

Cruelty Is A Crime

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HSUS vs. ASPCA in the Vick case

Below is an e-mail I received from a woman in Virginia who is active in rescue, and actually involved in the Michael Vick case. Furthermore, she has given me permission to post her comments on my blog.

First, as you all know, the rescue I volunteer for has served as rescue support for the Vick effort. We have been standing by for when we are needed. We are primarily on call to rescue some non pits involved in the case.

That said.....

You all likely know that HSUS was asked to step in and help handle the pitbull situation since they are a large national organization with a lot of money, a lot of support, and a high profile. What you don't know is that they were asked to leave the effort (by the US Attorneys office) because they couldn't resist putting out press releases that could possibly jeopardize the case against Vick. They were so intent on letting us all know how wonderful they are that they could have ruined the case against Vick. They just couldn't wait to start shooting off their mouths.

If you don't believe me, contact HSUS and ask them. I'm sure that some of you will forward this email to them anyway. Go for it. It's the truth - and HSUS knows it.

They were [soliciting donations](#) for the care of the pitbulls. They never provided any care. Further, if they had expended any funds, I believe that they would have been reimbursed by the Feds.

I am sure that HSUS knows that donations must be used for the purpose they were solicited, so I am equally sure they will notify any donors that their money did NOT go to care for the pitbulls. These donors deserve to know this. If you donated to them, contact them and ask them what they did with your money because it did NOT go to care for any dogs.

Bottom line - they did nothing to help the Vick pits. They bombarded us and the media with solicitations for money, touted what a wonderful thing they were doing (when in fact they did nothing), and basically acted like the media whores we know them to be.

On the flip side, how much did you hear from the ASPCA? Little to nothing, right? Right. They were [involved](#) in a major way in the investigation (on a much larger scale than HSUS) but had the common sense, professionalism, and ethics to keep their mouths shut in order to do the best they could for the dogs.

It's obvious where priorities are for both groups. ASPCA puts the animals first. Publicity and solicitations for money come second.

HSUS wants to grab all the credit they can - even when they don't do anything.

Who are you going to support financially?

My money is going to the ASPCA.

Patti Stinson

Volunteer, www.aforeverhome.org

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/maarr>

Founder (inactive), 4 Paws Rescue Team

www.fourpaws.org

While I don't hold the ASPCA in as high a regard as Ms. Stinson does when it comes to seeking publicity and donations, Ms. Stinson makes some excellent points contrasting the actions of the HSUS versus the ASPCA in this particular case. In fact, I believe this is another example of how the Vick case could be used as an example of what should and shouldn't be done in ALL dog fighting cases.

The police, who initially responded to Michael Vick's property to execute a narcotics warrant did the right thing in recognizing the additional dog fighting crimes. They took the necessary steps to expand their investigation, seize the abused dogs and gather the evidence that eventually lead to the charges.

The feds did the right thing by taking the case before a grand jury, and bringing forward such a strong case that they secured guilty pleas from all the defendants within a month of bringing charges. Furthermore, the feds appropriately utilized a nationally recognized humane organization (the ASPCA) to help build that case.

The ASPCA did the right thing in providing SUPPORT in this case that turned out to be of critical importance. I previously [blogged](#) on their cryptic [announcement](#) of their involvement, and I still believe they were well aware of the publicity and donation payoff coming their way at the end of this case. But the fact is, their involvement was appropriate.

The HSUS did the wrong thing. They tried to do what is all to often done. They tried to use the suffering of the same animals they claim to be helping for their own financial gain. Hopefully the HSUS, and other humane organizations, will learn from the bad press and ill will that is being expressed because of it.

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One Response to “HSUS vs. ASPCA in the Vick case”

1. **What constitutes** Says:

September 18th, 2007 at 2:15 am

[...] was Mr. Goodwin's role? I'm sure Patti Stinson of A Forever-Home Rescue would argue against that [...]

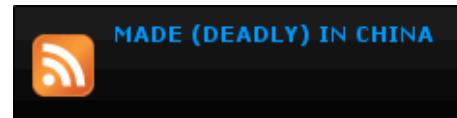
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