



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

Chairman and Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

The Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs and Responsible Dog Owners, Inc. (“CFD”) is composed of approximately forty (40) dog clubs representing thousands of pure breed dog owners, handlers and enthusiasts that participate in conformation, obedience, agility, therapy dog and hunting/tracking events. CFD’s mission is to promote responsible dog ownership and the general welfare of dogs and their owners. **CFD supports SB No. 1002, specifically with reference to lines 15-18, Designation of Purebred Dog Day, lines 25-29, Designation of Lyme Disease Awareness Month and lines 40-45, Designation of National K9 Veterans Day.**

Designation of Purebred Dog Day - Purebred dogs have innate capabilities that allow them to serve society and save lives as working companions. Examples include service dogs such as guide dogs, hearing dogs and mobility dogs, as well as therapy dogs that can be trained to provide affection and comfort to people in hospitals, retirement homes, nursing homes, schools, hospices and disaster areas. Purebred dogs are also used in law enforcement, corrections and the military in roles that include apprehension, detection and search & rescue. The ability to perform these varied and specialized duties highlights the qualities of predictability and unique aptitudes inherent with the purpose-bred, purebred dog. CFD members support SB 1002 which will designate May 1st of every year as Purebred Dog Day in Connecticut to promote and educate the general public about the unique characteristics the different breeds have to offer.

Designation of Lyme Disease Awareness Month - CFD members also support SB 1002 to raise awareness of Lyme Disease, because it affects our dogs as well as fellow humans. Lyme Disease is easily overlooked or diagnosed late because it mimics so many other conditions. Left untreated it may progress to kidney disease and other serious conditions and can be fatal. As responsible dog owners we ensure our dogs are vaccinated against Lyme Disease and wholeheartedly support any and all efforts to create more public awareness of this disease and its available treatments.

Designation of National K9 Veterans Day - CFD members also support SB 1002 which will honor federal, state and local law enforcement K9 Corps Units and their important service to our local communities, state and country. The ability of purpose-bred dogs to excel in law enforcement work, detection and search & rescue is due to carefully planned breeding programs that ensure a specific breed has the intelligence, trainability and temperament to do this type of work. Responsible purebred breeders are behind those breeding programs. We enthusiastically support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of these three components of SB 1002.

Laurie Maulucci
CFD President

Mabel M. Diamond
CFD Legislative Liaison