

**Testimony Concerning [HB 6187] and [SB 1128]
[JUDICIARY COMMITTEE], [April 1, 2015]
SHARON M. DIETZEL**

I would like to thank the [JUDICIARY COMMITTEE] for the opportunity to express my support of **[HB 6187]** AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS. ("Desmond's Law") and **[SB 1128]** AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN THE CASE OF ANIMAL ABUSE.

I'm writing and testifying in memory of my dog Christina Marie (aka Chrissy). Chrissy was born on January 20, 1991. Chrissy was a very scared, shy, sensitive and hurt 6 month old puppy when she came into our home in Bethel CT. She had been adopt at 8 weeks old through North Shore Animal League in Port Washington, NY along with another dog also 8 weeks old. Chrissy was part German Shepherd and Boxer. She was very healthy when adopted by the roommate of my Uncle. The other dog (Asa) was adopted by my Uncle. Soon after the 1st owner (Uncle's roommate) adopted Chrissy he began to not feed or give her water. My Uncle stepped up and began to take on this responsibility. My Uncle started noticing other things about the way Chrissy was acting. My Uncle asked his roommate (Chrissy's owner) and the roommate said everything was fine. Weeks went by and my Uncle came home to find Chrissy laying on the floor barely able to move. Chrissy's owner nowhere to be found. My Uncle took Chrissy to the vet and found she had been beaten very badly. She didn't have any broken bones but was bruised in so many places. My Aunt from Danbury was visiting her twin sister in Naugatuck CT at the time and my Uncle lived close by. A call was made to my Mother about Chrissy and she was brought down immediately. No questions asked. Eventually the roommate came home and my Uncle confronted him and he said that he had been abusing (kicking and punching) Chrissy. He was glad she was gone and the responsibility was no longer his. The roommate never knew where Chrissy went to. Just knew she was gone. The roommate never touched my Uncle's dog (Asa) just Chrissy.

When we got Chrissy in June 1991 she was also nervous, anxious and nervous around men especially. This never changed with her. She did learn to catch, fetch and return a tennis ball. Sit, lay down, and rollover. She even learned how to give her paw and shake hands. She learned how to sit for treats as well. She loved laying on my Mom's lap. In fact she and my Mom were best friend and they saved each other through the worst of times. Chrissy was 38 pounds of sweet love and she lived to be 16 years and 2 months and 7 days old. We put Chrissy to sleep because she was in pain and couldn't walk anymore. My 3 nieces loved Chrissy and ran around with her as they grew up. To see Chrissy run around the way she did you would never know she started her life the way she did.

Eventually we took in my Uncle's dog Asa. He was being abused by a family member and my Uncle was not able to take care of him which was why Asa was with this other family member. My Uncle's daughter asked us to help with Asa and we did. Asa also was nervous, anxious and especially nervous around men. Asa didn't get over this and we believe it's because his abuse lasted much longer and had lasting effects. Asa got along with Chrissy and other people and children but still had tendencies to bite when cornered. Asa was a part Golden Retriever and Husky. We kept Asa for about 6 years and that's when my Uncle was able to care for Asa again.

I ask that you please pass both of these bills for every animal's life is just as important as a human's life. Harsher laws need to be put into place. People need to be held accountable for hurting animals. Too many hurt animals are being hurt and abused and people aren't being held accountable.

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

Thank you,

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