

March 6, 2019

*Testimony for the State of Connecticut Environment Committee
in support of Raised Bill 7297 LCO 5117:*

AN ACT CONCERNING QUARANTINE AND DISPOSAL ORDERS OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS

Please support the proposed legislation changes for Raised Bill No 7297 and thank you for considering it. In monitoring the development of this legislative proposal as the Animal Control Workgroup crafted suggested legislative changes, I learned these legislative changes can provide increased support for: dog bite prevention, animal control officers in helping improve public safety, dog bite victims, and dog owners.

Developing legislative change recommendations as the Animal Control Workgroup members have proposed, as well as increased public education, is the recommendation for "a community approach to dog bite prevention" per the American Veterinary Medical Association <https://www.avma.org/public/Health/Documents/dogbite.pdf>. Enacting these proposed legislation changes along with work underway by the Connecticut Humane Society's Outreach Department to expand education and public awareness programs for dog bite prevention, could result in a concerted effort to reduce dog bite occurrences in the state of Connecticut.

Connecticut laws on dog quarantine became known to me after an unfortunate incident that occurred last year when my pet dog (a senior 15-lb Bichon Frise with medical issues) was reported for biting a pedestrian while our dog walker was handling our dog. This incident caused me to become aware that the Connecticut state laws do not reflect the CDC guidelines for dog quarantine in the event of a dog bite. CDC guidelines state:

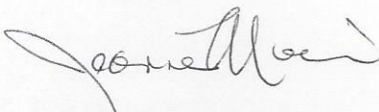
If you were bitten by a cat, dog, or ferret that appeared healthy at the time you were bitten, it can be confined by its owner for 10 days and observed. No anti-rabies prophylaxis is needed. No person in the United States has ever contracted rabies from a dog, cat or ferret held in quarantine for 10 days.

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/exposure/animals/domestic.html>

The proposed legislation changes would update quarantine timeframes to align with CDC recommendations and afford the animal control officer in charge of the incident the option to allow the offending dog to be quarantined at home (lines 302 and 307-315 of the proposed legislative change.) This is a positive change for Animal Control Officers in executing their duties as well as for dog owners.

I respectfully request that members of the Environmental Committee support the proposed legislative changes.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Mucci

Connecticut resident, town of Farmington