

Testimony Concerning H.B. 5707
Environment Committee, Friday, March 20, 2015
Benjamin H. Teaford

I would like to thank the Environment committee for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 5707, An Act Requiring Certain Higher Education Facilities That Conduct Research Using Cats Or Dogs To Offer Such Cats Or Dogs To Animal Rescue Organizations Prior To Euthanizing Any Such Cat Or Dog And Providing For The Proper Sheltering Of Dogs.

It is unfortunate that so many animals suffer in research facilities, especially for products that aren't even necessary for human wellness, such as cosmetics. For research that is essential to human life and well-being, animals used in research should receive the highest level of gratitude and respect. I believe that every creature has as much right to its life as we do to ours. To express our gratitude for the sacrifice and suffering of animals in research facilities, I strongly believe that cats and dogs used in these facilities should have the opportunity for a full life following their "retirement."

Having had cats as pets nearly my entire life and having worked with cats and dogs at an animal sanctuary for several years, I have seen that these animals have the same wide range of emotions that humans possess. They feel fear and joy just as we do. I have seen numerous animals who have been in abusive or otherwise terrible life situations have full and happy lives after being adopted into loving homes. There is no reason to deny research animals this opportunity.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Benjamin H. Teaford
Manchester, CT