



147 Grassy Plain Street
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March 15, 2014

Dear Honorable Representative Hwang:

Thank you for your consideration in reading this letter.

Danbury Animal Welfare Society (DAWS) has been making a difference in the lives of animals for 40 years. As an organization committed to providing a chance for a happy and healthy life for animals forsaken by humans, we are proud of our efforts to provide a higher level of medical care for the animals that are in residence at our shelter while they wait to find their forever homes. This includes providing the extensive, expensive, and potentially toxic treatment for heartworm disease to animals that come to us infected with the parasite. As a non-profit organization, the cost to treat these animals takes a toll on our budget, yet we work to cure those animals stricken with the disease so that they can have a chance to live the lives they were meant to live.

This year, we were fortunate to learn of Ms. Annie Blumenfeld's organization Wags 4 Hope and her initiative to pass legislation that would require Connecticut shelters to make educational fliers on heartworm disease available to the public. We would support this type of legislation, providing it is simple and easy for non-profit, volunteer-based organizations, such as DAWS, to successfully execute. We believe that educating the public on issues important to the health and welfare of animals is important, and this type of education aligns with our goal to make a difference in the lives of animals. Additionally, we support Ms. Blumenfeld's initiative to add information on the CT dog license about the major problems impacting canine health, such as heartworm disease, lyme disease, the importance of spaying/neutering, and more.

Danbury Animal Welfare Society applauds Ms. Blumenfeld for her efforts to promote awareness of heartworm disease – a preventable disease from which no animal should have to suffer. We are supportive of her legislative initiative and respectfully request your continued support as well.

Sincerely,

Tania Buchmelter
President, Board Directors
Danbury Animal Welfare Society

*Making a difference . . .
one animal at a time*