

Testimony in Support of HB 5344

**AN ACT CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR ANIMALS THAT ARE  
NEGLECTED OR TREATED CRUELLY.**



February 22, 2016

**Susan B. Linker, Chief Executive Officer, Our Companions Animal Rescue**

Volunteer and Advisory Board member of CT Votes for Animals

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my strong support of HB 5334.

I have worked in the field of animal welfare and protection for over 25 years, and I cannot express how many times I have witnessed a disheartening response and lack of significance given to animal abuses cases by the courts. Many times, shocking cases of animal abuse result in the case being dismissed or nolle.

As I read the recent ORL report on Animal Cruelty Cases from 2005-2015, I was not surprised to read that over 80% of the animal cruelty charges brought against individuals in Connecticut are dismissed, allowing no justice for the abused animals. Violent criminal are left without punishment, and more importantly, without psychological intervention.

This legislation would allow a volunteer court advocate to represent the victims, and is key in providing justice for abused animals. By now I'm sure that our elected officials are fully informed of the direct link between animal cruelty and other violent acts in our society. By not treating animal abuse cases seriously we are allowing dangerous people to walk free and continue to hurt animals and other people.

I recognize his bill has come up in previous sessions and I truly hope, and implore you, to make this piece of legislation a priority this session. It's time to get this bill passed.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Susan B. Linker', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Susan B. Linker, Bloomfield, CT 06002