

# Connecticut Dog Federation, Inc.

## Position Statement Relative To

### Substitute Bill H.B. No. 5368 An Act Extending Certain Pet Shop Licensee Requirements to Persons and Organizations that Import Animals for Adoption

The Connecticut Dog Federation (CDF) **SUPPORTS** Substitute Bill H.B. No. 5368 as presently written. CDF is an association of thirty-six dog clubs representing approximately two thousand residents of this state. They support the mission of CDF which includes the encouragement and promotion of the welfare of dogs. That interest includes not only pure bred dogs, but also those that are in need of rescue and adoption regardless of their parentage. Many of those clubs provide rescue and adoption services for their specific breeds.

The State of Connecticut has failed for too long to recognize that uncontrolled importation of “rescued” animals into the state for “adoption” causes several adverse effects, including: (1) putting at risk the health of its citizens and their lawfully bred and owned animals by contagious diseases and potentially deadly parasites carried in imported animals, (2) subjecting many unwary recipients of such animals to extraordinary veterinary bills for treatment of undisclosed diseases or infirmities, and (3) depriving healthy animals in state pounds and shelters the chance for legitimate adoption. Loss of tax revenue from undisclosed “adoption” transactions is also significant.

State statutes require dog breeders to operate under kennel licenses, and allow for inspection by Animal Control Officers of homes and other premises where kennels are located. It appears illogical that such licensing, accountability and inspection requirements would not in some equivalent form apply to importers of “rescued” animals for “adoption”.

In recent years, this state has not experienced a problem with overcrowded dog pounds or animal shelters due to effective spay/neuter programs, including that of the Department of Agriculture. To satisfy the need for low-cost animal adoptions, a lucrative business has emerged, particularly in the south and Midwest, to breed and provide “adoption” animals to Connecticut and other states.

This bill is a major step in requiring reasonable accountability for importers of animals that are not licensed pet shops or suppliers to such pet shops. It will be a deterrent to those who presently engage in unscrupulous “rescue” activities to the detriment of the animals involved and to the unsuspecting victims of those activities.

Revised: April 6, 2011