

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

I am writing in strong support of HB 5344. Animal cruelty is an act of violence, and occurs all too commonly in Connecticut and elsewhere. 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. HB 5344 would establish a volunteer advocate to represent in court animals who are the victims of cruelty. 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 giving me this opportunity to testify. Please support this important and humane piece of legislation.

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