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Subject: Testimony Concerning 5344 -AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE
NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY
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**Testimony Concerning 5344 AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE
NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY
Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2016
Jessica Corsaletti
Shelter and animal rescue volunteer, Animal advocate**

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Bill 5344 also known as Despond's Law.

For many years I have volunteered my spare time to help animals. I've volunteered in shelters, currently foster animals in my own home and attend public court hearings to advocate for animals that were abused or neglect all the Bills that were introduced, this is BY FAR the most important one that would help CT's animals the most ask you to please support it.

A couple years ago, a group of animal advocates and I made a decision to start attending court hearings for pec who were charged with animal abuse. In many cases, the owners were charged with intentional abuse and we volunteered our time to advocate for these animals since they are only considered property and have endured terrible abuse. This bill was introduced last year but didn't progress into a law. Since then, several new cases o animal cruelty have happened including a Bristol women hanging her 2 dogs from the trees in her backyard(<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Women-Hung-Her-2-Dogs-and-Buried-Them-in-Yard-Pc-365464011.html>) and a New Britain man who badly abused his new puppy(<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Abused-Pit-Bull-Will-Need-Surgery-Costing-2500-298362701.html>), resulting in New Britain Police needing to raise thousands for surgery on this pup. In both of cases, the owners of these animals had a history of criminal violence towards humans.

The New Britain owner, Quamine Cherry, had a history that included pistol whipping a woman, traffic violation: home invasion PRIOR to beating the puppy he owned. While in court, we met a lady who was very concerned a the case. It turned out to be Quamines girlfriend's mother. She explained to us the concern she had for her dau who was also being physically abused by the defendant. She hoped to convey this to the court, but sadly, the c would not let her speak at all. This case has been continued for almost a year now as this individual walks arou society with all of us. History has shown that there is a link between animal abuse and domestic abuse yet our continue to ignore this until a death occurs. The animals that are burned alive, beaten, crippled or hung, NEED advocates in court. Furthermore, the penalty for this behavior must be more than just a slap on the wrist espe when we have seen time and time again that there is a link to domestic violence. When a person is capable of inflicting cruelty on an innocent life, a life that trusts them to care for them, we need to see that as a huge red









