

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Jenny <jennykelsey@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 3:02 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Rep. Scanlon, Sean; Senator Kennedy
Subject: HB5344

Testimony in support of HB 5344, An Act Concerning Support for Animals That Are Neglected or Treated Cruelly

I am a resident of Guilford and a volunteer for Connecticut Votes for Animals. I am writing in strong support of HB 5344, An Act Concerning Support for Animals That Are Neglected or Treated Cruelly.

Animal cruelty is an act of violence, and occurs all too commonly throughout the country. Not only are the animals themselves subject to extreme pain and suffering, but available evidence indicates a strong link between violence to animals and violence to humans. Nevertheless, the vast majority of cases of animal cruelty, even terrible cruelty, do not result in punishment.

Animals cannot speak for themselves. A common-sense solution that we could use here in Connecticut is to have qualified volunteer advocates speak in court for the abused animals, as proposed in this bill. The bill should both reduce the number of dismissed cases and help ensure that punishments fit the severity of the violence committed. In the long-term, the bill should reduce the number of cases of cruelty to both animals and humans by letting potential perpetrators know that their deeds are very likely to be punished.

Thank you for your consideration. Please support this excellent bill.

Jennifer Kelsey
100 White Birch Drive
Guilford