

Animal Welfare Listening Sessions 2014,

Good Evening, I am Dr. Angele Bice. I currently work for multiple shelters within the Tricounty area, including Charleston Animal Society (CAS). I am a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, South Carolina Veterinary Medical Association, and Trident Veterinary Medical Association. I graduated from the University of Florida and also earned a Master Certificate in Shelter Medicine. I have studied under Dr. Julie Levy and Dr. Cinda Crawford, and have participated in many Shelter Medicine Consultations under the Maddie's Fund Shelter Consult Team nationally.

I chose CAS as one of my externships while in Veterinary School. It was the experiences here which opened my eyes to the need for Shelter Veterinarians and the impact they were making on their community. This fueled my interest in obtaining my Master Certificate in Shelter Medicine.

I was excited to start a career and life in South Carolina, but have to admit I was quiet saddened and taken by surprise with the animosity between Veterinarians in this state. I took an Oath to use my knowledge and skills for the benefit of society, not only the less privileged. If a bill were passed which limits my license to only be used to help shelter animals and low income family, it would be against the law for me to treat my own personal animals!

Since April of this year, I have been tracking the heartworm results from dogs entering a rural shelter in this area. Over the last 7 months I have observed an average of 41% of these dogs are heartworm positive. I have inquired with multiple private practices in the area and found most of them see less than 10% heartworm positive clientele. This tells me there is a huge difference in the proportion of the population that are taking their animals to a vet. These animals are reservoirs of disease and contribute to maintaining the prevalence of disease in the area. We have to acknowledge this population exists and work together to help close the gap.

Thank you for your time,

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