 6 am and to require that dogs be provided with appropriate shelter during harsh weather. It is inhumane to allow an animal to languish outdoors all night – subjected to the elements, unprotected and unsupervised. Dogs left outside may also pose a nuisance problem for neighbors who wish to sleep, but cannot due to the incessant barking of a lonely, distressed dog.

Furthermore, it makes sense to require that dogs be provided with proper shelter during inclement weather. Harsh, unpredictable weather is a common occurrence as of late: torrential rain, flooding, blizzards, “white out” conditions, etc. Even high winds pose a threat to outdoor animals, causing injury or even death from flying debris. As a certified DEEP wildlife rehabilitator, I have seen what severe weather can do to an animal. Many emergency storm shelters in CT. are now providing indoor accommodations for pets – *should we expect any less from an animal’s owner?*

Animals that are not properly taken care of will ultimately cost us all. Owners who cannot afford to pay for sick or injured pets may dump them at local animal shelters – shelters that are already overwhelmed by large numbers of unwanted animals.

Please support HB 5844 – for the sake of the dogs and the community.

Thank you.