

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Nana <nanasmith62004@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2016 12:37 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC
Attachments: rip.jpg

The last Session of South Carolina legislature contained a bill for an Animal Abuse Registry which died in the judiciary committee. The previous session in 2013/2014 also let an Animal Abuse Registry bill die. Please don't let the 2017/2018 legislature make the same mistake. I am tired of my state being at the bottom of the list in animal welfare laws, and I want the Animal Abuse Registry to become a living law in this state!

Too many unwanted animals are dumped on the side of the road, especially in rural areas, in the south. I have watched it happen all my life. The irresponsible people that do this justify their action to their children with the myth that the animal can take care of itself. My own grandson has been told by an idiot that dogs come from wolves so they can survive in the wild just fine!

This lie is perpetuated by stupid lazy people who do not accept responsibility for the puppy that was the "best Christmas gift ever" a few years ago. If statistics could be gathered on the abandonment of animals in this state, the numbers would be astronomical. While you may not be able to fix stupid or legislate morality, you can make a big dent in it if you start charging people with a crime for abandoning Rover in the country. If you put their name on a list that everyone can see, it will make it harder for them to do it again and again.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that animal abuse will be prosecuted as a crime against society and under the new categorization they will begin tracking and collecting information about incidents of animal cruelty and the perpetrators. According to the FBI, the official definition of animal cruelty will be Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly taking an action that mistreats or kills any animal without just cause, such as torturing, tormenting, mutilation, maiming, poisoning, or abandonment. Included are instances of duty to provide care, e.g., shelter, food, water, care if sick or injured, transporting or confining an animal in a manner likely to cause injury or death; causing an animal to fight with another; inflicting excessive or repeated unnecessary pain or suffering, e.g., uses objects to beat or injure an animal. This definition does not include proper maintenance of animals for show or sport; use of animals for food, lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.

Please read this article in which animal abuse is labeled as a crime against society. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/-tracking-animal-cruelty>

The federal government is basically making the list for you. All you need to do now is have access to look at and add to that list!

I would love to do the job for Greenville County!

Thank you for listening,

Marlene Smith
Animal Advocate
Simpsonville, SC

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: christy blackmon <chb7165@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 10:08 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

I'm writing this email regarding the deplorable and wretched and most of all inexcusable conditions at the Bennettsville , SC animal pound .. it is absolutely unfathomable as to why animal shelters and pounds are not regulated... we are no longer living in the Stone Age ... there is NO justifying why the conditions are so extreme at this pound ... and if it's the police chief who is suppose to oversee the pound ... he has failed his job and for what those animals are going through ... his job should be terminated... please do something immediately regarding this pound .
Sincerely,
Christy Blackmon

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Stacey E. Besser <stacey.besser.esq@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 1:33 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

Hi,

I am writing to express concerns I hope that the committee can address this week or in the near future:

The Bennettsville County shelter needs to improve its conditions and stop the gas chamber procedure. In fact, the gas chamber procedure should cease at all SC shelters.

Bear baying and puppy mills should be outlawed.

Cockfighting should have harsher penalties.

South Carolina is one of the worst states in the nation for animal welfare and I hope that we can step up to the plate to improve this. The citizens do care, and we are paying attention to legislative reforms.

Please feel free to contact me if there is any additional way I can be involved.

Thank you,

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Stacey E. Besser, Esq.
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Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Carol Smith <figmentsfarm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 7:10 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCAHTSC
Attachments: 121j1337.pdf; ATT00001.txt

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of those who have no voice, the unwanted and discarded pets, of South Carolina. There are so many reasons that we as a state should be ashamed and embarrassed at how do not deal with this problem, that I cannot begin to name them all. We got national attention this week over the deplorable conditions at the City of Bennettsville "Animal Shelter". What else needs to happen for us to realize we need better laws pertaining to pet ownership, neutering/spaying, regulation of shelters and anything else that can stop so much senseless suffering?

Sincerely,
Carol Smith

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: wombats@rocketmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 7:30 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: South Carolina Needs To Do Better
Attachments: 121j1337.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Our state needs to take a stand and fix the horrendous condition when it comes to the stewardship of our pets. We need sensible laws much like the ones adopted by states such as Virginia.

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: jkulas <jkulas@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 11:36 AM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

Good morning,

I e-mailed you the article regarding the horrific conditions at the Bennettsville animal shelter. I am the lady that stumbled across this, along with my sister, Lori Reed. I am attaching a few more pics (will send separately) and will be more than happy to speak with someone concerning this. Besides the unsanitary conditions, one of my biggest concerns is the inhumane way they gas animals. We found a freezer full of black bags of dead animals and what appeared to be the gas chamber room (it had a lock on it)! I was told the city was given a grant a few years ago to stop the use of their gas chamber & the grant covered training to euthanize in a more humane way. This apparently is not being done.

The gate was open; however, there was no worker on site. We discovered dogs sitting in their own urine and feces, litter boxes piled high with the same, empty food and water bowls, a ceiling that looked like it could collapse at any moment....the list goes on and on.....

I posted this info on my facebook page. Please feel free to view it. It is public (Jessica Reed Kulas). I have shared it. One post alone has been shared over 700 times. This will not go away. Please help me show out-of-state residents how SC can, and will, handle such matters.

We need to be the voice for those who have no voice.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter,

Jessica Kulas
864-415-2990

PS I will be sending the pics as a separate email to ensure this e-mail goes through.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Lynn <lcfayard@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 12:01 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

Thank you for working toward improving and strengthening the pet care and animal welfare laws in South Carolina.

Sadly, South Carolina's animal protection laws are lacking in comparison to many other states. South Carolina has the opportunity to be a "leader of the pack" and show the country what compassion for animals should and can be.

South Carolina, as evidenced by particularly heinous cruelty cases of late, must update, clarify, and strengthen the animal protection laws of all potential companion animals - not just those that are "owned". Current laws are ambiguous and can be difficult to interpret and enforce.

Felony charges should be brought much more often and be more easily prosecutable with stricter penalties. A simple misdemeanor can be missed on background checks and is not a strong enough deterrent for many habitual abusers.

Clear definitions of minor neglect/cruelty, aggravated neglect/cruelty - all charge levels - are needed. "Intentionally" is ambiguous and provides an easy out for abusers; for example, an animal left in a hot car or tethered 24/7 with minimal (sometimes termed as adequate) shelter, food, and water. "Minimal" shouldn't even be in the language. "Intentional" vs. "I forgot" creates a path to allowable irresponsibility. And, tethering an animal 24/7 should be outlawed throughout the state. South Carolina's penalties should be much more strict for ALL levels of animal abuse and neglect.

Oconee County, where I live, is fortunate to have excellent, compassionate leadership at Oconee County Animal Shelter. However, the ACOs here are often restricted by wimpy and vague laws regarding animal care when trying to prosecute neglect/abuse cases.

I've heard and read about horrible conditions and uncaring employees in other counties throughout South Carolina. The care given in some facilities equates to abuse.

Shelter oversight by the state is critical to maintain a caring, compassionate, and competent level of shelter care in South Carolina.

Thank you in advance for your careful, thoughtful, and compassionate attention to a vitally important matter.

"The greatness and a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated".

- Gandhi

Lynn Fayard
Seneca, SC
404-915-8045



















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CITY OF
BENNETTSVILLE
ANIMAL SHELTER
←
WASTE WATER
TREATMENT PLANT

