



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Planning & Development Committee
March 7, 2014**

**Re: SB-264, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON THE HUMANE
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS IN MUNICIPAL SHELTERS**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) supports SB-264, which creates a task force to study issues relating to the humane treatment of animals in municipal shelters.

Connecticut's small towns take great care in creating and maintaining animal shelters to care for homeless or neglected animals. SB-264 will help develop recommendations to assist municipal and regional animal shelters in staying up-to-date on standards and resources available to ensure that these animals receive quality care.

By creating a task force to address these issues, SB-264 will position Connecticut to receive federal funding to support the work of the animal shelters. It will also provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue about how the municipal and regional animal shelters can work together to meet high standards of care for these homeless and neglected animals.

COST urges your support for SB-264.