

Testimony Concerning HB5707
Environment Committee, March 20, 2015
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Lexi's Angels Rescue

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of **HB5707 - 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.**

I am an avid animal lover and work with a rescue to save animals in Connecticut. As you know, rescue is very heartbreaking when we find these animals living in deplorable conditions including lack of food, shelter, and love among many other things. It is very difficult for me to accept this happening right here in the State of Connecticut as well as the USA. I spend many sleepless nights when I hear that an animal is left out in the cold in freezing temperatures like we had in the past months or when they do not have shelter, food or love. This is unacceptable and we need laws that prohibit this from happening.

When I look into an animal's eyes, I see a soul, a living being, God's creation. Our furry friends have kind, loving souls who give us nothing but unconditional love. They wait for us to come home with their tails wagging and wanting to be loved. I believe they deserve better than how they are treated and allowing people to continue to treat them with no regard of their feelings. Providing an animal with a bed, shelter, water and food is not too much to ask for. I also firmly believe that if you cannot provide an animal with these few simple things, you should not own an animal. It is up to our lawmakers to impose laws that protect our animals.

With regard to the research conducted on our animals, I cannot stress enough how important it is to offer these cats and dogs to animal rescue organizations. It is cruel to euthanize any animal in my book unless it is absolutely necessary. These animals used in research do not fall in the absolutely necessary category. Therefore, they deserve to live and to be free. These animals have sacrificed so much for us and while I am not a big fan of using them for research; at least let them receive love and compassion.

I respectfully request that HB5707 be passed and sent to the Senate. We need to stand up and speak for those who have no voice. Like I always say, it is our moral obligation as human beings.

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

Thank you,

Stacey Christoforides, Norwalk, CT