

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Jennie Yarborough <jennieyarb@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2016 10:15 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

I am a veterinarian in Greenville, South Carolina who has recently experienced two very sad cases of beloved pets being shot. Both gunshots were targeted at the heart, with both entry wounds on the flank; one dog had an exit wound and survived; the other dog suffered a punctured trachea and was euthanized at the emergency veterinarian. Both bullet wounds appeared to be from high-powered rifles. After seeing two sets of children cry over their beloved dogs being shot, it became painfully clear to me that there are numerous issues in this state that need to be addressed.

1-It is a very common misconception that it is legal to shoot any dog on one's property, including stray dogs. When I inquired about whether one of these families wanted to call the police about their pet being shot, they stated that there was no point, because the shooter had the right to shoot their dog if the dog was roaming on the shooter's property. I learned that most people in this region think that.

In fact,

S.C. Code Ann. § 16-11-510(A) states:

"It is unlawful for a person to wilfully and maliciously cut, shoot, maim, wound, or otherwise injure or destroy any horse, mule, cattle, hog, sheep, goat, or any other kind, class, article, or description of personal property, or the goods and chattels of another."

Naturally, there are defenses to this crime, but the statute is clear that shooting an animal (dogs are "personal property" in South Carolina and thus included in the law) is illegal.

I propose that this statute is strengthened to textually include dogs and cats and that there is more education with law enforcement about this law.

2-Roaming dogs is a common problem in this region, despite efforts for better leash laws. The biggest reason for roaming dogs is lack of education or funds on the owners' part.

I propose that we do more to educate pet owners on the dangers of roaming.

3-Spay and neutering is woefully underused in this region, and many intact dogs roam because they are in heat/searching for a dog in heat. I propose that we engage in more education about spay and neutering.

Thank you for your time.

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