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Testimony of Animal Law Section
CT Bar Association

IN SUPPORT OF

HB5147

An Act Increasing the Maximum Penalty for Persons Convicted of Subsequent Offenses of Malicious
and Intentional Animal Cruelty

Environment Committee

Senator Kennedy, Representative Albis and Members of the Environment Committee:

The Animal Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association supports HB5147, An Act Increasing the Maximum Penalty for Persons Convicted of Subsequent Offenses of Malicious and Intentional Animal Cruelty. Implementing HB5147 will acknowledge the serious crime of animal abuse and its implication to potential future violence.

It is well recognized that animal abuse is potentially indicative of future domestic or other violence. The gravity of this reality is recognized by the FBI which has now begun to collect statistics on animal abuse in the manner it collects data on other serious crimes, such as homicide.

The egregious nature of malicious and intentional animal cruelty, particularly in light of its indications, warrants significant consequences. This compromise legislation leaves in place the existing Class D felony sentence for a first offense and increases the penalty for repeat offenses to a Class C felony. It serves as an acknowledgement of the strong warning signs associated with repeated offenses of this nature.

The Animal Law Section of the Connecticut Bar Association urges passage of HB5147 into law this session.