

PA13-189

HB5844

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL.56
PART 16
5210 – 5544**

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If not, we will return to the call of the
Calendar.

And will the Clerk please call Calendar Number
318?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker.

On Calendar Page 12, House Calendar Number 318,
Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on
ENVIRONMENT, Substitute House Bill Number 5844, AN ACT
CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS
AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN
WEATHER CONDITIONS.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins of the 129th.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Good afternoon.

I move for the acceptance of the Joint
Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance
of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage
of the bill.

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And you may proceed.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Yes. Thank you again, Madam Speaker.

I have a strike-all amendment that I need to call. Would the Clerk please call the House Amendment LCO 7554 and I would ask the Clerk to please call this amendment and I be granted leave of the Chamber to summarize.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Will the Clerk please call LCO 7554, which will be designated House Amendment Schedule "A".

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker.

LCO Number 7554, Calendar Number 318, House Amendment, designated House "A", substitute House Bill Number 5844, offered by Representative Grogins, et al.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The Representative seeks leave of the Chamber to summarize.

Is there objection? Objection?

Seeing none, Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you again, Madam Speaker.

In 2010, we passed a law that prohibited the inhumane tethering of dogs for lengthy periods of time in a cruel and inhumane fashion. This bill builds on that existing law and prohibits -- and has a small -- a new small provision that is very important though, and prohibits the tethering of dogs, again, for a lengthy period of time in extreme weather conditions. Extreme cold, extreme heat, thunderstorms, et cetera, which will pose an adverse risk and endanger the health and safety and welfare of that animal.

Again, this builds on the existing law and will go a long way to prevent animal cruelty. There's also a few one-word changes that are just clarifying changes here that makes the bill, again, more clear and easy to read.

I move for adoption.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The question before the Chamber is on adoption of House Amendment Schedule "A".

Will you remark further on the amendment before us? Will you remark further on the amendment?

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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If I may, a few questions, through you, to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

You may. Please proceed, sir.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The initial antitethering effort, I believe, the Representative said it went in effect in 2010 and I guess we're trying to amplify it or define it or refine it in some sense.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

How many arrests, if the Representative knows, or tickets, I suppose, have been written under the existing law?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Unfortunately -- thank you, Madam Speaker.

I don't have that exact information.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I'm trying to recall the public testimony, because this did come through Environment, as I recall. What -- what was the general sense from the ACO, the Animal Control Office Community regarding the need or lack thereof for this bill. I mean, if you could inform the Chamber and remind me if you could.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The ACOs are in favor of this and so are the animal advocacy groups. This is a preventative measure because the existing animal cruelty laws only address the situation after a dog has been inhumanely tethered and this provision is aimed to address a preventative -- again, preventative measure to prohibit before it happens the inhumane tethering of an animal in extreme weather conditions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yeah, I know the amendment sort of changed some

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of the language from the earlier version of this effort and, I believe, in response to some feedback and I appreciate the Representative's work on that. You know, my initial concern and I guess I'm still kind of have the same concern is that I believe ACOs, I believe ACOs can kind of do this now anyway without the -- without the amendment.

So through you, Madam Speaker.

For those of us who have such a belief, am I way off base or -- or how does this address my concern.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And thank you -- I thank the good gentleman for his question.

My understanding from the Department of Agriculture is that the current animal cruelty laws address cruel-and-unusual chaining after it occurs, as punishment. This is for a, as I stated earlier, preventative measure. So the ACOs at this point actually can't address this situation until after it happens.

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This will prevent this animal cruelty from happening and that's why it's necessary. It actually makes it better, and, as I stated, the ACOs have asked for this and are in favor of it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The amendment at least starts with what seems to be a triggering device for the ACOs, either ability or at least the triggering for this act or the new part of the act. Severe or when a weather advisory or warning is issued by a local, state, or federal authority.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Is that the only instance when this new provision will be triggered?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The good Representative is correct in part, that yes a weather advisory by state, local, or federal

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authorities would trigger this provision and it also gives the ACO some discretion. There is the work or when outdoor environmental conditions, including, but not limited to extreme heat, cold, et cetera, it gives several provisions where the ACO can make a determination that a dog's health, welfare, and safety are in jeopardy.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I note and I appreciate the response.

You know, there again is the cause for some of the concern. I think the ACO probably has this authority anyway. If a dog is being -- his welfare is being threatened, that's just the general discretion of what they're able to do. I think they probably could do something, but I understand this, the effort here is to put a little sharper point on that discretion. So I am going to continue to listen.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Why only dogs? I mean, you know, I don't know if you could tether a cat. I don't own cats. That would probably be hard. You know. I mean there are other

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animals, like a horse. I mean, people, you know tether horses. Is the thought that a horse is better able to withstand this type of weather than a dog? I'm curious if that was thought of or why or why not?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The situation mostly pertains to dogs. I don't - - haven't quite heard of anybody tethering a cat. I'm not saying it doesn't exist, but the situation that's occurred with regard to animal cruelty cases and with regards to the ACOs' complaints have been involving dogs and so that's why we narrowed this and addressed the issue with dogs.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Shaban.

REP. SHABAN (135th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Yeah. From the gallery around me, I've been asked, I've confirmed that it's impossible to tether a cat and a variety of other pets.

So I appreciate the Representative's responses.

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You know, the initial version of this bill I was a no on in Committee. I'm a little hesitant on this newer version, although I think this newer version is better.

Sometimes I think we -- I think -- I think almost always we're trying to do the right thing, but sometimes I think we flesh out a little bit too much where discretion on the Executive side of the government is warranted. We try and put too much detail in it, but I appreciate the Representative's efforts on this front.

I'm going to continue to listen to the debate to the extent there is one. And thank the Chamber for its time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark?

Representative DebraLee Hovey.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And through you, Madam Speaker.

A couple of questions to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

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Please proceed.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you.

When we talk about risks -- adverse risks to the health of the animal, who is making that determination?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And thank you to the good lady for her question.

There's two situations where there's two different abilities to make a determination. One would be a weather advisory. We've all heard on the news, whether there's a newscast or the, you know, the governor or a local official indicates please bring your animals inside. The weather is too cold to leave animals outside. We've heard that many times. So that would be one trigger.

The second would be the Animal Control Officer, him or herself, can make that determination as well, that the animal being tethered in such an extreme weather condition, that their health and welfare is in

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jeopardy.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Hovey.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

So, through you, Madam Speaker.

There is nothing about this legislation, I guess, what you would consider the value judgment about the way the animal is being kept in any of the, kind of, typical situation. Only when there are weather advisory, heat advisory types or extreme weather conditions, am I correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Well again, the existing law addresses how an animal is kept in terms of cruel chaining or tethering. So the existing law that we passed several years ago sets forth provisions in which the public must follow in properly and humanely tethering their dog.

The new provision is, again, it -- it builds on

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the existing law and just adds an additional provision, which addresses extreme weather conditions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Hovey.

REP. HOVEY (112th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I thank the gentlewoman for her answers. I think that this adds another component to the prior legislation that is more point-specific and important. One of the things that I have run into with regards to the legislation -- the prior legislation from two years ago, and probably this legislation will have the same issue, is that the Animal Control Officers often are reticent to impose that value judgment on the way some animals are kept.

And, you know, I may find that disturbing, but I guess it's one of those things where everyone, you know, we all treat our children differently and evidently, we all treat our animals differently. And so I do hope that this does not fall into that same category where there's all of that ambiguity and ACO kind of walks that line. I hope this will be enforced.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further?

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Good afternoon.

A few questions please to the proponent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed.

REP. SMITH (108th):

I am looking at the language in Lines 36 to 43, which is the substance of the amendment and the changes and I'm -- just so I understand the -- the underlying bill along with this amendment. If you have a dog and you put him out on a tether, on a pulley, and it meets all the distance requirements.

The dog's able to freely move about without running into the road or into a pool or any other hazardous condition. You put the dog out at 8:00 in the morning. You come home at 6:00 in the evening. The dog's there all day. As I just described that scenario, would there be any violation under this bill

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or the amendment as proposed?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker.

Again, it really -- there's no time requirement, except for in extreme weather conditions. It gives you enough time, 15 minutes, to allow the dog to go out and do its business, but in terms of the bulk of the rest of the existing law, again, it really is specific, not so much about time, but about the way you tether the dog. It can -- it has to be to a certain type of tethering. It can't have a very heavy chain. It can't -- you know some people, believe it or not, have tethered dogs with coat hangers.

It really addresses the specific types of tethering. So there's no, you know, if you tether a dog properly and humanely and there's no extreme weather conditions, you can tether them for a lengthy period of time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And, in terms of the fines that are already set out in the bill of \$100 and for a first offense, 200 for a second offense, and not more than \$250 or \$500 for a third or subsequent offense, is there any type of notice that needs to be required under the amendment as proposed to the owner of the dog before the fine would be imposed?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

There is no notice provision here. Again, because you're allowed to do this in an extreme weather condition for 15 minutes to, again, let your dog out to do whatever he has to do, the ACO would obviously have to be there and see that this has gone longer than 15 minutes, but there's no other notice provision.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I thank the good Representative for her answer.

And the part of the bill that concerns me the most is the Lines 36 to 41, which talks about the extreme weather conditions. Because we could have a day, as we all know here in Connecticut, you know, if you wait 10 minutes the weather will change.

And if we have a day, for instance like yesterday, where it looked like to be a very nice day, may have been a little hot for some people, but I enjoyed it, even though we're in here. But if you think about it, a day can turn violent very quickly. I think we had some severe weather not too far from us here in the capital yesterday.

Where if I, under this bill, had tethered my dog in the morning, intending to come back after work, but during the day a storm flew in, lightning, hail, rain, wind, extreme conditions, the dog is still outside, I have no means to get back to untether the dog to bring the dog inside, not knowing that during the day this was a possibility of happening.

Under this language, as described in the bill, I would see that I would be subject to a fine. And I just want to make sure that my understanding of the

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language as proposed is accurate.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

To address the gentleman's concerns, again, this really falls -- we have to have some faith in judgment and beliefs in our ACOs who are properly trained in these areas. And they know what constitutes animal cruelty and what doesn't. They also know what's reasonable. And this is, again, going to fall on the judgment call of the ACO, but, you know, again, if something is sudden that just comes on, then obviously, again, this falls within the judgment of the ACO.

But I would submit to the gentleman that, you know, it is important that if there are extreme weather conditions, you know, if a tornado is passing by, I don't think that you'd want to leave your dog out tethered. I think that that poses a real problem. And again, we have to fall back and have some, you know, confidence in our ACOs who are properly trained on this issue.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Smith.

REP. SMITH (108th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I understand the discretion with the -- the officials in charge and I would love to see -- perhaps we can discuss this bill again next year with some language that would actually give the discretion and put some exceptions in the bill for good faith or upon notice then without an ability to react there could be a fine, but absent that, total discretion to the official to charge somebody with a fine, which that person may or may not be able to afford, seems a little bit excessive. I think the language is a little bit too broad. I would love to see it narrowed down a little bit.

I understand the good intent behind the bill. I'm a dog owner, a dog lover. The last thing I would like to see is one of our children, as we call him, harmed in that way, but I do think it's a little over broad.

So I thank the good Representative for her answers and the intent behind this bill. Hopefully, we can clean it up a little bit going forward.

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Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further?

Representative Kupchick of the 132nd.

Good afternoon, madam.

REP. KUPCHICK (132nd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I just wanted to rise in support of this bill and offer a few comments.

I know that it seems to some people that having to offer legislation to protect animals is sort of a far reach. However, we live in a society where sometimes common sense does not always prevail. I can't say that there's even a weekend that goes by, especially in the summer, when I'll pull into a strip mall to go to the grocery store and see a dog in a car with the windows rolled up, on 90-degree days.

So now I can't go into the grocery store, because now there's a dog that will basically die if someone doesn't do something. And it seems like it's always me who has to sort of do something, but you would think that people wouldn't travel outside with their

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dog to go to the grocery store and leave them in the car for half an hour or an hour, but they do it.

And there are times -- many times in my lifetime where I've seen people who literally will chain a dog on a three-foot chain 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And you look, and you think to yourself, why would someone do that or why do they even have a dog? I mean what's the point of having the dog if you're not going to treat it in a humane way. And it -- it seems ironic that as legislators we have to actually put through legislation that protects defenseless animals, but -- but we do.

And I -- I really want to congratulate and commend Representative Grogins for trying to do something to protect defenseless animals. And that's what they are. They're just like small children. They can't speak. They can't say I'm hot, I'm cold, I'm -- I'm anything.

I mean one of my own family members actually lives next door to two people who leave their dogs out all the time. And when we had some of that really cold weather last winter, freezing -- freezing, 10 below zero, those dogs were out there with nothing. No shelter. No nothing, for hours. Where my sister,

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who has two small children and isn't really what you would necessarily call an animal person, put her slippers on and bathrobe and marched over to their house and said are you kidding me? Are you leaving these dogs out here? It's freezing.

And then her sister got involved and called the ACO of that town and made sure those dogs were brought in so -- but the bottom line is, is that unfortunately, we do have to sometimes legislate to protect the weak.

And I hope that everyone in this Chamber will support this bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further? Will you care to remark further?

Representative Frey of the 111th.

It's good to see you back, sir.

REP. FREY (111th):

Thank you -- thank you, Madam Speaker.

It's good to be back, I think.

You know, I've got a dog who's very important to my life. He's a Dalmatian and for those of you who

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know, Dalmatians are the type of breed that are very short. He has a perpetual crew cut, although he sheds 12 months a year. But he loves the outdoors. He loves it when we have blizzard conditions and I have an invisible fence, so I don't tether him, but it's very hard to get him in, in cold and inclement weather. He just loves it out there, but I would never leave him out, you know, crazy. And, of course, he'll let me know when it's time to come in. He's very clear about that.

Yet I have a cousin who has Chesapeake Bay Terriers -- or Chesapeake Bay Retrievers that he uses for hunting and those dogs never come in the house. In fact, if he tries to get them in the house, they won't come in. Now he leaves them in a -- they're not tethered per se, they're like a chain link -- chain link fence area and they have the ability to go inside into these large dog houses.

So through you, a question to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. FREY (111th):

Are we talking -- so my cousin, I'll use him as

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an example, who has a couple of these large, outdoor, hunting, working dogs, would he be in violation of this law if it's passed?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is a breed-specific legislation. It talks about in the amendment about, you know, again, it's a call on the ACO with regard to whether the breed can withstand certain conditions. Obviously, Huskies can withstand cold weather much better than a Chihuahua. So that's discretion. Also, I believe you said, and correct me if I'm wrong, that the dog isn't tethered. It's an open --

REP. FREY (111th):

Correct.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

It's fenced in, so as long as there's proper shelter, proper, you know, water and so on, then they would not be in violation.

REP. FREY (111th):

So, thank you.

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And through you, again, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Frey.

REP. FREY (111th):

Thank you.

So this is really -- the intent of this really is for domestic pet canines, dogs, who you could say are in an abusive situation where they are tethered and kind of forgotten and the water bowl is frozen outside and that kind of thing. Am I -- am I correct in my interpretation?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Yes, that's -- that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Frey.

REP. FREY (111th):

Okay. Thank you. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark on the amendment?

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Representative D'Amelio of the 71st.

You have the floor, sir.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Through you, to the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Representative Grogins, I -- I believe Representative Frey just asked you a question regarding if there's a facility, like a dog house, the dog is being tethered, not in an open area, but has the access to a dog house, is that acceptable?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Yes. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Again, if the dog is tethered, it has to be humanely tethered and the dog house is helpful in the mitigation of this. Again, it really depends on how extreme the weather conditions are. And if it's too -
- you know, it depends on the dog house, how enclosed

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it is. I mean, it really has to do with is there a --
for one example, a weather advisory saying you just
can't leave your animals out tonight. You know, that
occurs.

And the discretion of the ACO, again, who are
properly trained in knowing whether the type of breed,
again, it says right here, in Lines 42 -- 41, 42, and
43, "Based on such dog's breed, age, or physical
condition." So again, the shelter is very helpful.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

And through you, Madam --

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And through you.

During -- during the public portion of -- of when
this bill was aired, was there any discussion -- yeah,
I come from an urban area. I come from Waterbury and
throughout the city of Waterbury there's multi --
there's many multifamily homes and many of those yards
have dog houses. We have leash laws in the City of
Waterbury.

We actually had a really unfortunate incident

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about a year ago where an elderly woman was really -- was mauled by a couple dogs that were -- were kept by a neighbor. So many dogs are -- are tied, you know, to a fence or a tree. They're given room to roam. I'm not sure if it's eight feet. When I looked through the legislation, I guess it depends on the side of the dog is the area that you have to have for them to run.

So I'm a little concerned that, you know, maybe some good people that really love their animals, would be in violation of some part of this law because of the fact that they live in an urban setting, there's not a lot of room for the dog and, you know, and they love their dogs. So was that -- was any of that considered during this debate.

Madam Speaker, through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Again, we have the existing law now that prohibits cruel chaining. It allows proper chaining. The dogs have to be able to move around, turn around, cannot be at risk of strangulation. It really goes

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to, it's a really common-sense bill. It doesn't prevent people from tethering their dog. That's the existing law that I think you're asking about, that we've already passed.

It prevents cruel chaining and the new -- the new provision prevents chaining in extreme weather conditions, where there's a risk of -- a serious risk of injury to the health or welfare of the dog. So to answer your question, again, it's common sense. It doesn't prevent people from tethering their dogs; they just have to do it properly. It really goes to the heart of animal cruelty. You know, trying to prevent animal cruelty, which really, unfortunately, is prevalent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

You mentioned that there's certain breeds of dogs that might be considered dogs that considered dogs that can withstand the elements outside. Is there such a list and if there is, where -- where can that list be found?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I'm informed by the Department of Agriculture that there is a list. I'm not an expert in this, even though I do know a lot about animals, but I'm not an expert in that specific question.

But Huskies, Malamutes, certain dog -- working-type dogs can withstand extreme weather conditions much better than other animals, like Dachshunds -- my Dachshund can't stand the rain. I know. He, you know -- so I think it really depends on the breed. So, and I think our ACOs are very trained in this subject matter. And so that's why we've left it to their determination to make this call.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative D'Amelio.

REP. D'AMELIO (71st):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I thank the gentlewoman for her responses.

I do -- I will support this bill today and I'm a dog lover myself. I have a five-year-old German

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Shepherd, who is the love of my life basically. He loves to be outside.

Well, besides my wife, Madam Speaker.

But he does love to be outside like Representative Frey's Dalmatian. You know, during winter storms. The only time that he'll come running inside is when he hears thunders -- thunder, but he does enjoy being outside. But I understand the intent of the bill. It is common-sense legislation and, you know, I'm just -- I am concerned about urban areas that the settings are a little different because there's a lot -- space is a lot tighter to keep animals, but people have to understand if you're going to have a dog, you're going to have to keep them in the right manner.

So thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Thank you for the clarification.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark further on the amendment?

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

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Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

I have a couple questions for the proponent of the amendment.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

To Representative Grogins.

The focus of Lines 36 through 43 are to protect a dog in difficult weather conditions when they're tethered outside. And with regard to the weather -- when a weather advisory or warning is issued. I know that yesterday we had a weather advisory or warning issued for this very area here and many of us were encouraged to go move our vehicles into the garage and nothing happened.

So is -- I'm sure that the intent here is not to just have this -- a weather advisory trigger this concern. Was there any thought to putting in language

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that would make the weather advisory have to actually result in some adverse weather conditions for this section to be applicable.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And thank you, Representative LeGeyt.

No harm, no foul. So if there's not harm, you know, or if it doesn't present the situation, then I, you know, I -- I really think that the legislative intent here is not to -- for an ACO not to pursue a violation.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I appreciate that answer.

In a -- from a different perspective. I know that there have been some comments here from Members of the House about -- and from Representative Grogins herself about shelter for an animal that's tethered -- for a dog that's tethered outside, and yet this

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section is silent about shelter, but clearly if a dog was tethered outside, as this Section suggests, and there were -- there was available shelter, then certainly, even if it was a environmental condition that actually presented itself, we -- we would look more kindly on a situation where a dog had the availability to go into shelter.

Everything else being normal, with respect to what this Section suggests, so through you, Madam Speaker.

I am wondering if there was any thought to including a phrase in this section that reflected the fact that there might be available shelter. For instance, if no person shall tether a dog outdoors or to a mobile advice, without any benefit of shelter, including, but not limited to -- was that ever -- was that considered?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The shelter provisions are addressed in our Animal Cruelty Laws. With regards to the problem with

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putting in shelter is you get very specific. Again, that's going to be within the discretion of the ACO. Some people think an overhang is shelter and that in - - in extreme weather condition with certain breeds is not going to hold up.

So again, it's got to be a determination made by the ACO as to what, depending on the breed and depending on the extreme weather conditions, what is going to pose a risk of danger to that dog. Because you could have what some people consider a shelter and that doesn't protect the dog.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I think that some reference to shelter in this section would strengthen it and -- and make it more supportable.

As regards my voting for this bill, I haven't decided not to support it, but certainly, the fact that there is no reference to shelter in this section makes -- causes me some concern because clearly if some dog is tethered and there's some available shelter nearby, this section would not protect the

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owner from suffering some liability.

And yet if there was a reference to shelter, certainly that would tend to mitigate the circumstances. So I'm concerned that this section doesn't have a simple reference to available shelter and I have to make my judgments accordingly.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark further?

Representative Camillo of the 151st.

You have the floor, sir.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Good afternoon, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Good afternoon to you.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

A question to you, to the proponent of this bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you.

Two years ago the bill we passed had a provision

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about tethering of dogs requiring that they had at least eight feet. This one here allows it to be less than eight feet, as long as it is, I believe, it's no longer than 15 minutes. Is that correct?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

I don't believe that there's -- there is a specification here, but there's two parts to the bill. There's the existing law saying you have to properly tether your dog, so I think that that would apply in this situation. And then there's this provision, which indicates that not only do you have to properly tether your dog and you have to humanely tether your dog, but you can't do it -- you can't tether them for longer than 15 minutes in extreme weather conditions.

So I think that you always have to properly tether your dog. There's some exceptions in the existing law for veterinarians and so forth and grooming situations.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Camillo.

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REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you.

And would the person have to be there for the less-than-15-minute period or is it just in general.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Just for clarification, are we talking about in extreme weather conditions?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

I've been told by the Department of Agriculture -

-

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I've been told by the Department of Agriculture that the ACO really does have to witness that this is longer than 15 minutes. Has to make that -- I mean make that call. It can't be really based on hearsay.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Camillo.

REP. CAMILLO (151st):

Thank you.

And I thank the gentle lady for her answers.

I urge everyone to vote for this bill. It strengthens and clarifies what we did two years ago. And I thank her for her answers and for all the clarifications.

Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, sir.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? On the amendment?

Representative Lavielle.

You have the floor, madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Good afternoon.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I support this bill. I don't need to make any --
I don't need to leave that a mystery.

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I do have just one question for the proponent because I think it's important that this be part of the legislative intent.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed, madam.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

As we know, sometimes people that own dogs just don't get it. They don't realize what they're doing. It doesn't occur to them. And they can obviously do some real damage and even thinking about it makes me sick. So my question is, the -- the purpose of doing this, of course, is not just to get fines from people when they do something wrong, but it's hopefully, to change behavior in some way.

And so I wonder if the gentle lady would be able to tell us whether there's an intention that there be a plan for clear communication to dog owners about the change, if the bill is passed. What this will require them to do and not do? And how that might be rolled out?

Through you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

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REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And thank you Representative Lavielle for being supportive of this. That upon the issuance of a citation or a violation here, I again, it's been reported to me by the Department of Agriculture that there would be communication as to what has gone wrong here and why this violation is being imposed on the dog owner.

So yes, it's my understanding that the intent of the Department of Agriculture is to have their ACOs communicate what is proper and humane tethering and when you can leave a dog out, what's extreme weather conditions and what's not.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And just further to that. Not only when a violation is committed, but prior to that, since the law would be changing, would there be any plans to communicate those specific changes so that people don't not comply with them in the first place.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

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DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Again, it's been reported to me by the Department of Agriculture that this change in the law would be communicated to the public through their website. So people would be able to see the law and know the constraints that we're setting forth here.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I thank the Representative for her answer and her good work on this bill, as well as the others who have contributed to it.

And I would just add that many, many, many years in marketing and communication, websites are in a way static -- static media. You have to go to them. They don't come to you. And as this moves forward, as I hope it will, I would hope that there would be some proactive measures and perhaps that's up to the nonprofits to -- to take care of. I'm not really sure.

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But I would want to see some effort somewhere to make sure that not only the dog owners who are motivated enough to go to a website and look up the rules, but that there is some way of informing them more actively than what happens now, about what the new rules are, so that they are equipped, we hope, to respect them.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further on the amendment?

Representative Zupkus.

You have the floor, madam.

REP. ZUPKUS (89th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

A question for the proponent of the bill.

Through you, please, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Please proceed.

REP. ZUPKUS (89th):

Thank you.

I happen to live in a neighborhood where there are a lot of dogs and they're big dogs and little dogs and medium-sized dogs. And some dogs are noisier than

others. And some neighbors hang out together and some neighbors don't. And some neighbors get along and some don't. And what would happen if you have a dog and say the dog is a medium-sized dog with short hair and loves to be outside, will not come in when it's snowing, and laying in the snow, but your neighbor feels that that dog really, probably should be inside and they call.

Who determines if your dog is able -- you know, a Yellow Lab for instance, is a -- if it's mixed. It's a rather small dog short hair. Well your neighbor may think that your dog should not be outside in a snowstorm.

Through you, Madam Speaker.

Who determines that?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And I thank the good lady for her question.

Again, this is the discretion of the ACOs who are properly trained. We're not leaving it to the neighbors to make this determination. So the ACO would have to look at all the -- all the facts and

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circumstances. Is the extreme weather -- is there a weather advisory? Because, as Representative Kupchick so gravely pointed out, dogs can't speak. They can't tell you whether it's too cold, whether they're suffering.

There is guidelines that are set forth that by the Department of Agriculture and our ACOs trained in that. And they're trained in the dog -- in breed-specific tolerances. So again, that would be the determination, based on the guidelines of the Department of Agriculture and the training of the ACOs, for the ACO to make that determination.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Zupkus.

REP. ZUPKUS (89th):

Thank you.

And so if --

Through you, Madam Speaker, if I may?

So if a neighbor maybe does not get along with another neighbor, they could consistently call about anything. The dog is not appropriate for being outside. Or, you know, I may think the weather's too hot. They would call and this agency would come out and always make those determinations?

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Through you, Madam Speaker.

Is that correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Absolutely. That's true. And they keep a record. I mean they can see whether, you know, I think they would talk to both the dog owner and the neighbor and they keep a record. I think they're certainly smart enough to see a pattern of just a difficult neighbor situation, a relationship. So I don't think that's a concern. And that's not the legislative intent here.

The legislative intent here is to prevent animal cruelty. Real animal cruelty.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Representative Zupkus.

REP. ZUPKUS (89th):

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

And thank you for your answers.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

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Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us? Will you care to remark further on the amendment before us?

If not, let me try your minds. All those in favor of the Amendment, signify by saying aye.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Aye.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

All those opposed, nay.

REPRESENTATIVES:

Nay.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The ayes have it.

The Amendment is adopted.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended?

Representative Auden Grogins.

REP. GROGINS (129th):

Thank you so much for your indulgence, Madam Speaker.

I just want to thank a few people.

I want to thank Representative Gentile for working with me on this bill and for -- this was a

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compromise. And I greatly appreciate her efforts in allowing -- in work with me to come up with some very important and good legislation, which again, will prevent animal cruelty.

I also want to thank Represent Kupchick for her continuing efforts in supporting this legislation and her for always voicing her support, again, in this fight against animal cruelty. And she really made some very important remarks here today. And I want to thank her.

I also want to thank Representative Camillo and all the Members for supporting this.

And I -- and I urge the entire Chamber's support of this because I think this is a very important bill.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Thank you, madam.

Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark further on the bill as amended? Will you care to remark?

If not, staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Members take your seats. The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

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The House of Representatives is voting by roll.

The House of Representatives is voting by roll. Will
Members please return to the Chamber immediately?

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

Have all members voted? Have all members voted?

If all the members have voted, the machine will
be locked, and the Clerk will take a tally please.

And will the Clerk please announce the tally?

THE CLERK:

Substitute House Bill 5844, as Amended by House
"A".

Total Number Voting	143
Necessary for Passage	72
Those voting Yea	143
Those voting Nay	0
Absent and not voting	7

DEPUTY SPEAKER ORANGE:

The bill, as amended, is passed.

Will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 420?

THE CLERK:

Yes, Madam Speaker.

On Page 47 of today's calendar, Calendar Number
420, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee

HB 6565

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**CONNECTICUT
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS
2013**

**VOL. 56
PART 16
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Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

On page 25, Calendar 646, Substitute for House Bill Number 5844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS, favorable report of the Committee on Environment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes, Madam President.

I do move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence again with the House of Representatives.

THE CHAIR:

The question is on acceptance and passage in concurrence.

Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR MEYER:

Just briefly.

Colleagues, we have a wonderful animal-loving population in Connecticut and they always bring lots of ideas to the Environment Committee. And one of their concerns in recent years has been the tethering of animals, particularly of dogs and we do have some current laws with respect to tethering.

This bill before us extends the law to say that it will prohibit the chaining or tying of a dog to a trolley or a pulley or any other stationary object when there is has been an official whether advisory warning or where an extreme phase of whether through rain, snow, hail, wind, cold.

And in those situations this bill would say that we're not allowed as pet owners to chain or tie our dog outdoors for longer than 15 minutes. In fact, there are two exceptions. One is that we can do it for 15 minutes and secondly we can do it for longer than 15 minutes if we're in the actual physical presence of the dog that's been tethered.

So that's what the bill does. It seems to make good sense. It's something that all of us who are dog owners would be unlikely to. And again I think it's commonsense conclusion and practice here and I urge its passage.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark. Will you remark?

Senator Chapin.

SENATOR CHAPIN:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, I also rise in support of the bill before us. I think in my time in the General Assembly this may be the third time we've tried to rework this particular piece of legislation to get to an issue that continues to persist. Regrettably in prior versions I think our animal control officers have found it somewhat hard to enforce.

I hope that the third time is the charm in this case and that it does provide the level of protection for the dogs in the state of Connecticut that we seek to provide.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark? Will you remark?

If not, Senator Meyer?

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SENATOR MEYER:

Madam President, would you consider adding this to our consent calendar?

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so be it.

Mr. Clerk?

THE CLERK:

On page 26, Calendar 304, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 1019, AN ACT CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE STREAMLINING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION. It's been amended by Senate Schedules "A," "B" and "C," and the House has rejected Senate "C," favorable report of the Committee on Environment.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER:

Yes, Madam President.

I do move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill in concurrence with the amendment made by the House.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage in concurrence with the amendment made by the House.

Please proceed.

SENATOR MEYER:

Colleagues, on May 14, just several weeks ago by consent we in the circle passed this bill. The underlying bill, you may recall, relates to DEEP's administration of -- and oversight of radiation and

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Page 3, Calendar 422, Senate Bill 978; on page 4, Calendar 475, Senate Bill 1052; on page 8, Calendar 567, House Bill 6387; Calendar 568, House Bill 6445; and Calendar 580, House Bill 6623.

On page 9, Calendar 583, House Bill 5149; and Calendar 590, House Bill 6680; page 10, Calendar 607, House Bill 6688; and calendar 608, House Bill 6384.

Page 11, Calendar 612, House Bill 6448; and Calendar 621, House Bill 6488. On page 12, Calendar 634, House Bill 6403; and Calendar 636, House Bill 6394; page 13, Calendar 645, House Bill 6454; and page 14, Calendar 652, House Bill 6702.

On page 16, Calendar 674, House Bill 6441; page 17, Calendar 677, House Bill 6644; on page 18, Calendar 685, House Bill 6009; and on page 23, Calendar 380 Senate Bill 1054; page 24, Calendar 452, Senate Bill 1142; and Calendar 566, House Bill 6375.

Page 25, Calendar 646, House Bill 5844; and on page 26, Calendar 304, Senate Bill 1019.

THE CHAIR:

At this time, Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on a first consent calendar?

The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate. Senators, please return to the chamber. Immediate roll call on the first consent calendar has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

If all members have voted? All members have voted. The machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally?

THE CLERK:

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The first consent calendar.

Total Number Voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The consent calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Madam President, would move for immediate transmittal to the House of Representatives of all items acted on thus far today requiring additional action in that chamber.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

Also, Madam President, on an item previously placed on the foot of the Calendar, would now seek to remove that item and just mark it PR, and that is an item calendar page 16, Calendar 672, House Bill 5480, AN ACT PROHIBITING TAMPERING WITH HYDRANTS. Would just move to remove that item from the foot and to mark it PR.

THE CHAIR:

So ordered.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Thank you, Madam President.

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 7
2010 - 2351**

2013

the university needs to be on the table and held accountable for community use of resources.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, sir. Amy Harrell followed by Susan Linker followed by Karen Laski

AMY HARRELL: Good afternoon. My name is Amy Harrell. I'm the president of Connecticut Votes for Animals and a resident of Vernon, Connecticut. I'd like to thank the Members of the Environment Committee and Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, for the opportunity to testify today in support of three bills, House Bill 5844, 5836, and 5027.

Concerning 5027 on prohibiting the sale of pets from animal mills, some of the most egregious animal cruelty offenders can be found inside the puppy mill industry which supplies Connecticut pet stores with animals. There are far more humane options for families who would like to have a puppy, including rescue organizations, shelters, and responsible breeders.

I fully support the complete prohibition on the sale of commercially bred dogs, cats, and rabbits in Connecticut's 18 pet stores as Representative Kupchick and Senator McKinney intend to amend. They discussed that this morning.

Concerning House Bill 5836 on the expansion of the Animal Population Control Program, the main goal of this bill is to further enhance and protect the ACP program by helping to ensure that money in the account actually goes toward its intended purpose. The ACP account is well funded not through taxes but through

dog license and pound adoption fees and sales of the Caring For Pets license plates.

The account has recently been offering with an annual surplus, and the extra accumulation of funds have been switched twice resulting in over \$1 million diverted to other state budget lines. A portion of this diverted money was specifically donated by Connecticut citizens who bought the Caring For Pets plates because they believed they were helping with the pet overpopulation problem.

I believe an account sweep of this magnitude is unconscionable. We are proposing modest expansions and benefits to the low-income program of the APCP which largely mirror the Department of Agriculture's own recommendations according to their recent annual reports.

Concerning House Bill 5844, the tethering of dogs, I have spoken with numerous animal control officers in recent months. There is unanimous agreement that the current dog tethering statutes are not yet concrete enough to give chained dogs the protection they need. While there are solid restrictions regarding the manner in which dogs may be chained, there is no enforceable language that addresses the length of time a dog may be chained.

House Bill 5844 would prohibit chaining at night between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. Dogs are highly social creatures. The last thing they want is to be alone outside and in the dark, nor do they want to be outside in severe cold or heat, hence we propose to also restrict tethering when the temperature reaches above 90 or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

I am constantly hearing stories of chained dogs who live outside on the end of a chain far away from a loving family, out in the bitter cold, obviously leading a life of misery. To me, it is incredibly frustrating and inconceivable that Connecticut allows this obvious cruelty to continue under current law.

Please give ACOs the laws they need to be able to finally do something in order to bring these dogs inside even for just the night or to weather a storm. Again, thank you for allowing me to testify today, and I hope you will support these bills.

REP. GENTILE: Amy, thank you for your testimony and for your patience. I just have a question for you.

AMY HARRELL: Mm-hmm.

REP. GENTILE: I guess I have some concerns about this regarding the time that a dog spends outside with regard to any specific parameters with weather or so forth. For instance, if you have a breed of dog like say a Chihuahua who really enjoys being outside in the heat or, you know, an Eskimo, a Husky dog that loves being outside in the cold, how would this impact them?

AMY HARRELL: Yes, we understand that different breeds are acclimated to all different temperature comfort zones. The idea is to establish, and we can negotiate on exactly what this temperature range is, but to establish a common temperature range outside of which nearly all dogs are going to start feeling uncomfortable.

And we believe that 32 degrees Fahrenheit and 90 is a very good starting place for that. We

have seen those temperature ranges in other regional level legislation around the country. There are many other laws that have established those as parameters.

And I would also say that for those who have Chihuahuas and Huskies, we would prefer that they take the dogs out for a walk to enjoy the weather that the dog enjoys most rather than chaining them up in the backyard.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you. Senator Meyer followed by Representative O'Dea.

SENATOR MEYER: As I understand this bill, this is a tethering bill that relates to the conditions under which you could put a rope or a chain on the dog.

AMY HARRELL: Mm-hmm.

SENATOR MEYER: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't see anything in this bill that would prohibit a dog owner from putting his or her dog outdoors in the winter or the summer regardless of temperature in a dog run or in a doghouse as long as the dog is not chained or roped. Am I correct in understanding that?

AMY HARRELL: That's right.

SENATOR MEYER: Yeah.

AMY HARRELL: That's right. We understand there are a whole host of issues related to those scenarios as well when dogs go outside in yards and/or in pens, doghouses, what have you. The bill that we're proposing this year is limited to tethering situations.

SENATOR MEYER: Tethering, good. Okay. That's the way I read it too. Fine. Thank you.

REP. O'DEA: Thank you, Madam Chair. Sometimes I'm almost embarrassed to admit it, but when I grew up, our dogs never came inside. They were outdoor dogs, and we changed the hay in the spring and the fall. And my friends now are aghast that that's how we did it. But we lived on a fairly large area.

And I'm curious, we had a pen for them, and on occasion there would be a tether. If a fence was destroyed or something, we would, they'd, we'd put them on a tether. Now if they were tethered and would go into a doghouse, would this effect that situation?

AMY HARRELL: If they were tethered and went into a doghouse, yes. I mean, we have outlined some parameters for what that doghouse should consist of, namely that it, you know, it should be far more sturdy than, for instance, a tarp strung across the back porch, which is, you know, what many ACOs have encountered.

The, that, I should clarify, what the, the doghouse provision would be one of those exceptions for whenever there is severe weather. So whenever the temperature is above 90 or below 32, the dog may stay outside on the chain as long as it has access to very sturdy, adequate, insulated shelter.

REP. O'DEA: In reading, so what I'm reading now, provides natural light, is structurally sound --

AMY HARRELL: Yes.

REP. O'DEA: -- does not otherwise pose a risk of injury to such dog, allow such dog to stand up, turn around, lie down, okay. So, I mean, it looks like as long as the doghouse was

providing natural light, as long as the door of the doghouse is open and light gets through that that it's okay, and it's a structurally sound doghouse.

AMY HARRELL: Right.

REP. O'DEA: I'm literally just thinking back to it, whether or not my situation as a kid would have violated the statute, because I don't think it should, and if it does, I have a problem with this. But it sounds like as long as you've got it, a structure for the dog, and you change the hay that's off the ground, and the dog, and the door is open, it's okay.

AMY HARRELL: I think, yeah, I think the point is, is to better define what is shelter. We sort of throw that term around that, you know, well, as long as an animal has food, water, and shelter, it must be okay. Well, people, citizens in Connecticut have defined shelter in all sorts of ways, and oftentimes the shelter is not adequate.

A cardboard box sitting in a mud puddle is not shelter. So that is the idea behind the language in our bill there. Similarly, you know, two pallets put up like a teepee is not shelter.

REP. O'DEA: Okay. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you for your testimony.

REP. GENTILE: Representative O'Dea, I think you're covered by statute of limitations.
Representative Ziobron.

REP. ZIOBRON: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just to follow up on the Representative's question, I see for sale a lot of times, they look like little igloos, and they're doghouses, but

they're, you know, maybe small, but, you know, they're, they look like a little bit of igloo. I think I would classify that as portable perhaps. Would that fit your guideline?

AMY HARRELL: I would have to think about that a little more before answering that concretely but, again, as long as it provides some sort of flap on the front to protect animals from the elements. It has to be up off the ground so that the inside is not prone to flooding.

Perhaps a well-insulated igloo like that, if it were put up, if it were raised up off the ground a bit, would be adequate. In other words, from what you're describing, it sounds like it could very well be adapted to comply with the statutes.

REP. ZIOBRON: You know, they're sold all over the place. And the reason I asked you is a lot of times you see people with hunting dogs specifically use that sort of shelter for their animals.

And I'd like to know for sure before I vote on this bill if that the actual house as sold meets your definitions, because I think there's a burden then on every animal owner then to buy something, and now they have to modify it. Like they're not going to understand that.

AMY HARRELL: Yeah.

REP. ZIOBRON: So I want to make sure that when they buy it that it's going to fit what you're asking for.

AMY HARRELL: I understand that. We can look into this and get back to you on that.

REP. ZIOBRON: Yep.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you. Any additional questions? Thank you, Amy.

AMY HARRELL: Thank you.

REP. GENTILE: Susan Linker followed by Karen Laski.

SUSAN LINKER: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify. My name is Susan Linker. I am the CEO of Our Companions Animal Rescue. I'm also a member of Connecticut Votes for Animals. I'm here today to testify on three bills, House Bill 5836, which is the APCP bill, 5844, which is the tethering bill, and 5027, which is the pet shop bill.

First, with respect to 5836, the Connecticut's Animal Population Control Program in the past 19 years has done remarkable things for animals. And one of the concerns that we've brought over the years is the fact that there is a surplus of funds that aren't being used for the intended purpose, so much, so much money just sitting out there that about a million dollars has been stolen, swept out of this fund, and allocated elsewhere to make up for deficits in other areas.

This is a state program that by statute was designed for the sterilization of pets, for animals adopted from municipal pounds, for feral cats, and for the pets of those who are defined as low income who can't afford to screen their animals. And to have close to a million dollars taken out really indicates that this is an area that we need to address.

The Department of Agriculture, in the last two or three years in their own report, has

established that they want to allocate more funds for the low-income program and specifically to expand the, basically the redemption value of the vouchers, which is the mechanism for getting the money to get the animals spayed and neutered.

So our bill is in line with those proposals on the Department of Agriculture to raise the low income amount from ten percent to 20 percent and to increase the benefits for those people who can't afford to spay or neuter their pets.

And particularly with the economy the way that it is, rescue organizations and people who are in the rescue business really have an interest in helping people out who have the least amount of money and statistically often have the most amount of pets.

With respect to 5844, the tethering bill, I know we spoke a lot about the shelter standards that we're talking about. There is a dog name Diamond in my town of Bloomfield, and Diamond lives in a box. Diamond is on a tiny chain strapped around his neck and lives in a box. And it's about a mile from the high school.

And about probably once a quarter Diamond gets off the leash and chases around children very aggressively, because when you chain a dog outside, they basically become dangerous animals. These are companion animals that are meant to be in people's homes, and when they're neglected socially, they guard their territory, and they become a real public safety issue.

Beyond the fact that it's just inhumane to deny a pack animal the luxury of having to be around other people, it really is a public

safety issue. And I've seen how aggressive this dog gets. It's not socialized to people. It never has been. And when people approach, it is very aggressive, guarding its territory which he is chained to.

This bill is, I think, very reasonable. In the middle of the night when there is the most risk, I have seen wild animals destroy tethered dogs. That is as inhumane as it can get. I would never leave my dog out all night long chained to something. And I think most reasonable people would understand that.

So I'm hoping that we can build upon the successes we've made in the past years and have more protections for dogs that, unfortunately, are resigned to living their entire lives at the end of a chain.

Last, with respect to 5024, the pet shop bill, obviously, we strongly support that. Dogs from, puppies sold in pet shops come from puppy mills. And no reputable breeder I've ever met in my life would ever sell their dogs to a pet shop for resale. There's a reason why they're being sold in pet shops.

HB 5027

And if you just google puppy mills, you'll realize the horrible nature of this industry. And a lot of states are moving towards this, and I'm hoping that Connecticut will be one of them. So thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Susan. Karen Laski followed by Marlene Wilhelm and then Debora Bresch.

KAREN LASKI: Hi, everyone. Thank you for this hearing. My name is Karen Laski, and I have been involved in animal welfare for over 40

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HB 5027

years, and I'm currently on the board of Connecticut Votes for Animals.

I'm here to support House Bill 5844, the dog tethering bill, House Bill 5836, the animal population control program bill, and H.B. 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

Many years ago, I would drive by places where dogs were chained and check on them in the middle of the night to see if they were still there. I was so frustrated that I could never help them, because no law prevented them from being chained day and night in the sweltering heat and frigid cold.

Several generations of dogs later, we are here with a bill that could give some relief to dogs enduring this endless misery. Dogs who are continually chained are frustrated, bored, and many times driven to extreme anxiety and depression. They pace back and forth repetitively. Chained dogs are vulnerable to attacks by wild animals or cruel humans.

They suffer from pressure sores, frostbite, and heat stroke. They are constantly on the edge and can never relax. Along with wide constituent support for this bill, there are many positive aspects and benefits. Less people will be waking up in the middle of the night to the barking of a frustrated dog.

Homeowner security could be increased by the presence of a dog being inside at night rather than outside. Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to an intruder is an inside dog. Outside dogs become aggressive, not protective.

Regulations against chaining give animal control officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting since many fighting dogs are kept in chains. According to world renowned dog expert Victoria Stilwell, many common behavioral problems could be avoided if owners understood how severe confinement can compromise natural behavior.

Dogs teach us love and patience. They improve our health and lift our spirits. Our best friends are suffering. Let's give them a break. Thank you.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you, Karen. Senator Meyer.

SENATOR MEYER: Karen, you're such a good advocate, and thank you for doing this.

KAREN LASKI: Thank you.

SENATOR MEYER: We see you every year. I've got to tell you, I am suffering so much today because of my dog last night though. 2:30 in the morning, dog hears a raccoon, and our dog, Mo, went crazy. You know, we had to let her out in the middle of the night.

KAREN LASKI: Yeah.

SENATOR MEYER: I mean, you know, just would not stop.

KAREN LASKI: Yep.

SENATOR MEYER: The raccoon was --

KAREN LASKI: (Inaudible) you.

SENATOR MEYER: -- trying to get into a bird feeder, so I'm exhausted today. Just had to share that with you.

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KAREN LASKI: Thanks.

REP. GENTILE: Thank you.

KAREN LASKI: Thank you.

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

A VOICE: Go ahead, (inaudible).

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

REP. GENTILE: Marlene, good afternoon, followed by Debora.

MARLENE WILHELM: Good afternoon. Thank you, Senator Meyer, Madam Chair, Committee. My name is Marlene Wilhelm. I'm a resident of Windsor, Connecticut, and I am here to, in support of House Bill 5844, the legislation that would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I would like to mirror what Amy Harrell has said, that Susan Linker and Karen Laski. I agree with that. However, my concern is more notably, and I can speak to this in personal reference, about the tethering prohibits animals from defending themselves and/or escaping predators and may result in a gruesome and horrific death.

Growing up in Windsor, we used to, as Mr. O'Dea has mentioned, that was kind of the norm. We would tether our dogs outside, and hopefully the statute of limitations applies to me as well. But we had, one of my beloved beagles had been attacked at the early

morning, which is when they're most active, at dawn and dusk, by a coyote.

And as a six-year-old child, witnessing that has left such a negative impression with me for years. So on that note, I would like to urge the Committee to back that bill and support that as well. The second thing I want to do is just support the small or the pet shop bill that has just come up.

Not only am I a member of Connecticut Votes for Animals and a volunteer with Our Companions, I am also the president of a small animal rescue and have been for the last three years and actually am president of the House Rabbit Connection. I would really like to urge the Committee to extend this small pet shop not only to cats and dogs but to rabbits as well.

And as we have Easter approaching in a few weeks, it's absolutely deplorable, deplorable, the conditions that these domestic animals are kept in in pet stores anticipating sales by a parent picking up a small rabbit for a gift for a child for Easter, left without water and food.

And they are not like cats or dogs where you can give them a handful of water in the morning and a handful of food in the afternoon and they'll be fine. Rabbits have to have hay 24/7, 365 days a week, because their digestive system is almost identical to a horse.

You go in there, they're on wire mesh bottoms where their hocks are sore. They are deprived of food and water, and I'm assuming that's so that Mom and Dad doesn't have to worry about the \$200 dress that their daughter is wearing

for an Easter photo having rabbit excrement on it.

So I would really like to see rabbits and small animals extended to that small, or the pet bill shop that is coming up. So I thank you for your time today. I ask you to really consider what I have proposed today. And, again, thank you for the work that you are doing.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Debora. Any questions? Thanks. Our next witness is Debora Bresch followed by Steve Alexander and Nancy Parker.

DEBORA BRESCH: Good afternoon. Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I'm here on behalf of the ASPCA's 22,000 members in Connecticut. I'm here in support, like the others, of H.B. 5844 and H.B. 5836, 5844 concerning chaining, 5836 concerning the Animal Population Control Program.

And I am here requesting an amendment to H.B. 5027 to prohibit the sale of cats and dogs in pet stores. And I will note that Los Angeles, Representative Kupchick mentioned the Los Angeles ordinance that was passed just in November that prohibits the sale of cats and dogs and rabbits in pet stores, so that is, has been considered a reasonable inclusion in these bills.

I'll start just briefly with the chaining bill. We know that chaining is a moral hazard. It's inhumane to the dogs. It's a public safety hazard. The importance of this bill, like that bill that you passed in 2010 to also regulate chaining to a certain degree, this bill is essentially an endangerment statute.

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Unlike the cruelty law which essentially can be used to intervene after the fact after an animal is already in serious trouble, this can be used to intervene before an animal is, before a dog is in serious trouble. But these are reasonable regulations that would allow an animal control officer simply to ensure that that animal, that that dog is safe.

Again, chaining overnight is, poses a particular problem to dogs as do extreme weather conditions. But a dog can be chained during those extreme weather conditions providing appropriate shelter is given. So there's really nothing extreme in this proposal, so it's a common sense endangerment statute or bill, excuse me.

With respect to 5836 concerning Animal Population Control Program, I would just like to say that we think all the provisions in that bill really go toward ensuring that the Animal Population Control Program lives up to best practices.

Our goal in allowing the Department of Agriculture to give money directly to registered nonprofits and animal control officers to help with low income spay/neuter is to, is a recognition of the fact that spay/neuter is a multidimensional problem not only to someone who needs it, that their animal needs a spay/neuter operation, but perhaps they need transport to the clinic.

There are other aspects of this problem, and we want to give registered nonprofits and animal control officers some leeway. And we think this would be a good use of that money. Perhaps the Department of Ag would give them vouchers, but perhaps they would give them grants.

general mentioned or noted that the USDA simply doesn't follow up with these puppy mills adequately.

So not only are the standards de minimis but the enforcement is very poor. And as you've noted, the state can't do anything really ultimately about these breeders, so you have to do something on our, we have to do something on our home turf.

SENATOR MEYER: Okay. Well, thank you, Debora. Are there any questions?

DEBORA BRESCH: I would also, could I just draw your attention to the fact that I, the pet shops in Connecticut purchase from these puppy mills. And I've noted, the details I provided on how these dogs were raised in these mills come directly from inspection reports on breeders that have sold to Connecticut pet stores.

So this is not, you know, this is not sort of a composite of what's happening in these mills. These are the conditions specifically at breeders that have sold and are continuing to sell to pet stores in Connecticut.

SENATOR MEYER: Thanks, Debora.

DEBORA BRESCH: Sure.

SENATOR MEYER: Our next witness is Steve Alexander followed by Nancy Parker.

A VOICE: (Inaudible).

SENATOR MEYER: Good. Great idea. Great idea.

STEVE ALEXANDER: Hello. My name is Steve Alexander. I am from Wallingford,

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Connecticut. And the facts that people have given already about the three bills pertaining to animal rights I've outlined in written testimony, so I really don't need to go over that too much. But there's a couple of points that I wrote down as people were talking.

One is that 26 states do have certain levels of regulations regarding commercial breeders, but 24 of them still don't. And the conditions of those puppy mills, as people have indicated, are reprehensible. And I want to reiterate what somebody else said that these are pack animals, very social creatures.

HB 5027

And my philosophy is that I'm a human being having a, I'm a spiritual being having a temporary human experience, and my love for dogs shows me that they've, they're spiritual beings having a temporary canine experience. I've had a couple of dogs save my life in many different ways.

And I heard people talking earlier about the enforcement problem, and that perked my ears up. I'm not sure exactly how that can be handled regarding the puppy mill bill. But one thing that came to mind was only allowing pet stores to buy from Connecticut breeders. I don't know how that would fly in the courts, but it would certainly enhance the private breeder industry in the state.

And I also support the other two bills, including the bill regarding tethering. And there are certain aspects of that bill that would enhance life for everybody in our communities in the state, one of those being that at 3:00 o'clock in the morning, I remember growing up, there was one dog that used to bark ceaselessly.

HB 5844

And there was a, you know, somebody mentioned Hatfield versus McCoys before, there developed a rivalry between these two families, these homeowners. And the police would have to come out frequently to quell these disturbances.

And that would be eliminated by this sort of legislation that would prevent people from being, having animals out for that long. I also know that every dog that I've ever owned suffers in the heat inherently, and to leave them out for a lengthy period of time in the heat is not a good thing.

I was a director of a program down in New Haven, and the next-door neighbor, the next-door house, it was a three-family house, and the next-door house, a group of people that moved in. And what they did was build a page fence case that was not, had no cover on top. It was page fence on top too. It was a large cage in the backyard that covered about a quarter of the backyard.

And they, we started seeing that they were putting pit bulls in the cage, and they also put a pit bull on top of, on a landing, on the second floor landing on a fire escape. What they, what I observed on one particular occasion was that they tethered those dogs in such a way on a hot August day so that they just couldn't reach the bowl of water and the food.

And what they were doing was intentionally doing this in order to get these animals, you know, into fighting spirit. And shortly after that, neighbors complained too, and the City of New Haven was very good about it. They did shut down this operation.

SENATOR MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Alexander. Are there any questions of this witness? Appreciate you coming. Our next witness is Nancy Parker.

NANCY PARKER: Hi. Good afternoon, Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin. I'm Nancy Parker. I live in Hartford. I've been doing animal advocacy and supporting animal rights for a dozen years now, and I want to speak in favor of three bills, House Bill Number 5844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS, H.B. 5836, AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR THE VACCINATION, STERILIZATION, AND HEARTWORM TESTING OF DOGS AND CATS OWNED BY LOW-INCOME PERSONS OR ADOPTED FROM MUNICIPAL OR REGIONAL SHELTERS, and H.B. 5027, AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS.

I remember a dozen years ago, 10 or 12 years ago, Julie Lewin working hard on tethering bills. And I have never actually seen, I mean, I can picture it, and I've heard many stories over the years, but if I saw that, I don't know what I would do. I'd probably call the animal control, but I think it's terribly inhumane to put an animal out there under those kind of conditions.

HB 5844

And as far as the availability of funding for vaccination and sterilization and heartworm testing, I took my mentee to the Connecticut Humane Society about over a year ago, and I adopted a cat with her. And I know it cost me about, I had to pay about \$150. It's something that she couldn't have afforded. She really wanted a cat badly, and she's got

HB 5836

Testimony Concerning HB 5844

Amy Gagnon
Volunteer, Connecticut Votes for Animals
Volunteer, Protectors of Animals
Advocate, New Britain Pound

To Members of the Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 5844, An Act Concerning The Overnight Tethering Of Dogs Outdoors And The Tethering Of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions. I am a registered voter in the town of Wethersfield and I am a research historian at Connecticut Humanities in Middletown

When I am not at work, I spend a great deal of my free time advocating for animals. I volunteer at a no-kill shelter and I work with various rescue groups throughout the state helping to improve the lives of homeless, neglected, and abused animals. I have seen first-hand the effects of constant chaining, and I have seen the positive results of unchaining. It is as if these dogs had a new lease on life, and in most cases, they did. It is a remarkable sight, the freedom and appreciation in their eyes.

A few years back, my neighbors' son moved home. Being from a small European country, their customs varied greatly from ours. With the son, came his dog. The dog was never allowed in the house, but spent his days (and nights) chained to a tree in the backyard. He had meager shelter and his owner only visited once a day, in the morning for his meal. I watched this dog through rainstorms and heat waves, ignored by his family, bored out of his mind. It tore at my heart, but more than that, it made me mad. Another neighbor and I called animal control, which resulted in the dog going in to the garage a few hours or less each day, then right back out to his tree. The son eventually moved away, and I still wonder about that dog. Do his new neighbors worry about him? Do they act on his behalf for his safety? I do not know, but I can hope that they do.

Please support HB 5844 not only for the dogs who deserve a quality of life better than what they have at the end of a chain, but for the people like me, who work to make sure that animals are humanely treated, cared for, and loved. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to write this letter and I hope you will support this important piece of legislation.

Very Sincerely,

Amy G. Gagnon
597 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
agr321@gamil.com
860-881-9644



Debra M. Bresch, Esq.,
Senior State Director
Mid-Atlantic Region
Government Relations

debra.bresch@aspca.org
P/F. (908) 232-0364
Cell (917) 679-1008

MEMORANDUM on Behalf of the ASPCA's 22,000 Connecticut Supporters:

- **Requesting Amendment of HB 5027 to Prohibit the Sale of Commercially Bred Dogs and Cats in Pet Shops**
- **Urging Joint Favorable Report for HB 5844 to Prohibit the Tethering of Dogs Overnight and Under Harsh Weather Conditions Unless Certain Conditions are Met**

(1) HB 5027: Please amend to prohibit the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats in pet shops.

Because of the pervasive cruelty in the commercial dog breeding industry, municipalities across the country and internationally - most recently, city of 4 million people, Los Angeles (Nov. 2012) - are choosing to prohibit the sale of commercially bred dogs and cats in pet shops and instead require pet shops to source these animals from registered rescue organizations.

The ASPCA estimates that 99% of dogs sold in pet shops come from "puppy mills" - defined by the ASPCA as large-scale commercial breeding operations where profits are given a higher priority than the well-being of the dogs they produce.

For a variety of reasons, it is very difficult for most states harboring puppy mills to regulate them appropriately. Nor are puppy mills properly regulated under federal law. First, the federal regulations are wholly inadequate. Although any breeder with more than three breeding female dogs who sells puppies wholesale to brokers or pet stores must be licensed and inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), this requirement is unfortunately no guarantee of humane treatment for the breeding dogs. To the contrary, it is purely a certification that the entity is engaged in the practice of commercially breeding dogs for a profit. Dogs may be kept for their entire lives in cages that are only 6 inches longer than the dog in each direction (think, beagle in a household dishwasher) with wire floors that paws get cut on and openings that paws and feces fall through, stacked on top of each other, the dogs allowed to be bred at every heat cycle for their entire lives. Federal law fully sanctions such cruelty - treatment that most of us would likely call the authorities to investigate if it were to occur immediately in front of us.

In addition, according to the U S. Office of the Inspector General - which in 2010, audited USDA's inspection process - USDA enforcement of these minimal regulations is extremely poor. The photos in the Inspector General's report - a few of which are pasted below - are very disturbing images of such conditions as open wounds, tick and insect infestations, and fecal accumulation, that went largely unaddressed by USDA inspectors and reflect the USDA's inadequate response to pervasive inhumane conditions in commercial breeding facilities.

Over the last several years, the Connecticut legislature has tried indirectly to address the puppy mill problem by requiring pet shops to identify breeders and brokers, clarifying pet shops' obligation to reimburse consumer for certain veterinary expenses under the Pet Lemon Law, and most recently, authorizing the state Department of Agriculture to fine pet shops for poor sanitation and inhumane treatment of animals. However, pet shops do not comply with these requirements and the state laws are not enforced - and, at the end of the day, Connecticut simply cannot undo the cruelty that is endemic to the puppy mill industry from which this state's 17 pet shops purchase their dogs.

In fact, in reviewing the USDA inspection reports for just three of the large breeders who were supplying to two Connecticut pet shops as of October 2012, one finds a parade of horrors, including:

- o exposed sharp points on which dogs can cut themselves (especially serious given the problem of delayed or absent veterinary care)
- o untreated illness/injury
- o significant fecal accumulation and dirty food receptacles
- o failure to provide water (in one case below, dogs had not been given water since the day before and then were given water only upon the USDA inspector's directive, at which time they drank incessantly for at least a minute)
- o poorly ventilated kennels, including excessively warm temperatures and ammonia-saturated air that caused the inspectors' noses to burn
- o cages that were too small for their occupants - bad enough by itself, but recall that the mother dogs remain in these cages 24/7 until "spent"
- o insect infestation
- o dogs without bedding
- o dogs living in almost total darkness.

A Connecticut dog owner would be prosecuted for such mistreatment of animals. Connecticut must stop facilitating this abuse elsewhere. And given that there are well over a hundred licensed pet shops in Connecticut, but only seventeen shops sell dogs, there is clearly another potential business model for these shops to follow. **Please don't support cruelty. Please amend HB 5027 to prohibit the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops.**

(1) HB 5844: Please joint favorably report this bill to prohibit the tethering of dogs overnight and under harsh weather conditions unless certain conditions are met.

In 2003, Connecticut became the first state to attempt to regulate the practice of excessively chaining or confining a dog. Not only is dog chaining inhumane, but chained dogs are also a public safety hazard. Specifically, studies indicate that chaining is associated with dog aggression and biting.¹ In fact, according to one researcher, chained dogs were responsible for 25% (or 109) of U.S. dog bite fatalities from 1965-2008. Of these fatalities, 99 were children who wandered into the reach of a chained dog, and the other 10 were instances in which chained dogs broke free before attacking.²

¹ Gershman, K., Sacks, J., Wright, J., 1994. Which dogs bite: A case control study of risk factors. Pediatrics 93, 913-917.

² New Mexico Department of Public Safety, 2008. The Public Safety and Humane Implications of Persistently Tethering Domestic Dogs. See online at http://www.apnm.org/campaigns/chaining/Final_DPS_Tethering_Study.pdf

However, animal control officers pronounced the 2003 law unenforceable given its vague mandate not to chain a dog for an "unreasonable period of time," and so in 2010, the legislature enacted a much more concrete law with clear, easily understood prohibitions related to such things as tether length, type, and thickness.

The 2010 law was progress, but more remains to be done, as reflected in this bill, HB 5844:

- By restricting overnight chaining to very limited circumstances, HB 5844 would finally allow law enforcement to address the 24/7 chaining that harms dogs, threatens the public, and so disturbs those who must see these dogs every day and hear their plaintive cries - or perhaps see them become listless when they know no help is forthcoming.
- In addition, HB 5844 would clarify under what weather conditions a dog would need to be given shelter, and the required parameters of such shelter.

Unfortunately, Connecticut's cruelty law is insufficient to prevent the chaining of dogs under either of these circumstances. Under the cruelty law, animal control can do little about a chained dog "merely" because this dog is chained continuously; there must be clear evidence of physical harm. Similarly, I have yet to see the cruelty law invoked to ensure proper shelter for a dog unless the dog is already exhibiting clear signs of harm due to the weather (e.g., hypothermia) or conditions are otherwise grave.

And is this the best use of the criminal court system when another, more elegant solution is available?

In contrast with the cruelty law, HB 5844 is common sense endangerment legislation that would allow animal control officers to intervene on behalf of dogs under very precisely defined circumstances in order to avert unnecessary harm to such dogs.

Please joint favorably report HB 5844.

Sincerely,



Debora M. Bresch, Esq.
Senior State Director, MidAtlantic Region
Government Relations

Hi everyone. Thank you for this hearing. My name is Karen Laski. I live at 279 Fern St. in Manchester.

I'm here to support HB 5844, the dog tethering bill, HB 5836 the Animal Population Control Program bill, and HB 5027, An Act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats from substandard domestic animal mills.

I have been involved in Animal Welfare for over 40 years and I am currently on the Board of CT Votes for Animals.

Many years ago, I would drive by places where dogs were chained and check on them in the middle of the night to see if they were still there. I was so frustrated that I could never help them because no law prevented them from being chained day and night and in the sweltering heat and frigid cold. Several generations of dogs later we are here with a bill that could give some relief to dogs enduring this endless misery.

Dogs who are continually chained are frustrated, bored and many times driven to extreme anxiety and depression. They pace back and forth repetitively. Chained dogs are vulnerable to attacks by wild animals or cruel humans. They suffer from pressure sores, frostbite and heatstroke. They are constantly on edge and can never relax.

Along with the wide constituent support for this bill there are many positive aspects and benefits. Less people will be waking up in the middle of the night to the barking of a frustrated dog. Homeowner's security could be increased by the presence of a dog being inside at night. Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to intruders is an inside dog. Outside dogs become aggressive not protective. Regulations against chaining give Animal Control Officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting, since many fighting dogs are kept in chains.

According to world renowned dog training expert, Victoria Stilwell, many common behavioral problems could be avoided if owners understood how severe confinement can compromise natural behavior.

Dogs teach us love and patience. They improve our health and lift our spirits. Our best friends are suffering. Let's give them a break.

Environment Committee, Public Hearing: 3/15/13

Testimony from Gretchen LaBau, 67 Duncaster Road, Bloomfield, CT
Advisory Board Member, Our Companions Animal Rescue
Member, CT Votes for Animals

Thank you for your attention to my support of the following bills:

HB 5836, An Act Concerning the Availability of Funding for the Vaccination, Sterilization, and Heartworm Testing of Dogs and Cats Owned by Low Income Persons or Adopted from Municipal or Regional Shelters

HB 5844, An Act Concerning the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outdoors and the Tethering of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions

HB 5207 An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs or Cats From Substandard Domestic Animal Mills at Pet Shops. (HB5027)

In regard to HB 5836, it is time to modify the program so that it meets the current needs of our communities. By increasing the funding available for low-income people in the APCP program (Animal Population Control Program), the funds of the APCP program can be used for their intended purpose. The Department of Agriculture, in their annual reports, has recommended that these benefits be increased in the low-income program.

In regard to HB 5844, it is only humane to make sure that dogs are not subjected to harsh weather conditions and are brought in at night where they will be safe.

In regard to HB 5207, a ban on pets being sold in pet shops would insure that people who acquire pets (HB5027) either by adopting them from a shelter or from a reputable breeder. Pets sold in pet shops are bred in puppy mills under cruel conditions and contribute to the overpopulation of dogs, many of whom end up being euthanized.

I urge you to support these three important pieces of legislation. Thank you.

Environment Committee, Public Hearing: 3/15/13

Testimony from Susan B. Linker, 7 Sunset Lane, Bloomfield, CT
 CEO, Our Companions Animal Rescue
 CT Votes for Animals volunteer

Dear members of the Environment Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT** of the following bills:

- **HB 5836**, An Act Concerning the Availability of Funding for the Vaccination, Sterilization, and Heartworm Testing of Dogs and Cats Owned by Low Income Persons or Adopted from Municipal or Regional Shelters.
- **HB 5844**, An Act Concerning the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outdoors and the Tethering of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions
- **HB 5207** An Act Prohibiting the Sale of Dogs or Cats From Substandard Domestic Animal Mills at Pet Shops. (HB5027)

First with respect to **HB 5836**, while Connecticut's Animal Population Control Program (APCP) has made tremendous contributions to our states spay/neuter efforts during its 19 years of existence, it is long overdue to modify the program to meet the current needs of our community. **HB 5836** will expand the sterilization benefits for low-income individuals. The Department of Agriculture has expressly recommended in their annual reports that these benefits need to be increased in the low-income program, and by doing so, it will allow the funds in the APCP program to be used for the intended purpose. In the past, over a million dollars have been swept out of the APCP account and redirected elsewhere because there was such a extreme surplus in this program. This was not the intended use of the funds and **HB 5836** will ensure that the funds are being used for the purpose for which they were intended.

The modest expansions in benefits we are proposing should be easily absorbed by the APCP account. Yet they will result in even more significant reductions in homeless pets in CT, and in return, reduce the burden on our municipal and regional shelter system.

As you know the animal protection community has been working over the years to improve the conditions for dogs who live their lives chained. **HB 5844** would provide obvious, reasonable and clearly defined protections for chained dogs. It will prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and require that chained dogs never be left outside in severe weather conditions without shelter strong enough to protect them from the elements.

HB 5207 would create a ban on pets being sold in pet shops. It's a fact and certainly no secret that puppies (HB5027) sold from pet shops come from puppy mills. These mills are without question unspeakably cruel dog breeding factories. No reputable breeder would ever breed animals for the purpose of reselling them at pet shops.

The inhumane practices of puppy mills, combined with the fact that 3 to 4 million homeless dogs and cats are euthanized in U.S. shelters each year, speaks to the need to ban the sale of pets in pet shops. This would allow people rescue homeless pets, and if they choose to purchase a dog, they may go directly to a breeder so they can see first-hand the conditions of the animals.

I thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony and I urge you to support these three important pieces of legislation.



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 STATE CAPITOL
 HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

REPRESENTATIVE AUDEN GROGINS
 ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
 ROOM 4029
 HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591

HOME 203-366-3245
 CAPITOL 800-842-8267
 E-MAIL Auden.Grogins@cga.ct.gov

DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER

MEMBER
 EDUCATION COMMITTEE
 JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
 LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Testimony of State Representative Auden Grogins in support of

**HB5844 AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE
 TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

Environment Committee Public Hearing

Friday, March 15, 2013

Representative Gentile, Senator Meyer and members of the Environment Committee, for the record my name is State Representative Auden Grogins and I represent the 129th District in Bridgeport. I am submitting testimony in favor of H.B. 5844, Act AAC Prohibiting the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outdoors and under certain weather conditions.

Thank you for holding this public hearing and giving me the opportunity to testify on this legislation here today.

In 2010, we passed a law regulating the practice of excessive chaining and confining of a dog. Excessive chaining and excessive confinement of a dog, goes to the heart of animal cruelty and is inhumane. This is also a public safety issue. Specifically, studies show that excessive chaining is associated with dog aggression and biting.

Unfortunately, our Animal Cruelty Law and the current tethering law do not address the overnight chaining issue and the chaining of dogs in extreme weather conditions. This bill takes the tethering law one step further, by prohibiting the overnight tethering of dogs outdoors and the tethering of dogs in extreme weather conditions, where shelter is necessary for their well being.

Through my duties as a State Representative, I have encountered many situations where dogs have been left outside in freezing cold weather, chained to a tree, without any shelter. I have also seen dogs chained for 12-15 hours at a time in extreme heat. This very cruel and unfortunate situation is more uncommon than not. These inhumane conditions not only jeopardize the health and welfare of the dogs and cannot be labeled as anything else but animal cruelty.

I would submit to you that this specific law is very important, as the current animal cruelty law is too broad to address this issue. This bill will make prohibiting these cruel practices easier for animal control officers to enforce.

As a member of the Legislators for Animal Advocacy in our Connecticut General Assembly, and on behalf of my constituents, pet owners and animal supporters in Connecticut, I urge you to pass this very important legislation.

March 14, 2013

Environment Committee
Connecticut State Legislature

Re: My Support of HB 5844

Dear Committee Members, Other State Legislators and Everyone who has ever cared about a dog:

I have witnessed dogs cruelly and heartlessly chained up outside, 24/7, in Bridgeport for many, many years. My complaints to animal control, the mayor's office, the police department, local and state elected officials, continually fall on deaf ears, OR, if addressed at all, the response has been that the dog is licensed in the city, has a dog house and is "fine." This is unacceptable. I spoke in front of the Bridgeport Common Council in March 2011 in regards to 2 particular dogs who are forced to lead a horrible life tethered outside, with one dog that has suffered outside for many years during snow storms, extreme heat, etc. Wonder if my council representatives lost my phone number because neither has contacted me about my presentation 2 years ago. The city's animal control officer, as well as the captain of the police department who oversees the shelter, have told me that the particular dogs I complained about were fine. The owners of some of the dogs I have seen and have taken pictures of have threatened me with bodily harm if I continue to "make trouble." I have launched social media campaigns to have the Bridgeport residents contact the police department to complain, but the dogs remain tethered in Bridgeport.

With the addition of the overnight and the extreme weather conditions aspect of HB 5844, maybe THEN the animal control officers will enforce the anti-tethering law. I was so excited when the anti-tethering bill was passed, but only to watch it not be used to humanely help tethered dogs in Bridgeport. Fairfield, Stratford, Trumbull: these adjoining cities do not tolerate such behavior. Only in Bridgeport is such treatment of these dogs is allowed.

In addition to watching a dog have to live in a dog house during extremely cold weather, in rainy, muddy conditions, living in a metal enclosure in extreme heat, there are reasons to pass this bill other than the humane aspect of it, as if that wasn't enough in itself. It is not uncommon for Bridgeport dogs to be tethered in front yards or in driveways or blocking garages. With such tethering, the dog loses her/his socialization skills and becomes mean and unapproachable. What message does a mean OR ANY dog tethered up outside continually send to children or neighbors passing by on their way to school, works or running errands? It says that such tethering is an acceptable thing in Bridgeport. What if the dog breaks free? I have seen more dogs than I care to with collars or tethers breaking into their skin from being on to tight or attached inappropriately. It is not the dog's fault that it is not the social, friendly dog it was prior to having to live outside, tethered continually and inappropriately. How do first responders get into a house or garage or building if there is an emergency? Would lives be lost, people, including the

responders, injured and/or property damaged, because the responders couldn't get pass an angry dog to address a medical or fire emergency? Why should federal mail carriers have to worry about a dog breaking free? Why should neighbors have to see and listen to a dog barking or crying all of the time?

I beg you to pass this bill. This is Connecticut. We need to tell our residents that if they are unable to own and care for their dogs in a kind, compassionate and humanely way, then they will be fined and hopefully, the animal control officers can remove the dog when such harsh treatment continues against the law. Please help to give the authorities more concrete assistance in enforcing anti-tethering laws. I cannot continue to see these poor dogs live like they do being continually tethered in inhumane conditions. Not acceptable. Please help these dogs. Someone has to.

Thank you.

Nancy Esposito
105 Little Deer Road
Bridgeport, CT 06606
Home: 203-371-6427

Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Andrea Seader

I would like to thank the environment committee for the opportunity to express my support of Bill # 5844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

I am a registered voter in Manchester, and I am a volunteer for CT Votes for Animals. (CVA)

During the last two legislative sessions I had constituent meetings at my home for my State Rep. and State Senator for them to be aware of CVA and the bills we were working on, as rights of animal welfare is extremely important to me.

I had a neighbor who has since moved that chained their dog day and night outside, the poor thing cried and barked incessantly and many of us neighbors called the owners and police many times to try and do something about this, unfortunately there was not much they could do. My heart ached each and every time I heard him.

As you recall CT has been hit very recently with cold, storms and many out of power for days. No one was happy and we humans complained a lot when we were cold and inconvenienced. How can we complain about our condition, but give no attention to the creatures that do not get choices to change their situation.

Please give this the attention and the votes it needs and help animals live in peace under the protection of strong laws.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Andrea Seader
65 Jean Rd
Manchester, CT 06040



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Page 1 of 1

March 15, 2013

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*General Counsel
Vice President & CLO*

Jane D. Frake
Secretary

Environment Committee
Room 3200, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 240-0440

Re: **SUPPORT** of **HB 5844**, AAC the overnight tethering of dogs outdoors and the tethering of dogs outdoors under certain weather conditions

Dear Co-Chair Meyer, Co-Chair Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

On behalf of the Connecticut supporters of The Humane Society of the United States, I submit this letter in **SUPPORT** of **HB 5844**, which would strengthen existing law by ensuring that dogs who are tethered have appropriate shelter and relief from temperature extremes.

Inappropriate tethering threatens the dog's health and well-being, as well as the safety of other animals and humans. As social animals, dogs need regular interactions with their family. Dogs left chained up in a yard go through periods of boredom, loneliness, and isolation, which eventually can lead to territorial and aggressive behaviors.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

Annie Hornish
Connecticut State Director
The Humane Society of the United States
Cell: (860) 966-5201
Email: ahornish@humanesociety.org

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Testimony in Support of Bill HB 5844

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 5844, which would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10 PM and 6 AM, and require dogs to have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions. This bill would be a positive step in the direction of alleviating unnecessary suffering of companion animals.

The ASPCA states, "Dogs are social beings who thrive on interaction with humans and other animals. While people with large parcels of land – and those without fenced-in yards – use tethering as a means of keeping dogs on their property, this type of confinement causes the animals a great deal of physical and psychological pain. In addition to being deprived of socialization, tethered dogs are often the victims of abuse and neglect, suffering from sporadic feedings, empty water bowls, inadequate veterinary care and exposure to weather extremes. They are forced to eat, sleep, urinate and defecate in the same confined area, which goes against their natural instincts. Tethered dogs also suffer neck injuries from collars that have become embedded into their skin – some even strangle to death when chains become entangled with other objects. Chained in place, they are also helpless to defend themselves against abusive people, stray dogs and wild animals who may invade their space. In addition, unaltered, chained female dogs are likely to attract strays, leading to unwanted litters."

Tethering companion animals is also an issue for the community. The ASPCA states, "[...] tethering is a public safety issue as well as an animal welfare issue. Coupled with proper enforcement of animal cruelty and animal fighting laws, laws that prohibit tethering or chaining have been shown to reduce dog attacks, dog fighting and cruelty complaints. Recognizing that tethered dogs pose a higher risk of aggression, Texas's anti-chaining law, among other things, restricts the manner in which dogs may be tethered within 500 feet of school property in an effort to reduce the dogs' frustration and possible aggression. And Lawrence, KS, has found its anti-tethering ordinance has led to decreased dog fighting complaints, likely because dog fighters usually tether their dogs. Lawrence allows dogs to be tethered without supervision for only one hour."

Please show your compassion by supporting HB 5844.

*Source for both quotes: <http://www.asPCA.org/fight-animal-cruelty/advocacy-center/animal-laws-about-the-issues/tethering.aspx>

Thank you.

Caitlin Sorge
Bethlehem, CT

**JOINT
STANDING
COMMITTEE
HEARINGS**

**ENVIRONMENT
PART 8
2352 - 2684**

2013

Environment Committee
Public Hearing: 3/15/13

(38)
P16/13

Testimony Concerning HB 5844
An Act Concerning the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outdoors and the
Tethering of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions.

Amy Harrell
President, Connecticut Votes for Animals
amy.cva@gmail.com
Vernon, CT resident

I have spoken with numerous Animal Control Officers in recent months, and there is unanimous agreement that the current dog tethering statutes are not yet strong and concrete enough to give chained dogs the protection they need. While there are solid restrictions regarding the manner in which dogs may be chained, there is no language that addresses the length of time a dog may be chained - except for the phrase prohibiting chaining "for an unreasonable period of time." When this language was originally passed, it was surely intended to prevent chaining a dog 24/7. But in practice, ACOs have declared it completely unenforceable.

HB 5844 proposes to establish concrete, enforceable time limits, by prohibiting chaining at night between 10PM and 6 AM. Dogs are highly social creatures, the last thing they want is to be alone outside in the dark. Nor do they want to be outside in severe cold or heat.

I am constantly hearing stories of chained dogs who live outside on the end of a chain far away from the family they would love to be with, out in the bitter cold, in the middle of a blizzard, or a hurricane, obviously leading a life of misery. An ACO is called to investigate the situation. Time after time, the ACO returns with the report that "there is nothing I can do."

For those who live next to these suffering dogs, or drive by them on their way to work every day, it is incredibly frustrating and inconceivable that Connecticut allows this obvious cruelty to continue under current law.

Please give ACOs the laws they need to be able to finally do something in order to bring these dogs inside even for just the night or to weather a storm.

Thank you for your support of this bill.

Testimony Concerning HB5844**Caroline K. Gaetano****Program Manager Our Companions Animal Rescue and Member of CT Votes for Animals**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5844 AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

I am a registered voter in West Hartford, and I am Program Manager for Our Companions Animal Rescue and a member of CT Votes for Animals.

Tethering as an antiquated and inhumane form of confining dogs and results in frustrated, bored and socially isolated animals that end up neurotic and aggressive. This is not only a cruel fate for the animals involved; it also creates dangerous situations in our communities. This practice must be stopped immediately.

As an avid runner and dog walker, there is nothing more terrifying than not knowing how long the tether is as a chained dog comes charging at you. My dogs and I have walked away physically unscathed, but the memories last forever. It is time to put an end to the helplessness of these animals and provide a more humane environment for them to live in.

Thank you for giving this important subject the attention it deserves.

Warm regards,

Caroline K. Gaetano
89 LeMay Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

Testimony Concerning HB 5844

Charlene W. Rogers

Municipal Animal Control Officer

Farmington Police Department

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844 concerning the *limited hours to the Tethering of Dogs and appropriate shelter requirements in harsh weather.*

I am a registered voter in the Town of Burlington, and I have been the Municipal Animal Control Officer in Farmington for over twenty years. During these twenty years I have witnessed the results of dogs being tethered 24/7 and the lonely and neglected life that they are confined to.

I have responded to cases involving dogs restrained with an out grown collar that became embedded into the neck, weighted chain collars meant to "help build a stronger neck and chest muscles", dogs exposed to extreme heat and extreme cold because of lack of proper shelter, food and water, all while being tethered.

There have also been puppies and dogs that were left unattended while tied to a porch that resulted in being choked and strangled to death as they hung off a stairway or deck.

I have witnessed dogs tethered with chains or cables that became tightly wrapped around a paw or leg causing extreme pain and injury while they yelp unattended.

All these poor dogs and puppies were subjected to being tethered every day in solitary.

Because of the current statute language I have been limited on the improvements that could be enforced. These dogs remain in an inadequate and isolated existence.

Please support HB 5844 so that all Animal Control Officers in Connecticut have the jurisdiction to monitor and help the tethered dogs in our towns and cities. Thank you again for this opportunity to testify and I ask that you strongly support this important legislation.

Charlene W. Rogers

860-675-2440

rogersc@farmington-ct.org



City of Middletown
Animal Control Department

222 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457
Phone: (860) 344-3298

Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Gail Petras – Animal Control Officer
March 15, 2013

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

I have been an Animal Control Officer in Connecticut for over ten years. Unfortunately, I have seen numerous animals suffer from improper tethering during my career. Our current tethering statute, 22-350a, has come a long way but we still have some work to do.

HB 5844 addresses the problems of dogs tethered outside during the overnight hours as well as during extreme heat, cold and weather. I have been to numerous calls regarding dogs left outside during snow storms, hurricanes, heat waves and sub-zero temperatures. This bill merely proposes to put some concrete boundaries for dog owners to follow which in turn makes it much easier for us to educate and enforce.

By defining proper tethering and sheltering for dogs, we can avoid suffering for many that are left to fend for themselves with no shade from the sun or protection from the elements.

I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Sincere thanks,

Gail Petras
Animal Control Officer – Middletown, CT

**Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Jamila HadjSalem**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844:AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

I am a registered voter in Stafford Springs, CT.

I am deeply concerned over owners allowing their dogs to be left outside all night, alone and isolated. Dogs tethered 24 hours a day have no quality of life, nor any socialization skills with people. They are social, pack animals, and tethering to a dog house, tree, or what have you, only causes distress and suffering for the dog. Not only are there psychological implications to continual tethering, the physical implications are huge as well. Unsocialized dogs tend to be more afraid of or aggressive to people, which could lead to accidental or purposeful attacks. Plus, leaving a domesticated animal outside all night long, during any weather, is cruel and torturous. No one wants to sit outside shivering in the winter cold, or baking in the summer heat. Even if a doghouse is provided, dogs need more care than just being tied up and left outside.

Please, pass HB 5844, so there's some legislation to back up "doing the right thing."

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Jamila HadjSalem
12 Old Springfield Road
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

Testimony Concerning HB 5844**Jennifer L. Kelsey****Epidemiologist**

I am pleased to learn that the Environmental Committee is considering HB 5844, which would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in Clinton, and perform a variety of volunteer tasks for organizations concerned with animal health and welfare. As an epidemiologist, I donate time to assist veterinarians with research involving the health and welfare of companion animals.

Tethering a dog for long periods of time in any weather is likely to be injurious to the physical and mental health of the dog. However, doing this at night and during severe weather is particularly cruel, thereby putting dogs at high risk for a variety of illnesses, of being attacked, and of death. A dog is not an inanimate object to be subjected to whatever an owner finds convenient. When people acquire a dog, they take on several responsibilities, including providing adequate shelter. Not providing shelter, especially under hazardous conditions, should be made illegal. In addition, dogs tied up outside tend to bark, thus creating a nuisance for an entire neighborhood.

Passage of HB 5844 is urgently needed for the sake of both dogs and humans, and I strongly encourage you to vote for its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Jennifer L. Kelsey
25 Tower Hill Road
Clinton CT 06413
jennykelsey@comcast.net

**Testimony Concerning [5844]
Jill Cruikshank
Private Citizen and Dog Owner**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of #5844 tethering of dogs outdoors.

I am a registered voter in Bridgeport and I am a volunteer with numerous rescues in the area.

It is heartbreaking to me to drive around the city and surrounding towns and see dogs Tied or chained up outside in the freezing cold, rain or extremely hot weather. This has to stop and people should be accountable for taking care of their pets humanely. Why would the lawmakers allow this to happen. Why have a dog if it is to be tied or chained up All day and night.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Jill Cruikshank
Bridgeport, CT

**Testimony Concerning HB5844
Lana Burchman
Our Companions**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5844.

I am a registered voter in Bloomfield, and I am a volunteer at Our Companions

We are the stewards of our environment and make daily choices. I am a seventy year old woman and animals have always a part of my life. I have had dogs since I was a small child. Dogs, as all animals, particularly domesticated animals, need lots of love, protection and our respect. They need a safe environment, food, water and exercise.

I have seen animals left on ropes and chains tied up alone in backyards standing in their own excrement and without water dishes in the blazing hot sun and in the freezing cold of winter. These animals need a voice and I am writing this on behalf of them. The love, affection and companionship they offer us enhances our lives.

Certainly we can afford to improve the lives of these animals, remove them from threatening situations, if need be but give them an environment where the necessities of life are available to them. Bill HB 5844 can be the steward for improving their life.

I am asking consideration to make that happen.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Lana Burchman
288 Castlewood Drive
Bloomfield, CT. 06002
860-308-2583
lanaburchman@yahoo.com

Testimony Concerning HB 5844

Lori Nicholson

Chair, Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter Commission

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee,

I write in support of HB 5844. On Christmas Eve many years ago, our family celebration was interrupted by the persistent barking of a dog. The barking began around 11 PM and continued past Midnight. The temperature was in the single digits. I put on my coat and walked to the house, where I suspected the barking was coming from. There in the backyard was a Dalmatian, jumping wildly. A large cage had been erected which had no shelter or water that I could see. I rang the bell and explained to the woman that the barking had brought me to their door at such an inappropriate hour. She apologized but said, "We were told they get used to staying outside, and eventually aren't cold." I told her the barking didn't matter, but what did, was the fact that a short coated dog, a pack animal, and a companion animal had been left outside, alone, and in freezing conditions.

If I were a police officer I would have charged her with animal cruelty. There's no good reason, to leave a dog chained outside all night, here in Connecticut. However: there are those, who would prefer to use a chained dog as an alarm system, especially if police presence would be bad for business. I have seen that situation as well, and the owners were known drug dealers.

In the documentary *Breaking the Cycles of Violence II* (Latham Foundation) the complaint of a dog left outside chained in the snow, led to the discovery of a strangled child in the house. The family had a history of domestic violence. The treatment of the family dog was part of the *cycle of violence*.

For a number of compelling reasons, I urge you to support HB 5844.

Very Sincerely,

Lori Nicholson

133 Pawson Road

Branford, CT 06405



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Steven K. Reviczky
Commissioner



Testimony presented to the Environment Committee of
The Connecticut General Assembly
By the Connecticut Department of Agriculture
March 15, 2013

**H. B. 5844 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS
OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN
WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Chairmen Meyer and Gentile, Vice Chairs Maynard and Albis, Ranking Members Chapin and Shaban and members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.

The intentions of the proponents of H. B. 5844 are noble, however once again efforts to find language that can be reasonably enforced remain elusive.

While an attempt is made in Section 1(a) of the bill to define a "hazard," many instances are in fact undefinable.

Section 1(c) of the bill attempts to apply temperature standards to a wide array of dogs that have different temperature tolerances. We can all agree that no dog should be tethered or left without proper shelter; however different breeds of dogs may acclimate to different temperatures. A Husky will tolerate conditions well below freezing and will revel in cold temperatures but a short haired dog will not and the reverse is true as well. The short haired dog will tolerate warmer temperatures that the Husky may find uncomfortable.

When attempting to find language suitable to the proponent's goals, consideration should be given to indices that consider humidity during the summer and wind chill factors in the winter. A 90 degree summer day with low humidity is more tolerable than an 85 degree day with high humidity. In the winter, the same principle applies with wind chill.

Connecticut's animal cruelty law (53-247a) states, "... Any person who ...deprives of necessary sustenance...fails to give such animal proper care or neglects to cage or restrain any such animal from doing injury to itself or to another animal or fails to supply any such animal with wholesome air, food and water, or ...or fails to provide it with proper food, drink or protection from the weather ...shall, for a first offense, be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or both, and for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than five years or both."

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture supports the intention of the bill and believes that the Animal Cruelty statute as written is still the best language to apply in tethering situations.

165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-713-2503 Fax: 860-713-2516
An Equal Opportunity Employer

Dear Members of the Environment Committee

Please accept my testimony in supporting HB 5844. I am a voter from Bloomfield and a member of Ct. Votes for Animals. I feel it is cruel to keep dogs on chains indefinitely, as it is cruel to not provide shelter. Please pass this law to save countless dogs from lives of boredom, loneliness, cold and wet existences. Thank you very much.

Sincerely, Sally Westcott RN
298 Castlewood Dr
Bloomfield, Ct 06002
860-989-8320
sallywestcott@rocketmail.com

Testimony concerning HB 5844
Environment Committee
Public hearing 3/15/2013

Good Morning,

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB No. 5844 An Act Concerning the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outside and the Tethering of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions.

I am a registered voter in Groton, CT and I am a member of the Democratic Party.

I urge you to support this bill because the practice of chaining a dog outside for long periods of time and during harsh weather conditions is both inhumane and a threat to the safety of the confined dog, other animals and local citizens.

Dogs are naturally social beings that thrive on interaction with human beings and other animals. A dog kept chained in one spot for hours, days, months or even years suffers immense psychological damage. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained, becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive. In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and covered with sores, the result of improperly fitted collars and the dogs' constant yanking and straining to escape confinement. Dogs have even been found with collars embedded in their necks, the result of years of neglect at the end of a chain. In one case, a veterinarian had to euthanize a dog whose collar, an electrical cord, was so embedded in the animal's neck that it was difficult to see the plug.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Stephanie Palmer
207-650-0457
palmersm9@gmail.com

Testimony in support of HB 5844
Environment Committee public hearing 3/15/2013

Dear Environment Committee

I am a resident of Newtown, CT and would like to ask that you support HB 5844 that would ban tethering a dog at night, and would impose heavy restrictions on tethering during severe weather
Keeping animals safe from heat and cold weather is a basic responsibility for anyone caring for a pet. Dogs are pack animals and should be provided the care of interaction and socialization from their owners

Respectfully,
Lynn Prnty
135 Boggs Hill Rd
Newtown, Ct 06470

Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Environment Committee Hearing
3/13/2013

I am writing as a senior citizen, who has been feeding the poor strays who come into the neighborhood, and thank god for the Bridgeport Cat Project, who were so nice and trapped two, had then neutered. These people work tirelessly (sp?) to help out. Please vote to pass all of these bills to assist the animals.

I can't thank the cat project enough for what they did. I donate food and whatever I can to help out.

I know you will do the right thing and do what is best for these poor animals.

Claire Benoit
Black Rock, CT

Testimony Concerning HB5844

**Cynthia Opderbeck
Mansfield Animal Shelter
Storrs**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB5844, which would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and which would require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in Storrs Mansfield. I also volunteer at the Mansfield Animal Shelter where I have been for the past three years.

I am deeply concerned about the welfare of our animals, out of concern for their wellbeing as well as for our own need to be responsible human caregivers. Our pets depend on us completely for adequate care and for kind treatment. This bill represents the minimum of what should be provided for humane care for a pet exposed to the elements. It is imperative that dogs have access to shelter when chained outside; and that chaining outside at night be prohibited. A dog deserves at least this level of care. In addition, consideration for neighbors in the community is essential, in that the barking of a dog confined outside at all hours can obviously readily become a nuisance. The critical concern, however, remains the welfare of the pet. I have witnessed dogs chained in their owners' yards without regard to rain and cold or to hot sun and dry conditions, without adequate shelter or even at times fresh water to drink. This constitutes a situation of mistreatment and neglect, and a community of caring people would consider it unacceptable. Understanding and sympathy needs to be concomitantly offered to dog owners who have situations that seem to be faced with limited choices in this regard. Education and caring support with devising solutions should be part of our approach to solving social and animal-welfare problems such as these. But it is essential that the conditions of physical safety and comfort and humane treatment of our pets be assured. Passage of HB5844 would begin to address this basic need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify; I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you for your anticipated support of HB5844.

Sincerely yours,

Cynthia N Opderbeck
714 Storrs Road
Storrs, CT 06268
(860)786-7217

11 March 2013

Testimony Concerning House Bill 5844
March 12, 2013

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of House Bill 5844, a bill that would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in Meriden, a volunteer and supporter of Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary and a member of Connecticut Votes for Animals.

During the overnight hours, tied and left alone the dark, a dog is exposed to not only environmental menaces, but wild animals as well. This situation places great stress on the dog, as he is tethered and unable to escape harm if attacked by another animal. Coupled with insufficient shelter, a dog risks frostbite in winter, heatstroke in summer as well thunder, lightning and storms of all kinds.

There was a dog in my neighborhood that was never allowed in the house. His home was a broken down facsimile of a wooden doghouse under a very large old tree in the yard. This dog was out there, day and night, no matter how extreme the weather conditions were at that time. One night, during a very bad storm, strong winds broke part of the tree that the doghouse sat under, demolishing the doghouse and killing the dog.

Our dogs deserve treatment that is more humane than this and only we can ensure this is by passing laws to protect them.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Gina M. Hoag

Gina M. Hoag
158 Paddock Avenue, Condo 1302
Meriden 06450
203-235-8899
gmh3972@aol.com

Testimony Concerning HB5844
Ina Blejan
Connecticut votes for animals

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of #HB5844 which would prohibit chaining a dog outside between 10PM and 6Am and in extreme weather condition.

I am a registered voter in Glastonbury and would like to tell you why this is important for me. When I was training to become a doctor, I got to go to a nursing home and see patients with my supervising physician. He always brought his dog along, and the smile that dog brought on people's face was incredible. Even the staff was in a good mood when we were walking making rounds...with the dog next to us! I realized then, that the healer in the house was the dog. That dog was not chained. Actually I don't even recall even a leash...Can you imagine a free spirit chained?

We can always take a look at how we train dogs to help us in our healing, we trust them to fight crime, and policemen honor them and call their K9 dogs partners. So, why would we continue to chain our partners?

Dogs are social animals and chaining them creates aggression in their behavior. Growing up, I was bitten by a dog that was kept on a chain. I became to be afraid, until my parents got us our first dog, King. He saved my life and I am here to support this bill in his honor.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Ina Blejan
161 Lincoln Drive
Glastonbury, CT 06033.

Testimony Concerning HB 5844

**Jean Anderson DeVito
"Our Companions Animal Rescue" Volunteer**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844 which would *prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.*

I am a registered voter in Southington, and a Volunteer with Our Companions Animal Rescue.

As a person who loves and cares for animals, and also recognizes the need to respect and treat them humanely, it is my desire to speak up on their behalf. I believe it is a human responsibility to provide a loving, healthy and safe home/environment for them. Far too often this is not the case. Cruelty to animals must be prevented, and stopped where it currently exists. I believe HB 5844 will help toward achieving this goal.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Jean Anderson DeVito
38 Windsor Way
Southington, CT 06489-3838
(860) 266-0727
jeanarabbit@cox.net

Testimony Concerning HB5844
Jennifer Murolo

I would like to thank the Connecticut Votes for Animals for the opportunity to express my support of Bill HB 5844-Prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in Milford, CT, and I am an independent animal rescuer.

I have been involved in animal rescue for the past 6 years. I have grown up with a passion and respect for all living creatures. I find great reward in doing volunteer work with animals. It's a blessing to be able to rescue an innocent dog or cat from a horrible situation and make it better. The only barrier I have come across during my 6 years is when I come across those dogs that can not be helped. The dogs are the ones I see winter after winter, chained outside to a poorly made (if any) "dog house". It's despicable how some people treat their animals and nothing is done. I have lost sleep many nights thinking about dogs outside in freezing temperatures and snow/rain and NOTHING was done despite all the complaints that were made to local officials and animal control. I am asking that this bill get passed for these poor dogs that live such a horrible life attached to a chain everyday. People aren't treating them like pets, instead they are backyard alarm systems. It's not fair that in this day in age people are still allowed to treat animals with such disrespect. It's not about being an animal lover or rescuer, it's about having respect for living creatures. We would never treat a human so inhumanely, why is it okay to treat a dog that way?

Thank you,
Jennifer Murolo
(203) 260-5423

Testimony Concerning Bill 5844
Jonathan Finger

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Bill 5844, concerning chaining a dog outside at night in harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in New Haven, CT.

Chaining a dog to a stationary object for extended overnight periods, particularly with poor shelter and in bad weather conditions, is inhumane. It bad for the safety of the dog and potentially those around then dog.

Dogs are social animals who need to interact with others people and animals. One kept chained in the same place for hours, days, or even months can suffer physical and psychological damage. An otherwise friendly dog, while kept continuously chained will become anxious and often aggressive. I many cases these dogs will bark and tug until they do damage to their neck both internally and externally.

Making sure dogs in these situations are able to be unleashed and/or have sufficient shelter in harsh weather conditions is a humane action that should be required of any dog owner.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Jonathan Finger
875 Orange St.
New Haven, CT 06511

Testimony Concerning H.B. No. 5844
KAY MCCARTHY
SAFE, INC. and HAMDEN HAPPY TAILS FOUNDATION, INC.

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of H.B. 5844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

I am a registered voter in Hamden, and I am the Treasurer of SAFE, Inc., as well as the Treasurer of Hamden Happy Tails Foundation, Inc.

Being involved with animal rescue groups, I have witnessed first hand the results of long-term chaining of dogs, and as treasurer I pay the numerous medical bills involved with rescued animals, many of them caused by tethering. In addition to the physical injuries, the psychological damage is more difficult to treat, creating an unnecessary threat to everyone.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Kay McCarthy
422 West Todd Street
Hamden, CT 06518
203-288-3686
kmccarthy43@comcast.net

Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Lisa Jordan

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of bill number HB 5844, the prohibition of chaining a dog outside at night between 10 pm and 6 am, and shelter requirements.

I am a registered voter in Willington, and I am a volunteer at Our Companions Domestic Animal Shelter in Ashford.

My husband and I have devoted our lives to caring for a wide variety of abused and neglected animals from horses to rats! We are greatly concerned by the fact that pet-owners are allowed to chain dogs outside for long periods of time and without adequate shelter for our tough New England winters.

I have seen the despair and extreme loneliness that is inflicted upon dogs who, as pack animals, are left chained out by their unfeeling owners. I strongly urge you to think of lives from their point of view.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Lisa Jordan
89 Lohse Rd.
Willington, CT 06279
(860) 684-7208
ljordan52@charter.net



Mandy Wieting
64 Valley Falls Road
Vernon CT 06066

Testimony Concerning HB 5844 • March 10, 2013
Graphic Designer for Our Companions Domestic Animal Sanctuary

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill 5844, to prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in Vernon, and I am a graphic designer and volunteer for Our Companions Animal Rescue.

I have been an animal lover my entire life and it shocks me that anyone in their right mind would leave a beautiful, domesticated animal outside 24/7, especially during harsh weather. Any number of predators could come by, not to mention rabid ones, and unfortunately, the dog would have no escape. Dogs need socialization to be happy and healthy, they need a loving family. Why bother to have a dog if you aren't going to care for him/her properly? We all know how brutally cold our New England winters can be with temperatures often getting into the single digits. You cannot tell me it's fair to leave a dog outside in that weather. That's a no-brainer.

As a young child, I remember our neighbor had a dog that lived outside on a chain all the time. I was told never to go near the dog as he might bite. One day, the dog got loose while we were outside playing. He was so excited to be free and so desperately needed attention, he ran towards us. My friend and I ran to our front door which made him even more excited. Luckily, we reached the door in time and no one was hurt, but this story could have easily ended badly. All a chained dog wants to do is get free. We were very lucky. How many other children might not be.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation. It is imperative that we keep these dogs safe at night and through our harsh winters.

Thank you,

Mandy Wieting
64 Valley Falls Road
Vernon, CT 06066

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5844**Noranne Nielsen****Mansfield Animal Control Officer**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill, HB 5844, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

I am a registered voter in Mansfield, and I am an Animal Control Officer for the town of Mansfield since 1999.

The current tethering law 22-350a(c) is unenforceable, because "unreasonable time" is subjective and needs to be defined. This raised bill 5844 would prohibit dog tethering between 10PM and 6 AM, and also restrict it when the outside temp gets above 90 or below 32. This would be an excellent tool to actually enforce this law and make a difference in the lives of the dogs that live outside 24/7.

It is often hard enough to deal with owners who have an outside dog and they tell you the dog is taken off the chain on daily basis etc., while you know it's not true.

I also think in general it's a bad idea to leave a dog outside at night. The barking could wake neighbors up and the dog could get in contact with (rabid) wildlife. Also, hypothermia most likely sets in when the dog is sleeping and the temps are at it's lowest.

I fully support HB 5844. ACOs need this to truly enforce 22-350a(c).

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Officer Noranne Nielsen
Animal Control Dept.
Town of Mansfield
4 South Eagleville Rd
Mansfield CT 06268
860-487-0404
aco@mansfieldct.org

**Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Paula Fischer
Our Companions Animal Rescue**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844, a bill that would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in West Hartford, and I am a long time, passionate volunteer and former Board member of Our Companions Animal Rescue.

Animals provide so much love and joy to humans, yet they are so often abused, neglected and forgotten. I am one of many who act as their voice, to stand up for what is right and humane. Dogs deserve to be treated with respect, not chained to a tree or pole overnight (if at all)! Please stop and put yourself in the dogs "shoes" (or paws)...and imagine being treated that way. These are animals that live to love, yet so many are treated like they don't matter. This needs to stop!

I once lived next door to a dog that was chained to a tree 24/7, and that poor dog barked so much he no longer had a "voice", his bark was so hoarse. I cannot even write about it, it hurts too much to think about. I would contact the neighbor at 2:00 am, asking them to please take their dog into their home, that it was unfair to both the dog and to me (as I could not sleep). They ignored me and said it was "their right to do what they wanted with their dog." If there was a law preventing this, I could have called the police.

I ask that you give this important Bill serious consideration and ask yourself how you would feel if you were that dog tied to that tree without proper care, shelter, love and respect. Dogs have so much to give people. Let's do the right thing and give them proper care!

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation

Thank you,

Paula Fischer
860.233.6403
paulafischer62@aol.com

Testimony in *SUPPORT* of HB 5844: To prohibit the chaining of dogs outside at night between 10pm and 6am; also, requiring chained dogs to have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions.

Submitted by:

Rosamund Downing

39 Moss St.

Pawcatuck, CT 06379

Dear Honorable Members of the Environment Committee:

I am a resident of the Town of Stonington and I fully support HB 5844. It would seem a matter of common sense to prohibit the chaining of dogs between 10pm and 6 am and to require that dogs be provided with appropriate shelter during harsh weather. It is inhumane to allow an animal to languish outdoors all night – subjected to the elements, unprotected and unsupervised. Dogs left outside may also pose a nuisance problem for neighbors who wish to sleep, but cannot due to the incessant barking of a lonely, distressed dog.

Furthermore, it makes sense to require that dogs be provided with proper shelter during inclement weather. Harsh, unpredictable weather is a common occurrence as of late: torrential rain, flooding, blizzards, “white out” conditions, etc. Even high winds pose a threat to outdoor animals, causing injury or even death from flying debris. As a certified DEEP wildlife rehabilitator, I have seen what severe weather can do to an animal. Many emergency storm shelters in CT. are now providing indoor accommodations for pets – *should we expect any less from an animal's owner?*

Animals that are not properly taken care of will ultimately cost us all. Owners who cannot afford to pay for sick or injured pets may dump them at local animal shelters – shelters that are already overwhelmed by large numbers of unwanted animals.

Please support HB 5844 – for the sake of the dogs and the community.

Thank you.

Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Shirley Jean Dominguez

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844, the anti-chaining bill.

I am a registered voter in Trumbull, where I recently witnessed something so heartbreaking, it took my breath away. I was driving home late one evening and found myself caught in one of the many snow storms that we have experienced this winter, when my breaks locked and I slid off the road. When I got out of my car to see if there was any damage, (there was none thank goodness!) I looked in the yard where my headlights were shining and there sat a dog. This poor animal was chained outside, in the cold and snow with no dog house, nowhere to take cover, nowhere to seek shelter. This dog looked sad, cold and miserable and I desperately wanted to do something to help but realized there was nothing I could do.

Now there is something that I can do. I am writing this letter to ask you, those who can help, to make a difference in their lives. By supporting HB 5844, you can save countless animals from the cruel and inhumane treatment of being chained outside in extreme weather conditions.

Thank you for giving your time in reading my thoughts and for your consideration of HB 5844. It is with sincere hope that you will support this important piece of legislation that is vital to lives of Connecticut's best friends.

Thank you,

Shirley Jean Dominguez
54 Cricket Lane
Trumbull, CT 06611
203-733-6638

Testimony Concerning HB 5844

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS
AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER
CONDITIONS.**

Stephen Lynch

HB-5844 is a great bill. My name is Stephen Lynch and I live in plantsville, CT. I've heard poor dogs chained up at night in the dead of winter while snowing or when its pouring out and the cops won't do anything because there is not a law. Well this could save many animals lives and allow them to be treated the way they should. People who cannot follow this shouldn't have animals anyway so its time something was done about this to start a change. Thank you.

Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Trish Black

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844.

I am a registered voter in Milford.

Animals are living things just like humans and they need to be cared for, we shelter, food and love.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Trish Black
Black_t@subway.com

4B
P. 176. 21**Testimony Concerning HB-5844****Steven Alexander
7 South Side Terrace
Wallingford, CT 06492
203-909-3592
203-676-0487**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB-5844 AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS.

I am a registered voter in Wallingford.

I am an animal lover and in particular a lover of man and woman's best friend, dogs. I have been blessed with having six wonderful family members of the canine persuasion in my household directly, and countless dear canine friends. I happen to be a bit of a religious and spiritual person, a graduate student of religious studies at present at Hartford Seminary, for example. In my lifetime of experience, prayer and meditation I have come to believe that I am a spiritual being having a temporary human experience. I have also come to the firm conclusion that dogs are spiritual beings having a temporary canine experience.

Like all of us, I have had times of crisis in my life when being emotionally distraught was problematic. At those times every dog I have had as a family member or that I had the opportunity to interact with has elevated my mood. I have always said that it's impossible to be depressed when you're playing with a puppy. I was a bullied kid, and our rescued Beagle mix saved my life in those days by allowing me to be his chosen partner and taking long walks with me on the beach in Milford that we lived on, and using her sense of humor to bring laughter to me and my family which also was suffering frequent crises.

This bill, first and foremost will benefit all dogs and dog owners as well as the rest of the community in a way that might not be so obvious. People whose dogs are chained outside late at night, because dogs are by nature social pack animals and when deprived of companionship they feel unsafe, insecure and unhappy will often bark, howl and whine loudly. This is inconvenient and often enrages neighbors of those who leave their dogs out late at night, and this creates prejudicial attitudes among people not so familiar with our canine friends and sentiments against dogs and dog owners. Often police squad cars wind up settling squabbles between neighbors at wee morning hours over Fido's barking. Prohibiting the chaining of animals at inappropriate hours would benefit communities in this manner and untold other ways, that would not necessarily be obvious at first glance.

Chaining dogs for long periods is often done neglectfully and I think most of us have witnessed this type of behavior by dog owners and seen sad canines alone all day for hours on end, keeping in mind their social/pack instinct. This loneliness for dogs is horrible and does result in emotional disturbance in these sensitive and loving animals. But chaining for long periods is not

only done in a neglectful manner.

As the Acting Director of New Haven's residential Crisis and Respite program for psychiatric Patients, we were located in a three family home in the inner city. Adjacent to us was a home and while I worked there (for 3 to 4 years) occupants moved in and a large page fence cage was built in the back yard. Soon thereafter we observed Pit Bull dogs placed in the pen. One dog we would observe chained on a fire escape-type landing on the second floor (a tiny space, perhaps 5 feet by 5 feet). This pup would, of course bark loudly in protest for long periods before being allowed in. Soon we observed that two dogs penned in the larger cage were additionally chained on short lengths within that confinement in the heat of summer for hours on end. I witnessed the dogs chained on one occasion chained in the pen in such a manner so that they could not reach bowls of food and water placed in the center of the pen.

I reported these activities to New Haven authorities, both police and the Animal Control agency, and I learned that other responsible neighbors had done the same. Neighbors, my staff and I would share with each other our concern for these animals. It was obvious that these animals were being intentionally abused, probably to train them for dog fighting. To the City's credit it was not long before this operation disappeared virtually overnight after an apparent barrage of neighborhood complaints.

Dogs who are in the out of doors in extreme heat suffer as much as anyone would imagine, given their fur coats and inability to sweat as humans can. Shade and shelter is crucial in hot weather, as it obviously is in wet, cold and snowy weather. Just imagine a naturally extroverted child outdoors in the rain alone for hours, or in the cold, snow or heat and possibly for hours on end in the depth of the dark night without shelter. The sadness and danger of exposure, freezing, dehydration or even death would be unimaginable. That is what these wonderful animals suffer when exposed to these conditions.

Connecticut and this Committee has an opportunity to put an end to the problem municipal officials face when dogs are chained outdoors at absurd hours, to put an end to the legal intentional abuse of animals by chaining them in cruel manners, and to enhance the lives of the animals entrusted to people and to all of the state's residents by ensuring that animals will at the very least have shelter in extreme weather. There is no cost in passing this bill and a large number of benefits, so I urge each member to vote in favor of this bill. Thank you.

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P17 In 15Testimony Concerning HB 5844

Marlene Wilhelm

CT Votes for Animals, Volunteer

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844 which would prohibit chaining a dog outside at night between 10pm and 6am, and require that chained dogs have appropriate shelter during harsh weather conditions

I am a registered voter in Windsor, CT, and I am a volunteer with CT Votes for Animals, Our Companions Animal Rescue and am President of the House Rabbit Connection, Inc domestic rabbit rescue

I support the bill for the following reasons

- tethering deprives an animal from seeking warmth and shelter in inclement weather
- they can entangle themselves in their restraint and cause severe damage even death by strangling them selves
- it deprives them of the social contact with humans and other animals they thrive on
- tethering prohibits animals from defending themselves and/or escaping predators and may result in a gruesome and horrific death

I urge the Environment Committee to support HB 5844.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Regards,

Mrs. Marlene Wilhelm

11 Krystal Lane

Windsor, CT 06095

860.688.3793

**Testimony Concerning HB 5844 and HB 5836
Cora Martino - President
Pitter Patter Feline Rescue, Inc.**

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB 5844 and HB 5836 DOG CHAINING AND APCP VOUCHERS FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE.

I am a registered voter in Stamford, CT

In my travels of TNR (Trap Neuter and Release I often see many dogs chained up in their back yards with no shelter from the elements and definitely no human contact. This needs to come to an end. It is cruelty at its best.

I am very big on TNR the feral cats in my community. Most of these cats were at one time owned by someone and then just disposed of like a dirty diaper. None of these cats are vaccinated, spayed or neutered. Not being vaccinated alone is a health issue to the community. Not only have that but the pregnant females given birth to helpless babies that are just born to die. It's a disgrace what I see these cats go through in this state of CT with all the money we have here. Spy/Neuter laws need to be enforced and most definitely availability to those who need it financially for APCP vouchers.

A personal story: We were called upon when a low-income family in a very low income area of Stamford was having a birthday party for their daughter. A group of children were playing catch with a ball. One child missed catching the ball and it rolled into bushes. The child went to retrieve the ball and 2 cats bolted from the hedges. This child startled these cats and was very lucky she was not bitten by one of them. This child would have probably have gone through a series of Rabies vaccines, we trapped and neutered over 9 cats just in her and her 2 neighbors yard.

Please pass both of these bills. It is a necessity and very much a community health issue. I speak from experience.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

Cora Martino
President- Pitter Patter Feline Rescue, Inc.
23 Mead St.
Stamford, CT 06907
203-968-1450

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P17/10

Hi everyone. Thank you for this hearing. My name is Karen Laski. I live at 279 Fern St. in Manchester.

I'm here to support HB 5844, the dog tethering bill, HB 5836 the Animal Population Control Program bill, and HB 5027, An Act prohibiting the sale of dogs and cats from substandard domestic animal mills.

I have been involved in Animal Welfare for over 40 years and I am currently on the Board of CT Votes for Animals.

Many years ago, I would drive by places where dogs were chained and check on them in the middle of the night to see if they were still there. I was so frustrated that I could never help them because no law prevented them from being chained day and night and in the sweltering heat and frigid cold. Several generations of dogs later we are here with a bill that could give some relief to dogs enduring this endless misery.

Dogs who are continually chained are frustrated, bored and many times driven to extreme anxiety and depression. They pace back and forth repetitively. Chained dogs are vulnerable to attacks by wild animals or cruel humans. They suffer from pressure sores, frostbite and heatstroke. They are constantly on edge and can never relax.

Along with the wide constituent support for this bill there are many positive aspects and benefits. Less people will be waking up in the middle of the night to the barking of a frustrated dog. Homeowner's security could be increased by the presence of a dog being inside at night. Statistics show that one of the best deterrents to intruders is an inside dog. Outside dogs become aggressive not protective. Regulations against chaining give Animal Control Officers a tool to crack down on illegal dog fighting, since many fighting dogs are kept in chains.

According to world renowned dog training expert, Victoria Stilwell, many common behavioral problems could be avoided if owners understood how severe confinement can compromise natural behavior.

Dogs teach us love and patience. They improve our health and lift our spirits. Our best friends are suffering. Let's give them a break.

Testimony Concerning Raised Bill 5844
Angela Grace Colantonio

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of Raised Bill, 5446, AN ACT CONCERNING THE OVERNIGHT TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS AND THE TETHERING OF DOGS OUTDOORS UNDER CERTAIN WEATHER CONDITIONS

I am a registered voter in Wethersfield, who advocates on behalf of animals and encourages legislators to support animal rights initiatives. Dogs are domesticated animals that were bred to live alongside humans. Therefore, I believe dogs should not be left chained outdoors at night, or during extreme weather conditions. I am not alone in thinking that dogs should not be tethered –national organizations, including The Humane Society of the United States, the United States Department of Agriculture, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Association of Shelter Veterinarians, also express that it is not safe or humane to tether dogs. Furthermore, in a state with a climate that can range from hot, humid summers to frigid, snowy winters, it is not humane to expose dogs to such extreme weather conditions. Considering dogs come in all different sizes, colors, and coats, dogs cannot universally tolerate the same weather conditions and should be kept inside, where the climate is more controlled.

Each night, my dog Nella sleeps at the foot of my bed, breathing a deep sigh of contentment as she curls up in her favorite spot. All dogs should be able to experience the same feeling of contentment and companionship with humans. I know from personal experience that dogs can be great friends during life's storms and trials, and it would be unfair to return the favor by tethering a dog outside in the elements during an actual storm. Raised Bill 5844 would ensure that dogs in Connecticut do not have to endure these inhumane conditions and, literally, be left out in the cold.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and be a voice for the animals. I hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

For the animals,
Angela Grace Colantonio
16 Morrison Avenue
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Agcolantonio@me.com
860.817.2626

Testimony Concerning HB 5844
Barbara Rudnick
Member Ct. Votes for Animals

I would like to thank the Environmental Committee for the opportunity to express my concerns regarding HB 5844, which prohibits the chaining of a dog outside between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM or during severe weather conditions.

I am a registered voter in East Berlin and have worked with various animal shelters, rescue organizations and animal welfare for approximately 30 years.

I have witnessed numerous dogs over the years chained to dog houses, decks, trees etc. In some cases their protection consisted of nothing more than pieces of plywood. Honestly, I have never seen a shelter that I felt offered the protection necessary for our severe winters here in Connecticut. You can see how much time a dog spends chained simply by looking at the ground around the area. It is worn and has no grass because the frustrated dog paces the same square footage everyday. There is a big difference between dogs that are outside for a half hour of fresh air, as opposed to those that live their sad lives chained 24/7.

We all are aware that studies have shown dogs chained outside everyday that have little interaction with people in many cases are more aggressive. Unfortunately these poor dogs are not valued as a living creature, who experiences pain and hunger, but are simply seen as property. I do not know about the rest of you, but I can honestly say at the end of a bad work day my dogs greeting me at the door with tails wagging, "like I was the most important person in the world", was the high point of my day.

Presently, there are 3 dogs in Southington that are chained to dog houses on the side of a home. I have seen them there on the coldest of days, during sleet and snow. I contacted the ACO the day of our most recent storm. I was concerned that if the predictions were true, what would happen to these poor dogs. The ACO went to the home and called to tell me that in speaking with the owner he did show him the dog houses. He also stated that on severe weather days the dogs are brought into the garage and crated and that there was a heater. Although better that being outside during a major storm it still broke my heart that apparently a crate in the garage was the best they ever saw. I know there are ACO's who would like the opportunity to be able to require owners to bring the dogs inside or provide better accommodations during severe weather conditions and this bill would help them to enforce it.

I strongly urge you to support this bill, which would make such a difference in the lives of so many dogs. Please make Connecticut a state we can all be proud of for caring about our companions.

Thank you,

Barbara Rudnick
44 Stony Mill Lane
East Berlin, Ct. 06023