



# AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB

**Sheila Goffe**  
Director  
Government Relations

Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Representative Eileen Heaphy  
Chair, Legislative and Rules Committee  
Stamford Board of Representatives  
888 Washington Blvd., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
P.O. Box 10152  
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

## **RE: American Kennel Club Concerns with Proposed Revisions to Chapter 111 – Public Safety and Animal Welfare**

Dear Chairwoman Heaphy and Members of the Legislative and Rules Committee:

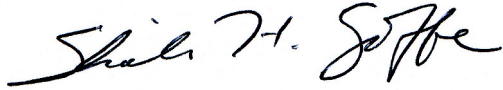
The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes again on behalf of many dog owners in Stamford regarding concerns with the current draft of proposed changes to the City's Public Safety and Animal Welfare Ordinance. While a number of the proposed changes are reasonable updates to city ordinance, we are concerned with other specific changes that may harm dogs or dog owners in the City. We respectfully request that the Legislative and Rules Committee make changes to the proposal as outlined below before approving it for consideration by the full Board of Representatives.

- **Sec. 111-10**, regarding the Stamford Animal Control and Care Center (SACCC), should provide clarification that all dogs entering the facility shall be scanned on at least one occasion for the presence of microchip identification, and shelter staff should be required to contact recorded owners identified by the microchip database. Furthermore, Sec. 111-10 should further clarify that dogs redeemed by owners shall not be required to be spayed or neutered if a dog is not habitually roaming without control of its owner or caretaker. We understand these recommendations may currently be part of the SACCC's standard operating procedure, but believe that they are important enough to garner statutory importance. This will ensure owners will continue to be protected regardless of any staffing changes that may occur.
- **Sec. 111-11(E)(2)** would allow citations for a pet's nuisance behavior to be issued within a one-year period after complaints are received. We recommend requiring such complaints be substantiated (for example, by the filing of an affidavit) to corroborate a citation that could be issued so long after the cause of the complaint occurred.
- **Sec. 111-12**. We urge you to remove the breeding permit requirement from the draft proposal. The American Kennel Club opposes the concept of breeding permits, breeding bans or the mandatory spay/neuter of purebred dogs, specifically those based on the number of dogs owned or maintained. Such permits have been found extremely difficult to enforce. They penalize law abiding citizens while creating an incentive for others to avoid licensing, vaccination and regular veterinary care, ultimately creating a greater public health hazard. The AKC and our local AKC dog clubs strongly support and actively promote a wide range of programs to educate the public about responsible

purebred breeding practices and the responsibilities of dog ownership. We would be pleased to work with you develop alternative solutions to address your concerns.

The American Kennel Club appreciates your time and consideration of our concerns, and we respectfully urge you to incorporate these recommended changes into the proposed ordinance changes. The AKC, together with the Connecticut Dog Federation, local AKC dog clubs and your constituent responsible dog owners respectfully urge you and your fellow members of the Stamford Board of Representatives to address these concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us for assistance at 919-816-3720.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila H. Goffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S'.

Sheila Goffe  
Director, Government Relations

Cc: Stamford Board of Representatives  
Andrew Kalmanash

PMG

***Founded in 1884, the AKC is the world's largest purebred dog registry and the only not-for-profit purebred dog registry devoted to the health and wellbeing of all dogs. The AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, works to protect the rights of all dog owners, and promotes the ideals of responsible dog ownership.***