

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Vicki Strickland <vickistrickland88@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 18, 2016 9:24 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

Input on this committee: This committee needs a representative from independent rescue: on the ground, in the trenches rescue. HSUS and a shelter representative, unless it is an adoption coordinator, are not really in touch with what they do, and the AKC is completely opposed to what we do, in that lobby against puppy mill laws all over the country. Rescue people are at a breaking point with this state, and if you didn't have them picking up the thousands of animals and thousands of dollars thereby relieving the burden on shelters, the state would be in bigger trouble. They need input, and the main thing they're going to tell you is that the counties of this state need stricter enforcement and these country magistrates need to start handing out sentences instead of dismissing cases.

Respectfully,
Vicki Strickland
Anderson, SC

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Eugenia Reardon <ginagreardon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 4:36 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

Please consider the need to establish a central state "oversight" authority.

Many of the animal welfare issues that need to be addressed could easily come under the umbrella of such a state agency (or sub-division of an established department).

Such an authority could:

- * Set basic standard requirements for adequate humane care, including euthanasia protocol, in both city/county shelters, pet shops, boarding kennels, for-profit breeders, and non-profit rescue facilities. (This alone addresses many issues regarding puppy mills, abuse & neglect in both for-profits & non-profits, and hodge-podge shelter policies)
- * Have the authority to conduct both scheduled and random inspections of above for compliance, and enforce with fines/penalties. Also handles public complaints or reports of ill-treatment at such facilities--this establishes both a chain of command and initial investigations into problems within their scope.
- * Funding for this office (administrative & field inspector personnel) can be offset to taxpayers by requiring permits/license fees (breeders, kennels, etc) and fines & penalties. (Permits & licensing fees should also help reduce pet overpopulation and puppy mill/ neglectful backyard breeder issues)

Living in the upstate (York County, SC), I am familiar with North Carolina's such oversight authority although other states also have such a model (North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services --Veterinary Division). While North Carolina also has issues with "bad" shelter staff, criminal cases, etc., their central oversight agency has been able to very quickly detect or react in such incidents, minimizing the negative publicity.

At some point, South Carolina will certainly need such an oversight authority. For the benefit of the animals, and as more legislation is passed, and for the overall image of our great state, the sooner the better!

Thank you!

Gina Reardon
5033 Suwarrow Circle
Tega Cay, SC