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CONTROVERSIAL PENNSYLVANIA DOG RESCUE CASE GOES TO MOTION HEARING APRIL 17

Dogs Deserve Better to Hold Pre-Hearing Rally in Support of Grimes Actions to Save Dying Dog

April 6, 2007, Altoona, PA—Dogs Deserve Better founder Tammy Grimes will be back in court April 17th for a motion hearing to dismiss charges of theft and receiving stolen property. Grimes was arrested September 11, 2006 after taking a dog—unable to stand for three days—for veterinary care; then protecting him from being returned to the abusive situation.

Grimes and her attorneys maintain that there were clearly Pennsylvania cruelty laws being broken for at least three days by the time she arrived on the scene, and charges should instead be filed against the Arnolds for abuse and neglect.

On November 3, 2006 Grimes attorney requested a Bill of Particulars from the Blair County District Attorney's office. As of March 6, the District Attorney's office had either failed or refused to furnish a Bill of Particulars to Grimes' attorneys, thereby entitling Grimes to make a written motion to the court for dismissal.

Grimes states, "I believe we need to take a serious look at a justice system that favors animal abusers. What is this teaching our children? We have ample proof of abuse in this case: neighbor testimony, vet testimony, video and photo evidence. If you see an animal or human dying and in need of immediate help, it is a task given to us by God to help that being and protect him/her from further harm. A system that instead requires an abused child or animal to be returned to the situation in which they were abused is corrupt, and must be questioned and examined if we are to evolve as a society."

The dog, who Grimes dubbed Doogie, had been kept safe and lived inside as part of a family until March 1, 2007, when he passed away due to age and a lifetime of neglect. Doogie's body was returned to Altoona, Pennsylvania, where an autopsy was performed. The DA subsequently ordered the body to be held at the vet and to be returned to the Arnolds.

Grimes continues, "The mere fact that with medical care and a loving environment Doogie lived for another 5.5 months is further proof of abuse—the Arnolds failed to provide necessary veterinary care, clearly required under PA state law. The Arnolds have stated, on the witness stand, that they had planned to euthanize Doogie that very day...almost six months earlier than he went with proper care."

Dogs Deserve Better will hold a rally April 17th at 9:00 a.m. at the Hollidaysburg courthouse before the motion hearing, and asks all those who believe Doogie deserved better to come out in support. The case has made national headlines, and has been featured on Inside Edition, the National Enquirer, Animal People, animal magazines, and on blogs all over the internet.

Dogs Deserve Better is a 501c3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Tipton, Pennsylvania, is the 2003 First Place Winner of the ASPCA Pet Protector Award, and currently has 150 area reps in 38 states as well as in Canada and France. Grimes was a Top Ten Finalist for the 2006 Animal Planet Hero of the Year Contest.