

## Testimony in OPPOSITION to Raised Bill 999

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to **OPPOSE** Raised Bill 999: An Act Concerning the Fee for Adopting a Dog, Cat, or Other Domestic Animal from a Municipal Pound and Requiring the Licensing of Such Cats and Other Domestic Animals.

Increasing the fee to license a dog discourages their adoption and will undoubtedly lead to more euthanizing of shelter dogs.

Regarding the licensing of cats: Cats are animals that can either be domesticated indoor pets or unowned free roaming animals, such as feral or barn cats. This is where cats and dogs are completely different animals. Requiring cats to be licensed will deter adoption and/or barn cat owners from taking in cats and also lead to more euthanizing of shelter cats. Licensing cats will cost more to the state implement than it will actually receive in cat licensing fees, no doubt. Licensing cats will not incentivize spaying/neutering either as the main reason people do not spay/neuter is because of costs and adding licensing fees will make it even more unaffordable. Cat collars are usually designed to break off when a cat gets caught on something to prevent strangulation as outdoor cats often climb under bushes. Therefore requiring tags is a major inconvenience as they will get lost very easily for outdoor cats as my own cat had lost her collar multiple times. Using a non-breakaway collar is an obvious safety risk. Another issue with cats and collars is that the tags/collars have a tendency to make noise which calls attention to the cat from predators and is putting cats in an unfair safety disadvantage. More information on the dangers of cat licensing can be found here: [https://www.alleycat.org/resources/cat-licensing-a-license-to-kill/?fbclid=IwAR0TWP\\_8Adisjv5KEUFP8q1trpaHdBqIOAJVdQD0Nq\\_IldGBM6WHpRS0v3k](https://www.alleycat.org/resources/cat-licensing-a-license-to-kill/?fbclid=IwAR0TWP_8Adisjv5KEUFP8q1trpaHdBqIOAJVdQD0Nq_IldGBM6WHpRS0v3k).

Raised Bill 999 is dangerous to animals, costly to the state, pet owners, shelters, and community cat overseers. Please drop this bill.

Respectfully,

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