

Testimony in OPPOSITION to a provision within SB 1018 legalizing snares (AAC Enforcement of Environmental Conservation Laws)

Submitted for the public hearing 3/8/13 by:

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Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

As a resident of Stonington, CT. and a DEEP certified Wildlife Rehabilitator, I strongly oppose the legalization of snares. It is appalling to me that the approval of such a cruel and indiscriminate device should even be considered by our legislature.

Imagine an animal - perhaps your beloved dog - ensnared around the neck, torso or leg in a *Collarum* device. The animal would experience the agony of crushed internal organs, choking, or bursting blood vessels in its head. The more he struggles for freedom, the tighter and more excruciating the pain becomes. Even if the animal somehow manages to extricate himself, his injuries (resulting from tissue damage and infection) will likely cause a slow, horrific death.

Despite claims to the contrary, *Collarum* snares are not humane. A study cited by *Collarum* itself indicated that at least 30% of coyotes

trapped in their snares sustained injury. Again, imagine the panic and pain your dog would experience in this indiscriminate trap.

Our state should be exploring non-lethal, humane solutions for resolving wildlife issues instead of resorting to barbaric devices that are more befitting of the Middle Ages than 21st Century America! It is also well established that artificially depopulating a targeted species only causes that species to rebound more quickly (through earlier breeding and larger litter sizes). In other words, removing or killing animals will not permanently reduce the population. The only effective, long-term solutions involve “hazing”, appropriate fencing, and the removal of food attractants.

Snares are illegal in CT. and that is how it should remain – permanently. I will be greatly ashamed if my state allows these torture devices to be re-introduced. I, my family and friends are animal lovers and we all vote.

Thank you.