

Emma Hall

From: Denise Painter <dotsplaceanimalhaven@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2016 6:30 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

Honorable members of the committee:

I, along with my husband John and best friend Gareth run a small animal rescue in Oconee County. Mostly cats, a few dogs. I am glad to hear that our state is looking into the issue of how our pets are treated and want to hear ideas from the public. A year ago in May, I stood on the steps of the State House and gave a speech. In that speech I outlined what I would like to see done to help more pets in South Carolina. I've included a link to my speech at the end of this email, but I'll give you a short outline.

1. Spaying and neutering is required of all pets unless one wants to purchase a breeder's license.
2. Licensing is required of all pets. Licenses should be reasonable - \$10, for instance, so that it won't overburden families who have limited means. Maybe even a voucher system for families under a certain financial point.
3. Money from licensing should be used to fund low-cost spay/neuter programs in every county in the state, and DHEC to oversee licensing.
4. Prosecute animal abusers appropriately. We are tired of seeing people like Julianna Westberry abuse sometimes hundreds of animals, and get off with one count and probation. I myself took in kittens that were thrown off a bridge into the lake here in Oconee County in 2010. Despite there being a description of the car, a description of the driver, and the license plate, and a police report was filed by the witnesses, nothing was ever done about it, and the complaint eventually "disappeared". This was under our current Sheriff's predecessor. One of our sanctuary cats here was thrown out of a moving vehicle on I-85 in Spartanburg County. Despite a report filed by the witnesses there, nothing was done as well. This needs to change.
5. Require that each county either open a municipal shelter or contract with a local rescue to run a local shelter for animals in their county. There are still counties that have no animal shelter available.
6. Outlaw the use of gas chambers and heartstick.
7. Require that each municipal shelter contract with a local veterinarian who will monitor the drugs that are used to euthenize animals. Despite thousands of dollars of ketamine missing in Chesterfield county after it was discovered that they had killed the dogs by shooting them, no one was ever charged by the county or state (the person who ran the shelter was a convicted drug dealer and the brother of the local sheriff).

I'm sure there's more but this is a start. It is time for a change.

Thank you for reading this.

Link to full speech: <https://www.facebook.com/notes/denise-lane-painter/shame-rally-speech-053015/10153235436576187>

It is long, but I hope you read it as well. I poured my heart and soul into that speech.

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Denise Painter
Co-Founder
Dot's Place Animal Haven

Emma Hall

From: Jean Strein <caninerescue1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 24, 2016 6:42 AM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: "PCHTSC"

Thank you for taking part in this important agenda. I am co-founder and volunteer for Canine Rescue, a non-profit rescue in North Augusta, SC. We are a very small, but active group, successfully placing more than 6,000 dogs and puppies since 2004. Neither of us were able to attend the open public meeting in Columbia on September 22, but want to contribute comments we hope will be helpful to this committee.

Animals being transported to other states:

Canine Rescue has transferred many dogs and puppies to other states; mostly the northeast. You are correct that there is actually "a shortage" of adoptable animals there -- but that also means there is a "shortage" of homeless, unwanted animals as well. This is due to laws and regulations regarding responsible pet care (spaying and neutered) and reputable breeding (requiring breeders to be licensed and litters registered). The positive side of this "shortage" is 2-part: there is a VERY low euthanasia rate in those areas. This is a huge budget saving factor for municipalities. The animals transported there from the south now have another option to euthanasia.

Most of the transports of these animals are done on a private, volunteer basis. If "regulations" are imposed on those volunteers, transporting these animals may become more difficult or not happen at all. The animals lose and so do the homes awaiting a new pet. Please do not initiate regulations on private and volunteer transports.

The REAL issue of over-population of animals:

Since 2004, Canine Rescue has adopted more than 6,000 animals. Despite these numbers, we are forced to turn away animals weekly. All other rescue are the same: too many animals; not enough space, time, or volunteers to take them. High-kill shelters and humane societies are always full beyond capacity. The fact is this: we cannot "rescue" and "adopt" ourselves out of this problem. The shelters are full. The rescues are full. Animals are still being turned away with no help. The "solution" is to STOP the influx of unwanted animals. Please consider drafting bills mandating licensing, spay/neuter, and leash laws. Also, please consider licensing and regulating animal breeding for sales as a BUSINESS - not a "hobby" Do you realize that some "backyard breeders" and "puppy mills" easily gross \$100,000 per year in animal sales and NOT A SINGLE DOLLAR PAID IN TAXES??? South Carolina schools, roads, and programs for the needy all losing benefits of unpaid tax revenue.

Barbie Yonce, our other co-founder, and myself have devoted our entire lives since 2004 to helping as many animals as we can and we are proud of our accomplishments. But, we also realize that different "help" is needed to really make a difference in pet care and humane treatment of animals.

We would genuinely welcome the opportunity to discuss some of our ideas and suggestions with either you personally or a representative of this committee. And, we are WILLING to actively participate in efforts to improve the lives of animals and help the people who love them.

Jean Strein
Co-Founder/Volunteer
Canine Rescue
North Augusta, SC
(706) 993-0437

Special Note: We have changed our email address to CanineRescue1@gmail.com. Please update your address book.

*"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way." ~~
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Emma Hall

From: Corine Gillespie <dobe106@msn.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 25, 2016 7:12 AM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

I love animals and I really appreciate your support and hard work to promote change. I am excited to promote and be a part of this change.

I moved to South Carolina in March 2015. The first thing I noticed in the "South" was the vast amount of stray animals and potential negligence. If one voice, one person can make a difference, I am in!

I currently volunteer at a local shelter and I am dedicated to provide a good life to the animals in this shelter. Alongside me at this shelter is a group of wonderful and caring people who go above and beyond regularly to care for these animals.

Please know, there are many behind your mission for the love of animals. Let us know how we can help to support keeping the momentum going and these animals alive.

Thank you.

Corine Ann Gillespie

Emma Hall

From: Erin Halperin <ehalperin@cbcaine.com>
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2016 2:45 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTHC

Dear Committee Members,

Thank you so much for forming this committee and for listening to the concerns of your constituents. I was unable to attend your meeting on 9/22/16 but I do have MANY concerns about animal welfare in South Carolina that I am hoping you will be able to address.

1. Continued access to free and low cost spay/neuter, vaccinations, and other veterinary care is critical to animal welfare in our state. Legislation that impacts the availability or cost of these services in a negative way should be blocked.
2. There are huge discrepancies in the sheltering of domestic pets among SC counties. Please support oversight of these facilities that insures quality care, humane treatment, transparency, and works towards a No Kill solution across the state.
3. Animal cruelty laws that already exist should be enforced and perpetrators must be prosecuted. We see many starved, abandoned, and mistreated pets in our community and often little or nothing is done about the perpetrators of these crimes. I personally have seen things for which I believe there should be steep penalties.
4. The ability for people to retain pets they have adopted is an important part of the equation. Breed discrimination in housing is one of the main causes of surrender or abandonment of pets. Please look at legislation to insure that SC families are able to retain their pets regardless of their housing situation.

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss making helpful changes in our state.



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