

***TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1128: AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF ACCELERATED REHABILITATION IN THE CASE OF ANIMAL ABUSE***

*Hearing 4/1/15*

Submitted by Rosamund Downing,  
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Dear Co-chair Coleman, Co-chair Tong and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I strongly support SB 1128, which would eliminate accelerated rehabilitation as a penalty option in animal cruelty cases. Animal abuse is a public safety issue and it must be taken seriously. In order for that to happen, “tap-on-the-wrist” punishments (like accelerated rehabilitation) are unacceptable.

Studies have clearly linked cruelty to animals to violent crime against humans, property crime, and disorderly conduct (Arluke & Luke, 1997). *True* justice for animals would facilitate appropriate punishment and/or psychiatric treatment for offenders. I would point out that serial killers, like Ted Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer, usually have histories of animal cruelty.

Please support SB 1128 to eliminate acceleration rehabilitation in cases of animal cruelty.

Thank you.