

March 31, 2015

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to express my support of two bills that help innocent animals in need.

**HP 6187** *would establish a system to provide an abused animal with a designated individual who will communicate the animal's interests in cruelty cases. The court advocate would volunteer their time, launch an independent investigation of the cruelty case, and present findings to the court. An advocate can speak to the gravity and seriousness of the crime, and emphasize the connection between cruelty to animals and cruelty to humans.*

As a volunteer of Protectors of Animals in East Hartford, CT and a strong advocate for dog rescue; I support this bill wholeheartedly.

As we know, animals don't have a voice of their own and need us to stand up for them. Providing an advocate for an abused animal is morally the correct thing to do. Just because animals can't speak (in human words), doesn't mean that they don't feel pain, suffering, starvation and loneliness. Please support this bill, and help abolish animal cruelty in this state-- and hopefully in every other state.

**SB1128** *would eliminate Accelerated Rehab as a penalty option in animal cruelty cases.*

Please support this bill. There have been too many cases of animals being abused, neglected, and critically injured. These poor animals never had a chance to speak up or retaliate. The guilty party should pay the price and serve the entire term as deemed appropriate. It may not save the injured animal, but with hope, will teach a very strong lesson....NEVER TO INTENTIONALLY HURT AN ANIMAL AGAIN!

Below are two pictures. Finnegan before.....and Finnegan after. The dog rescue I work with saved this boy. Because of many dedicated animal rescuers and volunteers, he has been rehabilitated and placed in a loving home. Finnegan is one of the lucky ones. How would you feel if your child were treated like this?



Please, support these two bills. And **ALWAYS**, think adoption first.

Kristianne Vanagas  
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