



HB 6187 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS.

SB 1128 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN THE CASE OF ANIMAL ABUSE.

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

The Veterinarian's Oath states: "*I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health and welfare, the prevention and relief of animal suffering*". The Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association appreciates the intent of HB6187, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS. Animal cruelty unto itself must be severely punished, and as its perpetrators have a higher tendency toward cruelty toward their fellow man, especially children, they must be stopped.

However, the CVMA advocates that existing animal cruelty statutes be upheld and strengthened. Should the legislature feel that advocates are a way to help fight these cases, we would ask that any such law students chosen to be possible advocates alongside lawyers and veterinarians have the appropriate level of education and expertise so they are able to be of the utmost benefit.

In accordance with the sentiments stated above, the CVMA strongly supports SB1128, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN THE CASE OF ANIMAL ABUSE as a way to protect humans and animals and send a strong message that animal cruelty will not be tolerated.

Respectfully,

Eva Ceranowicz, DVM
Chair, Government Relations Committee
Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association

Larry Berkwitt, DVM, DACVIM
President