

Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

Hearing 2/17/26

Submitting testimony in support of SB0422 and SB0423 (Sen. Kramer)

This is the story of Leila, a beagle who spent the first three years of her life in a cage in a facility in Northern Virginia. The facility raised beagles for use in medical experiments or as breeders. Leila probably was a breeder. The vet estimated that she had three or four litters.

She came into our lives about 3 ½ years ago. From the outset she was scared all the time. She was reluctant to show any emotions and didn't even bark the first year we took care of her. Also, when we walked with her she was frightened of people— backing away from friendly hands and hiding behind us – shivering.

From the outset she had intense curiosity for everything in nature. She smelled the ground and every leaf of grass or twig from a tree as if they were new, wondrous things for her enjoyment. We can only imagine what her captivity and three years in a cage did to her. Gradually, though, Leila started to acclimate herself to our house and environment. To this day when she sees a deer she stops and stares in amazement, as if it is an oversized dog of some sort. And she has become an affectionate, joyful dog happy to meet new dogs and people. She exhibits all the traits of a beagle, a breed which has been called “perpetual puppies.”

No animals should have to suffer as she did. We urge passage of Sen. Kramer's bills, SB0422 and SB0423. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted by Roger and Bea Blacklow, 12 Vantage Hill Court, Silver Spring, MD 20906