



CONNECTICUT FEDERATION OF DOG CLUBS AND RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS, INC.

February 4, 2019

Co-Chairs Sen. Christine Cohen and Rep. Mike DeMiccio, Vice Chairs Sen. Julie Kushner and Rep. Joseph Gresko and Ranking Members Sen. Craig Miner and Rep. Stephen Harding of the Environment Committee:

The Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners, Inc. ("CFDRDO") represents the members of the currently 52 Connecticut dog clubs (affiliated with The American Kennel Club ("AKC")) as responsible dog owners of pure breed dogs that participate in conformation, obedience, agility, therapy dog, and field, hunting and tracking events. In 2017 there were 4,494 registered dogs with the AKC and 4,643 in 2018 from Connecticut. CFDRDO's mission is to promote responsible dog ownership to include the general welfare of dogs and their owners. CFDRDO feels very strongly that all animals be treated humanely.

CFDRDO supports, as currently written, committee bill SB-21 (LCO 3370), an Act Concerning the Report of the Task Force on the Humane Treatment of Animals in Municipal Animal.

CFDRDO has been monitoring this Task Force since its inception pursuant to Public Act 14-205, subsequent Special Act 15-19, Senate Bill 602 introduced in 2017 and HB-5282 introduced in 2018. The Task Force has purportedly worked on its stated mission of researching standards for humane treatment of animals in municipal and regional shelters, however, no report was prepared or submitted by the required deadline under Public Act 14-205, and no report has ever been prepared or submitted to date.

CFDRDO is willing and able to assist the Task Force with its mission as currently written, and can assist with the preparation of the required report by the deadline of January 1, 2020. CFDRDO has available resources within its membership, and through the AKC, to work with the Task Force's research in such areas as animal behavior, breeding, and assessment of dogs for re-homing purposes. CFDRDO strongly believes that the Task Force's work will greatly affect CFDRDO members and, therefore, respectfully requests that a representative of CFDRDO and/or the AKC be included on the Task Force.

We also respectfully suggest the following topics be considered as part of the Task Force's work:

- Define the term "shelter" since one does not currently exist in the CT statutes
- Consideration of rescue organizations as a separate and distinct entities from shelters and their role in the process of evaluating dogs for re-homing
- Review of current rescue operations as operated by parent breeder parent clubs within the AKC network
- Develop standards for evaluating behavior/temperament of dogs prior to re-homing

Thank you for your attention and consideration of our suggestions regarding this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
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CFDRDO President

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Legislative Committee Chair (contact: mmdiamond2@gmail.com)