



TRIAD LAWS FOR PAWS

Initiating change at the local level is the ultimate goal of Triad Laws for Paws

GREENSBORO, NC, AUGUST 14, 2010- Across the country, animal advocates work tirelessly towards change in laws related to animal cruelty and protection. Thanks to their efforts, forty-six states plus the District of Columbia currently have animal cruelty laws that carry a felony sentence. Susie's Law, recently signed by Governor Perdue making it a Class F felony, which carries active jail time to those convicted of Felony Animal Cruelty. This was a very important and needed step in the right direction, but there are many more steps. Additionally, more and more concerned citizens are stepping up to the plate to voice their support of the legal changes necessary to ensure animals have more and better protection under the law. Sadly, nothing will probably completely eradicate animal cruelty, but a community effort towards effecting changes in laws will, at least, make more perpetrators think twice. However, changes in laws regarding animal cruelty usually start at a local level and upon successful implementation, are typically borrowed by other communities until reaching the state level and finally, the federal level.

Initiating change at the local level is the ultimate goal of Triad Laws for Paws (TLP), a local non-profit organization operated under the auspices of the Humane Society of the Piedmont. The program has been established a mere 5 months, but has already garnered attention at the local level in the city of High Point, Guilford County and Randolph County with the City Council members and County Commissioners alike. TLP is currently involved in some preliminary work taking place to outline potential changes in local laws and ordinances as well as in enforcement of said laws. TLP members

are part of the Guilford County, High Point and Randolph County Advisory Boards to make suggestions and help outline local ordinances for animal cruelty legal changes.

“Ultimately, we want to be the bridge between the segment of the community that strives for major change and the segment of society that still views animals as lesser beings deserving of less humane treatment. There will always be people who do not believe laws are necessary for the protection of animals and who think animal protection laws will negatively impact businesses and industries related to animals and Triad Laws for Paws wants to meet those people halfway. It is not our desire to make changes that will inhibit the growth of industry in the Triad and surrounding communities, but instead, to make changes that will enable local authorities to better identify, target and handle cases of animal cruelty,” said Ginny Wiltsey, Executive Director of the Humane Society of the Piedmont and Founder of the Triad Laws for Paws program. TLP is willing to work with any Triad community, city or county that desires assistance in driving change in animal cruelty laws and ordinances with the intent to improve the lives of the animals.

TLP currently follows local animal cruelty court cases all the way through to the end to establish its presence, to let perpetrators know the community is not unaware of their actions and to show the community it is serious about its purpose. TLP also has a Facebook page with a diverse group of concerned citizens as Friends, from homemakers to professional people, who desire to see changes for the better in our society with regards to animal cruelty laws. The public is invited to Fan Triad Laws for Paws on Facebook to show community support for the program.

If you would like to volunteer to help TLP, please contact Ginny Wiltsey at the Humane Society of the Piedmont at director@hspiedmont.org

###