



Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association Testimony Regarding HB 5178
AN ACT REQUIRING THE LICENSING OF DOGS

Senator Osten, Representative Miller and Committee Members:

We represent the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association and appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns regarding HB 5178, An Act Requiring the Licensing of Dogs. While we appreciate the desire to save administrative costs from the annual mailing of registration reminders, we have some concerns regarding its potential effect on public health.

Rabies Vaccines can be effective for one to three years, depending on the type of vaccine, the age of the dog and how many vaccines that the dog has received. The first vaccine a dog receives is only considered effective for one year. There are some owners whose only impetus to boost that vaccine is the reminder, whether by mail or from their local Animal Control Officer, that they must license their dogs, which requires a current rabies vaccine. Therefore, with a biennial vaccine there would be dogs that could potentially be unvaccinated for a year or more. Since Rabies is a fatal disease that can infect humans, and it is present in Connecticut's wildlife populations, this is a concern.

If we were to change the frequency of licensing dogs, that license duration should correspond with the Rabies vaccine duration, be it one or three years.

Thank for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Arnold Goldman, DVM
Chair, CVMA Government Relations Committee