

DEFENDERS OF ANIMALS, INC.

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Against House Bill H-7840

**March 12, 2024
House Municipal Government & Housing Committee
RI State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Dear Committee Member:

On behalf of our members, supporters, and board members, I would like to suggest the following additions to H-7840:

Over the years, there have been too many mistakes made by evaluators regarding so-called vicious dogs at shelters. Too many of those evaluations involved breed specific dogs. Some of those evaluations were made in a noticeably brief period of time without looking at all the crucial factors. Before a dog is euthanized based on a short evaluation period, there should be other factors considered, including the history of any vicious acts committed by the dog. The Vicious Dog Panel could be part of that process in accordance with § 4-13.1 11. Determination of a vicious dog.

In addition, reference to RI General Law 4-19-12 for clarification purposes regarding the term “humane euthanization” needs to be added to the bill.

Sincerely yours,

Dennis Tabella

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Director