

Carroll, Rhonda

From: tamarane@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 10:28 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: HB 5344--AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY

**Testimony Concerning HB5344 - Desmond's Law
February 24, 2016**

**Louise Beaumont
Pet Owner/Animal Rescue Supporter**

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5344, also known as Desmond's Law.

As a pet owner and animal lover, I cannot imagine anyone would be against legislation that allows a courtroom representative to advocate for an innocent, voiceless creature subjected to unimaginable horrors at the hands of a heartless human.

In 2010, I sat in on a court hearing for a woman who had starved her four-year-old dog, caging him for months in an unheated garage during the winter. Her neighbors attested that they would have been happy to adopt the dog, but she would have none of it. I was saddened but not surprised that her sentencing was delayed, allowing her time to move, change her appearance, and yes, get another animal since her record was eventually expunged. The feeling of helplessness as I watched this woman saunter out of the court that day, a smug smile on her face, is indescribable.

This no longer has to happen. You can do something to stop this. NOW.

Imagine it. Imagine spending months dying in a dark, freezing, cramped cage with no food, no companionship, and a bowl of frozen water just out of your reach. This is an agonizing, painful way to die, yet it is typical of stories of animal neglect and cruelty. I will reinforce the fact that animal abusers are more likely to turn their abuse toward humans.

Please, PLEASE support HB 5344. There is no conceivable reason not to.

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

Thank you,

Louise Beaumont
Bristol, Connecticut