

March 18, 2019

Ever since I have known Jane Smith there is one thing that stands out - her love for animals.

Years ago she brought her horse to my house for my granddaughter's birthday party. All afternoon the kids enjoyed rides on a real horse. While leading the horse back to its trailer it spooked and bolted.

Jane pursued and fortunately caught the horse a mile away just before it could reach a busy highway. This "dear lady" returned with the horse in tow. Her hair was filled with briars and her face and arms were covered with bloody scratches.

Visiting Jane one day she remarked that she'd just rescued the most beautiful dog. When she showed me I was amazed. It was so homely I wasn't sure it

actually was a dog. Only Jane could find this ugly mutt beautiful.

When my son and I first heard that Jane was being accused of abusing her rescue dogs we were sure it had to be a mistake.

We attended all three days of the trial. There were things we thought were unfair. A young man had been flown in who had fought in Afghanistan. Returning from battle he had been unable to leave his house until Jane provided him with a companion dog. With his new friend by his side he could resume a normal life. For some reason he was not permitted to testify.

The prosecution passed around a bag of dog feces. Why?!! We all knew that dogs defecate and it doesn't smell good.

Things began to look up when several ladies testified that they

were on a schedule to walk the dogs and clean their cages while Jane was at work.

Pets that testified couldn't come up with any real signs of neglect or abuse.

Jane paid out of her own pocket to have the animals groomed.

We thought everything was going well. Wrong! We were shocked and outraged that Jane was found guilty.

The Humane Society clearly needs some "checks and balances" as do all agencies that police private citizens.

It was not brought up about a man who had trespassed twice on Jane's property abhorrently to obtain evidence against her. The second time he broke into her home destroying a valuable antique. He did all this while ignoring the "No Trespassing" sign.

Jane wasn't originally from Ohio. She lived alone. She was an easy mark. The thinking was that she would turn the animals over and walk away but instead she fought. She paid a hefty price. Her retirement savings is gone and her reputation has been damaged.

"Bad apples" turn up from time to time and they need to be reined in. Laws need to be in place to stop this from happening to others who want to rescue animals and provide them with safe environments.

Linda Shue