



Best Friends
ANIMAL SOCIETY

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September 14, 2006

Honorable Craig Ormsby
800 East Main St.
Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania 16673

Richard Consiglio
423 Allegheny St. Suite 421
Hollidaysburg, Pennsylvania 16648-2022

Dear Judge Ormsby and Mr. Consiglio:

There is a misdemeanor case in your court that is drawing national attention. The Defendant is Tammy Grimes. She is charged with theft, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, and receiving stolen property. She is accused of going into a person's backyard, videotaping a dog dying at the end of a chain, and then taking the dog.

Apparently, earlier calls to the humane society went unanswered. The video of the dog is being widely distributed over the internet.

After Tammy took the dog, she saw Officer Gotshall and offered to allow him to take the dog. He encouraged her to get the dog to a vet.

Who We Are

We operate the nation's largest no kill animal sanctuary for dogs and cats. Based in southern Utah, our magazine is the most widely-circulated publication focused on companion animals anywhere in the nation. We have a fully staffed veterinary clinic with 4 vets and provide state-of-the-art medical and daily care for all of our animals. You can learn more about our organization at www.bestfriends.org.

How Best Friends Can Help Resolve This Case

The defendant is not going to want to return the dog if it is going back to someone whom she feels has neglected the dog. We can see the dog owner having any one of several reactions, but none of them involves allowing the defendant to keep their dog. The prosecutor typically would want the defendant to return the "property". Your jurisdiction will want to find a resolution to the case because of the national attention it is drawing.

We may be able to help and want to make an offer to the Court and prosecutor. If it would help resolve this matter, Best Friends offers to care for this dog. This includes free veterinary treatment, a place to live at our sanctuary, and if it is in the best interests of the dog, a permanent foster that is unrelated to the case.

Our interest is in the well being of the dog. We have the ability to provide the dog with the care it needs and can supply a healthy environment for the dog to live out its life. We fully understand the financial commitment of this offer as we care for over 1,800 animals everyday on our 3,000 acre sanctuary. Having a neutral party care for this dog may be the creative solution to this case.

Also, Best Friends believes every individual has a moral obligation to provide all animals with comfort and assistance, particularly if they are in distress.

As part of its ongoing public education efforts, Best Friends would like to work with you and other authorities in Blair County on model legislation that will allow concerned citizens to intervene in cases of cruelty to animals without fear of facing harsh penalties.

In addition, many jurisdictions ban chaining or tethering of dogs. Chaining is cruel and causes dogs to become very frustrated and neurotic. Dogs such as Doogie are often forgotten at the end of the chain, with poor vet care and no social interaction. Chaining dogs also makes them more aggressive. Best Friends looks forward to working with local authorities on a model ordinance banning chaining of dogs and the studies showing the link between chaining and dog aggression. It is a community safety as well as cruelty issue.

Please contact me with any questions. I also plan to attend the preliminary hearing to answer any questions you might have about this offer.

Sincerely,

Russ Mead
General Counsel
Best Friends Animal Society
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