

March 31, 2015

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of HB6187. Those without their own voice need advocacy and deserve to be represented when treated unfairly. I am asking you to require each animal to have an advocate in abuse cases. Besides being a pet owner, I volunteer my time with local rescue organization as well as helping animals on my own. Animals have feelings and have been known to become depressed when an owner dies so the same goes for when they are mistreated. Time and time again, they prove to be loyal companions and deserve to be properly represented and protected.

In cases of obvious abuse and neglect I am in support of eliminating accelerated rehabilitation but this is a slippery slope as some owners have been accused of neglect unfairly. There are obvious cases of starvation and abuse and then there are those who get in over their heads and try to do the best they can. There are also those who are elderly and disabled and may unintentionally neglect pets by failing to bring them to a veterinarian. For this reason, I cannot wholeheartedly support eliminating AR in cases of animal abuse and neglect unless it specifically states an animal was physically abused or intentionally neglected. I do not want to see a person do jail time due to medical neglect they were unable to afford or did not notice due to disability. In cases of intentional abuse and neglect by all means, I do not feel a person should receive AR. It takes a certain type of individual to beat, kill, starve, or torture an animal. This is an individual who has serious anger issues and most likely is sociopath, void of empathy. This individual is most likely a danger to society.

In the future, I hope to see pets having the same protection afforded to children and anyone else who may not have the "voice" to advocate for themselves. I would like to see mandatory jail time for all cases of abuse and murder.

Please do the right thing and put yourselves in the shoes of an animal who may have been chained every day without shelter or access to water or tortured when all you did was provide loyal companionship. It was not asking much in return to be fed and treated kindly.

Please send a hard message out there to potential abusers that they will not get away with cruelty. The animals depend on you.

Thank You,

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