

*Patti J. Soles  
2750 Old Loris Longs Road  
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May 31, 2016

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

Dear Governor Haley,

As you are no doubt aware, the laws in South Carolina relating to the ownership of animals and crimes against animals are woefully inadequate and out-of-date. Specifically, South Carolina's puppy mill/breeder laws are among the most lax in the country, creating a haven in our state for puppy mills. Additionally, South Carolina is classified by leading animal advocacy organizations as one of the five WORST states in terms of private ownership of exotic animals. Clearly, there are very few private individuals with either the means or the training to adequately and safely care for exotic animals.

According to the South Carolina legislative website, twenty-eight general bills were introduced in the 121st Session of the General Assembly that relate to the ownership and care of animals--only two passed. Among those that have not yet passed are the following:

- S.800--The Professional Dog Breeder Assurance Act;
- H. 3090--A law against confining an animal in a vehicle such that a life threatening situation is created;
- H.4107--Graduated penalties for ill-treatment of animals;
- H.4476--A law allowing any person to remove a minor or animal from a life threatening situation in a vehicle and providing civil and criminal immunity to the rescuer; and
- H.5079--A law creating a community notification requirement for animal abusers.

Based on the aforementioned website, most of these laws seem to be stalled in committees. It seems impossible that anyone could be against any of the laws listed above, all of which are designed to improve the lives and care of animals in obvious yet meaningful ways. I write to you not just as a concerned citizen but as a person who is involved with the rescue, rehabilitation and care of homeless, neglected and abused

animals on a daily basis. My county, Horry, has a severe problem in this area, which is exacerbated by the fact that the laws are totally inadequate.

I have always known that the most powerful agent for change in the world is educated women. I urge you, Governor Haley, as a pet owner and as a citizen of South Carolina, to support the legislation briefly described above and to do whatever you can to get it back on track and ultimately on your desk for your signature.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patti J. Soles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patti J. Soles

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