

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5178

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I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition of Raised Bill, 5178, AN ACT CONCERNING THE LICENSING OF DOGS.

CT Votes for animals also opposes this bill.

I am the Animal Control Officer in Mansfield CT since 1999.

Mansfield has a very active licensing program including an annual door to door canvas that covers 20% of Mansfield.

This proposed bill is simply not practical. This is why:

Currently the licensed list is officially updated once a year in June, when people renew their license. With the proposed bill it would be updated once every 3 years. Lots of things change in 1 year. Dogs pass away, people move, people give dogs away. Updating every 3 years would mean we constantly work with an outdated list.

Not everybody gets a 3 year rabies shot for their dogs. The dog needs to get the 1 year shot first before a 3 year booster shot can be given. A lot of people miss the deadline for the 3 year shot, and have to do another 1 year shot. Some people end up never giving a 3 year shot to their dogs.

Renewal of the license is in June. If a 3 year license is sold, and the rabies expires 1 year later, the dog will potentially be licensed for 2 more years without being current on rabies. We only check rabies status on renewal. This defeats the whole purpose of the license ordinance.

Depending on when the license is sold, the expiration dates will vary. Now all licenses expire on 6/30. It would overcomplicate the current license ordinance. Some people now already think the current ordinance is complicated. It will also be more complicated for the town clerks to keep up with the different expiration dates of the license.

If people bought a 3 year license and they move out of State or give the dog away or the dog dies, within these 3 years, they may want a refund. I assume a

refund is not going to be given. Currently there are no refunds. This means people are hesitant to buy the 3 year license if their dog is old/sick or they are going to move etc. We have this problem now already with the 1 year license where people don't want to spend the \$8 license fee because their dog is old, let alone when the fee is \$24.

I'm all for improvements and making things more efficient, however this bill would only make the license ordinance more complicated and less people would be inclined to license. It would be much harder and time consuming for animal control officers to enforce it. There is a good chance that a dog is still licensed but the rabies vaccine has expired.

One big reason we have a licensing law is to ensure the dog is up to date on rabies.

I predict that towns with a more lenient license approach would see their dog license revenue decline if this bill passes.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I hope you will NOT SUPPORT this bill.

Thank you,

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