

Please for your consideration I would like to speak about Ohio HB24 and the positive changes that it includes. These changes to the law would benefit both humane societies and animal owners in that they would both be better protected by the law.

I had an experience in 2012 that caused me to look more closely into the humane society and animal laws in our state. My experience took place in Medina county with the taking of my dog off my property as a stray by a person delivering news papers, and was also a volunteer for Medina County Spca. My dog Boz was 15 years old at the time and had a large cyst under his tail. The Spca decided to prosecute me for animal neglect and for the cost of the surgery they decided was necessary (\$2,000.00), so they served me the papers to go forward. While I was waiting on the trial they offered to end the prosecution if I agreed to a lesser amount of money paid to them and a non-prosecution agreement (NPA). They offered this twice each time lowering the amount of money that I should pay them. I did not agree to either of the NPAs as I didn't neglect my dog. And I also instructed my attorney to tell the prosecuting attorney, Jeffrey Holland, that I would not sign either of these NPAs because I would be sending he wrong message to my child. I couldn't admit to wrong doing when I did not participate in wrong doing.

So we went to trial and I won my case.

Because of this situation my eyes opened up to what can go wrong under the current animal law. I would like to implore to you that I believe that most humane societies and animal rescues are wonderful and that we desperately need them. I do believe we need some important changes to current law.

Non prosecution agreements - Prohibits a humane society from entering into a non-prosecution agreement unless the agreement has been reviewed and approved by the judge that has presided over the probable cause hearing. Prohibits a judge from approving an agreement that requires a person to provide financial compensation that is in excess of what is necessary and reasonable for the animal's care.

I think of the time that I along with my only child Luke drove done to the State House to give my testimony to an earlier version of the bill. Luke at the time was 18 years old. He was incredibly proud of me. Luke has since died in a kayak accident in which he saved his friend from drowning only to drown himself. And I bring this up at this time because I continue to fight for this worthy cause in my kid, Luke's name. For Luke.

And finally I ask again that you would favorably review the exciting animal laws and consider the proposed changes that would be in the better interest for all parties involved.

I sincerely thank you for you time,

Tammy Rohrer-Collins