

February 12, 2016
123 Bradley Park
Anderson, SC 29621

Governor Nikki R. Haley
1205 Pendleton St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

Please work to bring SC out of the dark ages when it comes to ANIMAL ABUSE. Companion animals (dogs and cats) are family members, not possessions.
ABUSE (according to Webster) is to hurt by treating badly - to mistreat - to cause injury.

The very recent animal abuse story of a 2 year old boxer "Amara" (a name given to her after being rescued) in Anderson, SC is really pathetic. The ABUSER (owner of the dog) was brought before a magistrate Mary Frances Cole, who was appointed in October of 2015. I understand magistrates are appointed by the Governor. Ms Cole chose not to charge the ABUSER, who claims the boxer, after having a litter of puppies in December (which I'm sure he sold) became aggressive with his wife. So he took the dog for a ride, went into the woods and shot the dog at least twice in the head. Assuming that the dog was dead, the owner left. It was 19 days later that people called animal control rescue in Anderson to report an emaciated boxer roaming around bleeding from the head. THE OWNER DID NOT EUTHANIZE HIS DOG, HE ABUSED HER TERRIBLY. Any responsible pet owner would have relinquished his pet to a local shelter .

The dog was treated at various places, is now blind and has hearing loss. After getting out of intensive care the young boxer is now at Boxer Butts and other Mutts in Western North Carolina.

The ABUSER should have been charged with cruelty to animals, fined and made responsible for Amara's vet bills, rather than having no charges filed against him. Everyone in this case really dropped the ball and I hope it is not too late to reverse some of the very poor choices that were made.

One good thing -- Amara -- hopefully in the end will find the good loving home that she deserves. But that still does not excuse her former owner or the city of Anderson or Magistrate Cole for their very poor decisions.

The laws must be changed to better protect companion animals from such ABUSE. THEY ARE NOT POSSESSIONS, THEY ARE FAMILY MEMBERS.
Only then will it be a good day in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Kauer