



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

June 23, 2015

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The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and our members and supporters in South Carolina, I am writing to thank you for your recent veto of R. 231/S.0980 a bill that would prohibit a nonprofit mobile veterinary clinic from operating within eyesight of a privately owned veterinary practice. While the veto was overturned, we along with the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association, are grateful to your acknowledgement that the legislation “places an unnecessary restriction on low-cost and convenient animal-care options offered to pet owners” and would be a “disservice to homeless pets and would-be pet owners.”

In recent years, some South Carolina animal shelters have made progress towards the reduction of homeless pets by integrating community-based programs that provide veterinary care and educational resources to underserved communities. One such program is “Pets for Life,” an HSUS model program administered by Charleston Animal Society, which is working directly in the community to provide care and services to pet owners. While the program has successfully kept some animals out of the shelter and in their loving homes, there is still a significant amount of work to be done across the state to end the problem of pet overpopulation and access to veterinary care.

Thankfully, the final version of S.0980 that passed the General Assembly was not nearly as draconian or protective of a private interest group as the original draft of the bill and we are confident that it will not interfere with Pets for Life or similar programs; however, some legislators have indicated that they will continue pursuing restrictions to the scope of services that animal shelters and non-profit organizations may provide to privately owned animals. We find this troubling and hope that should more restrictive legislation pass in the future, you will once again stand on the side of animal welfare and consumer choice, and oppose such legislation.

Thank you again for vetoing the legislation in an effort to promote free market principles and protect South Carolina’s homeless pet population.

Sincerely,

Kim Kelly
South Carolina State Director
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