

Good evening everyone. I am glad to be here and have an opportunity to give a voice to the voiceless. I am here to write on behalf of Simon Young the dog on death row here in Guilford.

I was part of a law that passed here in Connecticut called Desmond's Law, signed by Gov. Malloy the end of 2016. Without going into detail the point is we fought for it and got it done. We are not ones to walk away from a cause that matters.

Simon Young matters. I worked at a veterinary hospital for over 8 years after I retired and I saw many cases of dog bites. NONE of the ones I saw were handled like this one in my opinion. If the dog didn't have their shots they were quarantined at the local pound and then when up to date, returned to their owners with pounds fees. If they were up to date on shots, as Simon was, they were quarantined by the owners for a 10 day period with perhaps stipulations. NONE were sent to be put on death row.

We can go around and around about what happened, but this I know. If Simon bit a would be robber or intruder it would have been all over the news of him being a hero. Sadly Simon, being a dog, cannot tell the difference, he just knows his family and property are to be protected and this is the only way he knew how.

I am 68 years old and when I was a kid and I never was allowed to enter property if something of mine went over to someone's private yard. 1. I asked my parents and 2. I rang or knocked on the person's door to ask permission, and if that didn't work I had to wait until the people came home. It was called respect.

None of what I am saying doesn't diminish the fact that the boy was bitten and caused him pain. However, had he asked before just going to Simon's yard we would not even be having this conversation.

The one thing that stands out to me is that in the Police Report the child's grandmother, according to the dispatch refused medical treatment, said that what a vicious dog Simon was and has always been vicious. My question is then, if you and your family thought this, why was the boy not watched and told not to go near Simon at all? The boy entered through a wire fence we believed he cut to get through to Simon's yard and that is how he ran back. Simon did not follow him to his yard, so indeed this was not an “attack” as it has been said.

Dogs save children from drowning, dogs are support animals, dogs work for Police Depts. Dogs wake up families if house is burning. That is what they know. The saying a dog is a man's best friend says it all. Simon was protecting his property from a boy trespassing in his yard banishing a lacrosse stick and came out of nowhere.

I have written to First Selectman Matt Hoey with no response. It is a fact that more than \$38,000 has been spent in legal fees from the taxpayers of this town just to be right about Simon. Matt Hoey was quoted as saying that Simon was up for a “disposal order”. I thought you only dispose of trash, not living breathing beings. It made me sick. Simon is not trash.

Dr. Young has promised to put up a 6 foot fence around his yard, he will do anything to get Simon back to his family and so will we.

This is not about who proves to be right, this is about doing the right thing and Mr. Hoey and the chief of police now have the time to stop the spending of ridiculous legal fees and be the heroes they are voted in to be and get Simon home. In years to come the boy will remember nothing and that being said Simon who is here for a short time has to lose his life?

I don't know how many of you have family pets, but I will say this, remember this situation about Simon and it could be you next. So go home tonight and look at your pets and imagine them gone because someone trespassed where they should not have been and they have to pay for it with their life.

This is so very very wrong. Please save Simon bring him home.