

Rebecca Morrison Hughes, DVM
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November 30, 2016

Dear Committee Members,

I have been a practicing veterinarian in Colleton County for a little over 30 years and have been very closely associated with our county shelter from the beginning of that time. We have had changes at the shelter that are nothing short of miraculous in the last few years since Friends of the Colleton County Animal Shelter have come on board. Our county is largely rural with limited funds for its many needs and the shelter has found it hard to properly care for the large population of unwanted and/or stray animals. FOCCAS' donations of time, energy, money and hearts in the form of volunteers have brought the shelter new life and greatly changed the quality of life for our animals housed there.

A valuable contribution over the last 3 years from FOCCAS has been to help the fourth graders in our county become more aware of the requirements and commitment to pets and their care through the CACE – Colleton Animal Commitment Education – program. As one of the volunteer educators, I have had the privilege of going into the classroom and sharing the material. The response from the students has been overwhelming. They have been completely enthralled and engaged in the concepts and materials offered within the program. They have been surprised to hear how old they will be when their pet is a senior. They have also been saddened when they hear how unwanted pets can be mistreated and discarded. They are taught how important it is to spay or neuter your pet in a way they can understand and they are even excited to ask their parents if their pet has had it's rabies vaccination.

This has been one of the most effective approaches I have seen to get the point of pet overpopulation across to the next generation. Abraham Lincoln once said - "**The philosophy of the schoolroom in one generation is the philosophy of government in the next.**" I believe this could potentially change the way these children perceive their responsibility to their family pets enough to make a difference to the entire family itself and could possibly be used in our state to make a difference in the lives of all pets across our great state of South Carolina.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and efforts in this matter,
Rebecca Morrison Hughes, DVM

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Krystal Catoe <catoekr1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 3:07 PM
To: Vincent A. Sheheen; Steve Moss; mcdrum@columbiasc.net; kkelly@humanesociety.org; dawgdoc@gracepets.com; ceo@letlovelive.org; jrhodes@scac.sc; pvs@akc.org; jcleach@scda.sc.gov; Rebecca.Leach@llr.sc.gov; Senate Agriculture Committee; Gene Hogan
Subject: PCHTSC Meeting

Hello. I was unable to make this morning's meeting, but I did watch some of the video. I have written numerous times about the animal laws in our state and how they are not enforced at all. We need tougher laws against those who abuse and neglect animals.

A few of our animal issues are overpopulation, lack of spay/neuter, cruelty/neglect, and laws that are not enforced to the fullest extent.

Every year, thousands of animals die in shelters because of the overpopulation. People will get a dog and eventually end up taking the dog to a shelter where it is often euthanized because of overcrowding. (I cannot remember if SC has passed a law against the gas chambers, but that is horrible to these animals.)

People do understand the spay/neuter process. Look on social media and you will see people steadily breeding dogs so they can sell them for a small profit. Or they flip them. By this, they will get a free dog and turn around to sell to anyone just to make money.

Or what about giving away dogs to those who fight them? I can lead you to the rescues who deal with this cruel act of violence every day. A dog should not be fought for someone to make money. It is inhumane and irresponsible. People in our state are fighting dogs and sometimes, the other dog ends up dead. People do not ask for a veterinarian's reference and a home visit to ensure these animals get a good home.

Investigator Roman pointed out was that our law enforcement is not educated on what to do with animal cruelty and neglect issues. This is a major problem because often animal control and the law do not know exactly how to handle some of the cases.

It's not a great day in SC when animals are dying of euthanasia because of overcrowding in shelters. Or what about people who do not spay/neuter their pet because they do not know the procedures or they simply do not care? And what about the people giving away pets to anyone the street, which these pets (mostly dogs) are forced to fight other dogs because the owners are too lazy or irresponsible to have a pet? I have heard from law enforcement about how they have confiscated treadmills the dogs were forced to walk on to build their strength to fight another animal. What about tether laws? Very often, I will see dogs who are left outside on a chain. This is a ridiculous and uncalled for.

I wish SC would be a model state and enforce tougher laws to save innocent animals that die every year from overpopulation, abuse, and neglect. Just like the precious dog, Catilyn, at the Charleston Animal Society a few years ago who had her mouth taped shut, and the puppy that was found burned in the church parking lot a couple of weeks ago. When will it end? PLEASE enforce tougher laws to STOP this madness.

Sincerely,

Krystal Catoe

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: busjockey2@charter.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2016 8:39 PM
To: Gene Hogan
Subject: Pet Care & Humane Treatment Study Committee
Attachments: Recommendations for the Select Sub Committee of the Senate Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee.odt

I have attached the recommendations we sent the Committee over a year ago. Just want make sure they did not get lost during the formation of the new committee. Thank you for working hard to make stronger laws to protect the animals of South Carolina.

Barbara Powell
Taylors, SC

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SENATE SUB COMMITTEE OF THE
SENATE AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE**

- **Amend 47-1-170**

SECTION 47-1-170. Penalties for violations of chapter. (Current Law)

The owner or person having charge or custody of an animal cruelly used who is convicted of any violation of this chapter forfeits ownership, charge, or custody of the animal and at the discretion of the court, the person who is charged with or convicted of a violation of this chapter must be ordered to pay costs incurred to care for the animal and related expenses.

HISTORY: 1962 Code Section 6-18; 1952 Code Section 6-18; 1942 Code Section 1602; 1932 Code Section 1602; Cr. C. '22 Section 566; Cr. C. '12 Section 917; Cr. C. '02 Section 632; G. S. 1710; R. S. 574; 1881 (17) 575; 1998 Act No. 367, Section 8, eff May 27, 1998.

To require anyone convicted of violation of this chapter will forfeit right to ever own another animal while they reside in the State of South Carolina. Any one previously convicted of a violation of this chapter found possessing an animal will be immediately incarcerated for no less than 30 days.

- **Permit/license to breed dogs/cats/horses**

Anyone wanting to breed any of the above animals must obtain a permit/license at the Department of Revenue.

Additionally, the breeder is subject to state and federal taxes in addition to the permit/license fee.

Inspection of breeders will be the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services.

- **Establish An Animal Offender Registry**

An Animal Offender Registry will be established at the State Level and maintained by the State Judicial System. All County Animal Shelters, Humane Societies and any

establishment/individual offering animals for adoption shall have access to this Registry. Any of these agencies found adopting animals to people on this Registry will be subject to a fine.

- **All Animal Rescuers Must Be Registered**

Any Animal Rescue Group, Profit or Non-Profit Animal Rescue Group, Individual Animal Rescuer must be registered at the Department of Revenue. This permit must be presented in order to qualify for services at any Low Cost Spay and Neuter Facility.

- **Requirements for Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinics/Wellness Clinic**

Must fall under one of the following categories in order to use a Low Cost

Spay/Neuter/Wellness Clinic:

- Must fall within a specified income level

- Must be a registered Animal Rescuer

- Show proof of Government Assistance

For example: Social Security, Medicare, Food Stamps, and Disabilities

The Low Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic/Wellness Clinic will be able to provide the following services:

- Spay and Neuters for dogs and cats

- Vaccinations

- Heartworm and flea prevention products

- Heartworm testing

- Basic medical care that does not require a veterinary

specialist

For example: can treat a simple fracture, laceration, basic teeth cleaning,

- **Prohibit the sale of ANY animal at a Jockey Lot/Flea Market**

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: norrisingrid@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, December 7, 2016
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTC

“Regardless of whether you have a pet at home for your child, raising children to be kind to animals is our hope for creating future generations of compassionate and caring adults. Every day through the media we hear of despicable acts of cruelty and neglect committed against animals. So how do we get people to be conscious about compassion toward animals in their everyday living? We start with the children.” Allie Phillips

Shultz (1924/1968, p.137) describes how, in the beginning of the twentieth century, a number of states actually passed laws mandating or recommending the incorporation of humane education into the school curriculum, a trend supported by the American Humane Association (AHA). In 1915, AHA endorsed a proposal that all states include humane education in their school systems’ curricula and by 1922, 20 states had done so. Despite the best of intentions in promulgating such laws, their implementation was not always insured. Shultz describes how some school officials and teachers may have resented such edicts and, even when teachers were supportive of humane education, **the lack of text material and outlines for lesson plans were obstacles to effective instruction**. It is unfortunate that these humane education efforts are rarely funded at anything close to the levels provided for “substance abuse resistance” or more general anti-violence education and prevention programs. (Ascione, Frank R., *Children and Animals Exploring the Roots of Kindness and Cruelty*) (emphasis mine)

Having been a humane educator in South Carolina for 10 years, I am excited about the direction that humane education is about to take in our state. When I first moved to Spartanburg, gained employment as a humane educator and joined the Association of Professional Humane Educators (APHE) there were only two members from South Carolina. Today there are 12 APHE members from our state, and two of those have served on the APHE board (Myself and De Daltorio from Charleston Animal Society).

As public schools nationwide seem to be devoting more and more time teaching for the “tests”, there is less time for outside presentations and field trips

Over the years, I have experimented with several different formats of presentations:

- a one shot single presentation,
- an 11 week kindergarten program,
- a partnership with 4-H on once a month program for the school year.

There are studies out there advocating for each as far as the lasting impact they have on participants. I believe it would be advantageous to have a committee, dialogue with the state education department about compassion curriculum development, as was discussed during Ms. Clark’s presentation. Several

humane educators in South Carolina have developed our own unique programs that might be of interest when developing something for teachers.

There has always been the question, is humane education effective? Why should it be funded? Studies are few and far between but as the discipline grows, more studies will be done. Currently, my organization now has 10 years of data that we are hopeful one day will give us a clue as to humane education's impact on shelter intake and the condition of animals surrendered using Geographic Information System.

There are growing numbers of humane education programs in SC, check out some of these:

<http://www.spartanburghumane.org/classroom-programs.php>

<http://www.greenvillehumane.com/classroom-lessons/>

<http://www.healingspecies.com/>

<https://www.charlestonanimalsociety.org/veterinary-science-initiative/>

<http://www.greenvillecounty.org/ACS/summercamp.asp>

<http://www.letlovelive.org/volunteer-opportunities>

I cannot speak for other humane educators in the state, but I would be happy to assist Ms. Clarke and this committee on any issues related to humane education or pet retention programs.

Kind Regards,

Ingrid Norris

TO : Pet Care and Humane Treatment Study Committee
State of South Carolina

FROM : Laurel A. Berry, DVM

DATE : 10 December 2016

RE : Comments, Observations and Perspective on Recent
Committee Hearings

I would like to thank The Committee for their careful and deliberate construct of agenda topics and questions posed to all of the dedicated animal welfare professionals and volunteers who supplied valuable testimonial information and input in their respective fields or professional disciplines.

It is obvious that the tone established by The Committee reflected a focus on *doing what was best for the animals as well as the general public*. I remain optimistic that, if this focus remains the guiding principle in the process of crafting new legislation, it will be a major step toward substantively reducing pet overpopulation and animal abuse problems within the state.

One of the focus areas that The Committee identified was shelter oversight. If the intention of new legislation is, in part, to reduce pet over-population and animal abuse, shelter oversight must be a component that is thoroughly studied, properly evaluated and uniformly regulated. This aspect is vital to the ultimate success of new legislation and the improvement of animal and public welfare. I was disappointed that shelter oversight issues did not receive the attention I believe necessary to the success of your efforts.

I would like to offer my perspective as a veterinarian; in particular, the unique and critical role the veterinarian plays in shelter medicine and some of the professional conflicts that a shelter veterinarian faces, frequently, on a routine basis.

I am a 1986 graduate of The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine and have been proud to call Bluffton, Beaufort County, S.C. my home since 1991.

Of my 30 years of practicing veterinary medicine, 14 years' have involved shelter medicine. For 5 years, I owned and operated a private practice adjacent to the Jasper County Animal Shelter and provided contractual veterinary services including spays and neuters, exams and consultations for the animal shelter. For the past 9 years, I have been the shelter veterinarian for the Hilton Head Humane Association and have concurrently maintained my relationship of 22 years with a private practice in Beaufort, working one day a week as a surgeon.

In 2012 Beaufort County appointed a new Director of Animal Services who was committed to making positive changes. Shortly after this appointment, Hilton Head Humane Association entered into a contract with Beaufort County to provide veterinary services to the county animal shelter and, by extension, I was tasked to the care of county animals.

Concurrently, in 2012, Hilton Head Humane acquired a spay/neuter clinic in Ridgeland, Jasper County, S.C. and for 3- 1/2 years, I was engaged one to two days per week at the clinic performing high volume, low-cost spays and neuters.

My concurrent involvement with four very different entities;

- the private practice
- the private non-profit
- the county animal shelter
- the low/cost, high volume spay/neuter clinic

has given me a broad cross section of experiences and a unique, informed perspective.

Additionally, I have spent many hours traveling to and visiting a variety of animal shelters in 3 states, both private and government operated, on behalf of the Director of Animal Services of Beaufort County. This, in order to gather information that may be helpful to her efforts to replace their antiquated county shelter facilities with a modern facility with a primary focus of addressing the animal health needs.

Shelter veterinary medicine has evolved rapidly, becoming a much more sophisticated discipline, particularly over the past 10 years. The shelter veterinarian's role is no longer limited to mass inoculations of rabies and a few spays and neuters. The public is demanding improvements in animal welfare and the shelter veterinarian plays an integral role in achieving this by providing a thorough knowledge in a broad range of special areas of learning such as:

1. Internal Medicine
2. Surgery
3. Epidemiology
4. Preventive medicine
5. Infectious disease control
6. Public health
7. Animal behavior
8. Forensics
9. Shelter protocol and policy development
 - a) Animal Intake Procedures and Identification
 - b) Initial Evaluation Criteria

- c) Medical Record Keeping
 - d) Preventive Care Procedures
 - e) Contagious Disease Monitoring Guidelines
 - f) Treatment Protocols
 - g) Symptom Recognition
 - Emergency
 - Non-Emergency
10. Shelter design

In the majority of circumstances, a veterinarian employed in private practice, will be working for a veterinarian practice owner; an owner who started and continues to invest in the practice because of a love and respect for the profession. In most cases the veterinarian is focusing on the medical needs of one individual animal at a time. In this circumstance, the client-patient relationship is quite clear and historically straight forward and the hospital/clinic policies and procedures are established in compliance with the state's veterinary practice act and enforced by the veterinarian owner.

Shelter veterinarians find themselves in vastly different and often conflicted situations. Typically, these veterinarians work as volunteers, employees or as part-time independent contractors for a non-veterinarian director or board of directors with limited or no animal medical backgrounds. While the goals of assisting homeless animals and reducing pet over-population are shared between veterinarians and shelter directors/boards and the individual intentions are pure; well-meaning administrators have often developed policies that are detrimental to the health of the shelter animal populations. Additionally staff is often under-trained and under-supervised, and unless the veterinarian is a full-time employee, there is usually no direct authority provided to the veterinarian regarding staff and animal care. This is compounded by the fact that shelters have not had any oversight or regulations to assist the veterinarian in reinforcing basic animal health and record keeping protocols.

One could assume that the ultimate common goal is to place as many homeless animals into permanent loving homes as possible. Paramount to this is providing healthy animals for adoption either to individuals or to send on transports to other qualified "no-kill" shelters that have more potential adopters than available animals.

A shelter veterinarians' primary role is to make sick animals entering the shelter healthy, while keeping the healthy shelter animals from becoming sick (herd health). Managing the varied shelter animal populations is key to maintaining health. Doing this with limited resources requires creativity, flexibility and sound medical judgement. The shelter veterinarian's role is often compromised by the administration's lack of understanding of the complexities of maintaining the health of the population, and lack of staff experience and training.

- If an animal develops a contagious disease in a shelter it can increase its length of stay by weeks or even months

- If a contagious illness outbreak occurs it can make entire sections of the shelter off-limits to adoptions and new animals cannot be brought into the shelter without risk of exposure
- Treating illnesses is much more expensive and labor intensive and takes resources away from other areas

Maintaining health is dependent on:

1. limiting exposure to disease
 - separating unvaccinated from vaccinated
 - separating high risk populations from low risk (owner relinquished from strays)
 - separating puppies and kittens from adults
 - isolating sick animals from healthy
 - early recognition of signs of contagious illness
 - minimize length of stay- adopt as quickly as possible

The “Fill Every Cage” mindset without regard to the criteria for population separation is common in shelters and possibly arises out of pressure from the public or donors who assume an empty cage is an indication that there is a lack of desire to “help more animals”. If the time is taken to educate those who question the “empty” cage, they can be made aware that there is an animal, currently being treated in the medical ward but that it will soon be occupying this space so that it can be given an opportunity to find a forever home. This is much easier to explain than why an entire section of the shelter has to be quarantined for a disease outbreak.

2. improving immune response
 - proper vaccination protocols (ideally vaccinating at intake)
 - proper parasite control
 - proper nutrition appropriate for age and size
 - reducing stress
 - separate cats from dogs
 - noise control
 - reduce fear (keep aggressive animals away from others, allow safe hiding places in kennels/cages) I have seen situations in which animals were housed together, each was given a bowl of food and the staff did not realize that one animal was not allowing another to eat, possibly for days.
 - promote emotional well-being
 - proper exercise
 - enrichment (human interaction, play groups, toys, etc.)
 - do not over-crowd

Overcrowding is probably the single most common cause of disease outbreaks in shelters.

It is absolutely critical that basic fundamental accurate record keeping systems be in place for all shelters/rescues, private or government, large or small, in the interest of the animals' welfare. Inadequate and inaccurate record keeping creates chaos in an animal shelter. It is inexcusable and a disservice to the animal to not properly identify and

document all medical care rendered to each animal or to not be able to provide an adopter with a copy of the record.

Records should include:

- Animal's ID
- Species, predominant breed, sex and color
- Date of entry
- Source
- Approximate date of birth or age
- Weight
- Immunizations
- Diagnostic tests and results
- Treatments and medications
 - Medications and treatments should only be administered under the advice or in accordance with written protocols provided by a veterinarian, and all drugs must be dispensed in accordance with federal and state regulations.
- Procedures
- Outcome/ method of leaving shelter
- Date of outcome
- Behavior assessment results, if available

At Hilton Head Humane, I am fortunate to have in place an experienced and licensed veterinary technician who has a comprehensive understanding and respect for the Veterinary Practice Act and its' legal and moral implications for me as the licensed veterinarian, who knows the importance of maintaining detailed medical records and who communicates with me regularly regarding medical needs of our animals when I'm not physically present. This is not the typical scenario.

Prescription drugs require a veterinary license to purchase and the veterinarian is listed as the responsible party on the drug supplier's accounts. This can represent a problematic area especially if the employing entity does not share the same concerns as the employed veterinarian for adherence to veterinary regulations. A veterinarian allowing a shelter to purchase prescription drugs under his/her license is trusting the staff to use these medications only as directed by the veterinarian and to follow all prescription labeling requirements yet it remains a common problem for shelters to dispense prescription medications to the public without the knowledge or consent of the veterinarian and often without the required labels.

While every shelter may not be able to hire a veterinarian, a written protocol should be developed with the guidance of a veterinarian for all health care practices and policies. The protocols should be tailored to each shelter's circumstances and resources with the primary focus being Capacity of Care. Capacity for Care is the ability to humanely and adequately care for shelter animals. Every shelter has limitations in animal housing, staffing and funding. Shelters should never exceed their capacity to adequately and humanely care for their animals. Exceeding capacity for care is no different than hoarding.

I have witnessed or have experienced, first hand, many of the problems shelter

veterinarians routinely face in diligently attempting to balance their duty to keep shelter animals healthy within the budgetary and administrative constraints of the shelter and without exposing themselves to misuse/abuse of their veterinary licenses. I believe that the lack of basic, enforceable requirements for all shelters contributes to frustration, professional “burn-out”, fewer veterinarians willing to assist animal shelters and most importantly, negatively impacts the primary goal of placing homeless animals in permanent loving homes.

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: Barbara Mason <mason8626@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 8:10 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

To whom it may concern:

My name is Barbara Mason, and I am currently a resident in Greenville County, SC. I have followed animal cruelty cases and their subsequent lack of enforcement of penalty for several cases in both Greenville and Anderson Countys. The most recent case that has been brought to my attention is as follows:

- On October 30, **2015** Steven Williams was found guilty of animal abuse and fined \$425.
- Judge Stokes was aware that as of that date, Steven Williams still had two other female dogs on his property.
- Rather than remove all 3 dogs from the property in October 2015, the judge removed only one dog and allowed this abuser (that he had just found guilty and fined for animal abuse) to keep the two female dogs.
- This means that this judge knowingly allowed this man an additional year's worth of abuse to not only the two remaining dogs, but also had the ability to obtain yet another dog to continue breeding as well.
- Steven Williams recently abandoned his rental property, as well as all 3 dogs in his "care", and these dogs were sent to Greenville County Animal Care and are subsequently being pulled by local rescue groups.

I feel strongly that a guilty verdict on animal abuse should automatically result in seizure of all animals owned by the guilty party. I would appreciate any input you can give me as to how I can help bring change to the Upstate, SC community regarding animal abuse and cruelty law enforcement. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Mason

Senate Agriculture Committee

From: theaikenhorse@gmail.com on behalf of Pam Gleason <editor@theaikenhorse.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 6:48 PM
To: Senate Agriculture Committee
Subject: PCHTSC

Dear Mr. Hogan & Members of the Committee,

I am not sure if this issue has been specifically addressed by the Pet Care and Humane Treatment Study Committee or not. In case it has not, I would like to highlight an archaic provision in the SC animal laws under which it is currently not illegal to abandon a hunting dog. This provision is referred to as the "hunting dog exception."

I quote:

SECTION 47-1-70. Abandonment of animals; penalties; hunting dog exception.

(A) A person may not abandon an animal. As used in this section "abandonment" is defined as deserting, forsaking, or intending to give up absolutely an animal without securing another owner or without providing the necessities of life. "Necessities of life" includes:

(1) adequate water which means a constant access to a supply of clean, fresh, and potable water provided in a suitable manner for the species;

(2) adequate food which means provision at suitable intervals of quantities of wholesome foodstuff suitable for the species and age, sufficient to maintain a reasonable level of nutrition to allow for proper growth and weight;

(3) adequate shelter which means shelter that reasonably may be expected to protect the animal from physical suffering or impairment of health due to exposure to the elements or adverse weather.

(B) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not less than two hundred nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both. Offenses under this section must be tried in the magistrate's or municipal court.

(C) A hunting dog that is positively identifiable in accordance with Section 47-3-510 or Section 47-3-530 is exempt from this section.

Hunting dogs are dogs like any other and should have identical protections. Too many times, hounds of various types, pointers, beagles and other hunting dogs are found that appear to have been turned out to fend for themselves when their useful days are over. This may be a common practice and one that will be difficult to end, but I can see no legitimate reason for it to be legal. Not only do the dogs themselves deserve protection, but a feral hunting dog is just as big a nuisance to the public –

to people, to livestock and to other wild and domestic animals – as any other feral dog.

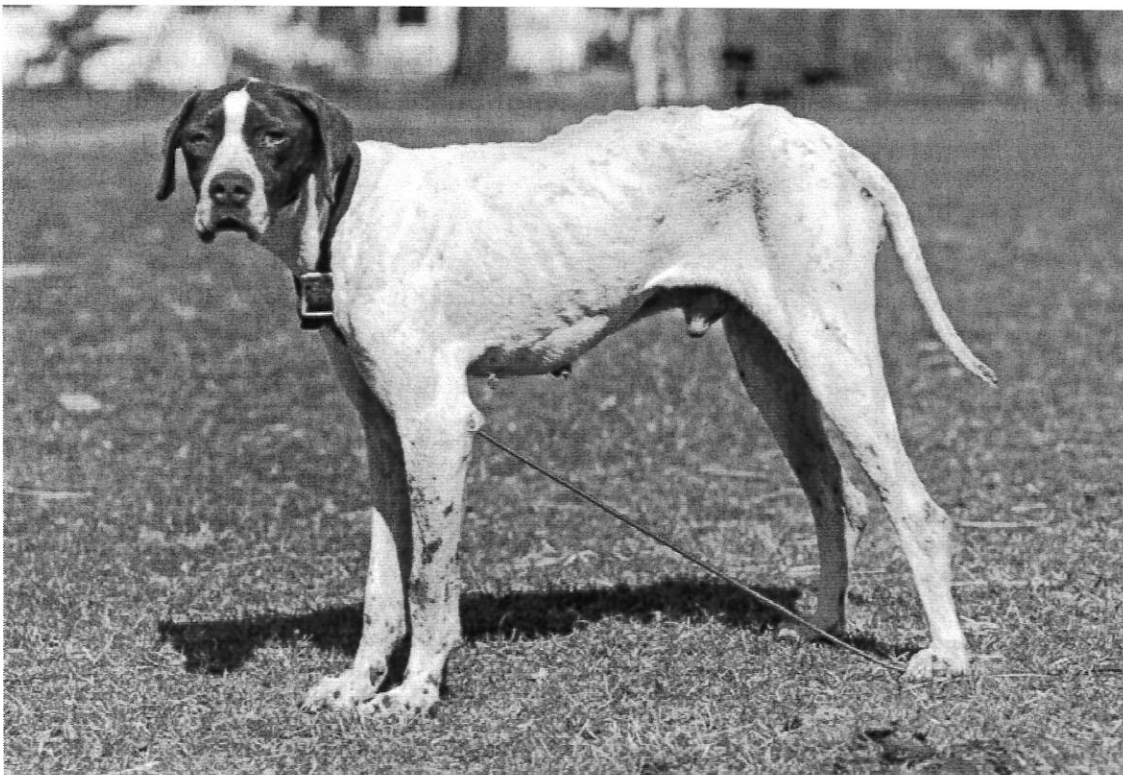
In my opinion the “hunting dog exception” should be stricken in its entirety: people who hunt with dogs need to be just as humane and responsible as people who keep them as pets, and there can be no exception.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Pam Gleason

705 Flowing Well Rd

Wagener, SC 29164



We found this dog fending for himself a few years ago. The nameplate had been pried off of his collar.

This should not be legal. (He did recover completely.)

Pam Gleason
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