

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Frost, Debra (Cartus) <Debra.Frost@cartus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 3:25 PM
To: JudTestimony

To Whom It May Concern –

As you are aware, the two bills below will be presented/discussed tomorrow. Connecticut needs to lead the way in punishing animal abusers, and representing the best interests of the animals. It is a never ending cycle – animal abusers need to be tried as felons. First animal abuse, and then these crimes escalate to the next level. With cities like Bridgeport, Hartford and Waterbury having high numbers of abandoned pets in their high-kill shelters, we need to represent the animals – especially in cruelty cases. Let's hold Connecticut to a higher standard.

HB 6187 would establish a system to provide an abused animal with a designated individual who will communicate the animal's interests in cruelty cases. The court advocate would volunteer their time, launch an independent investigation of the cruelty case, and present findings to the court. An advocate can speak to the gravity and seriousness of the crime, and emphasize the connection between cruelty to animals and cruelty to humans.

SB 1128 would eliminate Accelerated Rehab as a penalty option in animal cruelty cases.

Both bills will be considered Wednesday in the Judiciary committee.

These are both critical for the protection of animals. The State of Connecticut needs to rally behind these. Thank you for your strongest consideration.

Debra Frost
12 Wood Creek Road
New Milford, CT 06776

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