



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS®

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 309
AAC Municipal Costs for the Care of Confiscated Animals**

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), **on behalf of our over 20,000 Connecticut supporters, urges the Joint Environment Committee to favorably report S.B. 309 (AAC Municipal Costs for the Care of Confiscated Animals).**

When animals sit in shelters during the pendency of a cruelty case, the cost of care often becomes prohibitive, threatening the shelters' ability to serve other animals and serving as a deterrent to future cruelty law enforcement. By increasing the cost of the bond to \$500 per animal, S.B. 309 would appropriately shift the financial burden of caring for seized animals from municipal and state agencies, and the taxpayers that support them, to those reasonably believed to have engaged in animal cruelty.

Ironically, while owners/suspected abusers would be legally obligated to pay for the cost of caring for animals in their possession, the seizure of their animals due to cruelty currently effectively minimizes this obligation and instead places this burden on municipalities and the state. S.B. 309 addresses this illogic and rightfully allocates the cost of care obligation to the owner/alleged abuser.

S.B. 309 would also reasonably give municipalities access to the state Animal Abuse and Cost Recovery Account ("Account") collected from the disposition of prior animal cruelty victims. This, too, would help ensure that municipalities are able to properly enforce Connecticut's anti-cruelty provisions and care for animal victims. **In this connection, the ASPCA would request a simple amendment - that it be made clear that in addition to public auction, adoption be considered a viable method of disposition of animal victims and raising money for the Account.**

The Connecticut public wants animals to be treated humanely and animal cruelty to be investigated. S.B. 309 is the only way to ensure that municipalities have the resources to accomplish this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Bresch', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Debora M. Bresch, Esq.