

Carroll, Rhonda

From: raggediean@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2016 6:12 PM
To: JudTestimony
Cc: Joan Stasiak
Subject: Desmond's Law-HB 5344

**Testimony Concerning HB 5344
Judiciary Committee, February 24, 2016
Joan Stasiak**

I would like to thank the Judiciary Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5344 Desmond's Law.

You may be asking yourselves why I feel so strongly about this Law. Both my husband and I and my daughter and her husband have been active cat rescuers. We have seen firsthand the horrible mistreatment of animals. One of our cats was physically mistreated by teenagers who threw rocks at him & kicked him repeatedly. We took him to the vet and then into our home and hearts and today he is a healthy, sweet loving ball of love. But to this day, if a stranger enters our home he hides and is terrified.

I also follow a rescue organization out of Los Angeles, California. A gentleman named Eldad Hagar runs a rescue organization called Hope for Paws. Although not an abuse case out of Connecticut it absolutely points to the need for Desmond's Law!! Eldad has rescued dogs that have been horribly maimed & abused by humans. One such puppy, now named Jordan, had his leg cut off and was thrown into a culvert by a homeless person. Jordan stayed for days in that culvert unable to move until rescued by Eldad. I watch Hope for Paws stories and cry...but I also feel such joy that there are people that care enough to take such horribly injured animals...injured at the hands of a human being....and provide not only veterinarian care but love and rehabilitation until they are placed into forever homes. Below is a photo of Jordan sitting alone and afraid in the culvert after his leg had been viciously and heartlessly cut off. Doesn't Jordan and every other abused animal deserve a voice. I have attached pictures of Jordan on his rescue day and an updated photo of him after rehabilitation. These pictures speak to the overwhelming need for laws to advocate for and protect animals. That is why I am asking you to support Desmond's Law....Jordan and other abused animals deserve a **voice!**



I believe with all my heart that people have to be held legally accountable for such egregious mistreatment of animals. A slap on the hand is not sufficient. These animals need a VOICE and Desmond's Law would provide a voice for them. The laws that protect man should also protect

animals and people who abuse animals should be held accountable. Desmond's Law would allow a volunteer advocate to speak on behalf of the abused animal in court. Animal abuse has been linked to other offenses such as criminal violence and domestic abuse. Domestic violence victims will often not seek a safe shelter unless they can bring their animals because their abuser has threatened to kill or harm their pet.

Please support HB 5344 and let abused animals have the voice to speak for them...a voice that they truly deserve! Please!! This law would facilitate animal cruelty prosecution by ensuring appropriate representation for the victims.

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

Thank you,

Joan Stasiak

East Hampton, CT

I worked for several years on the feral help/education line at Our Companions

Photos courtesy of www.HopeforPaws.com, www.LAonCloud9.org & in joy photography