From: Kate Bartholomew
To: dencc - City Council
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pitbull Ban
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2020 4:04:56 PM

To whom it may concern:

My name is Katelyn and I am writing to you today to ask for a moment of your time regarding the pitbull ban.

Please allow me to tell you a story that my loving, wonderful, snuggly pitbull cannot verbalize herself. Cookie was born into the hands of a man who would abuse her so badly that she would lose her right hind leg as a result. He hit her, and kicked her not only in private but also in public. He abused her in a parking lot at a pet store so badly that it caught the attention of rescue agency volunteers.

Fast forward to Cookie being found at the home of her abuser. She is beaten, starved, and barely hanging on. She's not even a year old. Her leg is in such bad shape that she needs immediate medical attention. Her rescuers brought her to the vet where they did a reconstructive surgery and casted her to help it heal. Unfortunately, in time it would be learned that the damage was too severe, and amputation was necessary.

They amputated her right hind leg, and she grew up adapting to her new situation in a foster home far away from her abuser. Fast forward again. She lands in NY where my mom takes her in as a foster. I meet this adorable, nervous little baby pitbull with a history as gruesome as a nightmare. I fall in love, and she's mine.

She is now 3 years old. Living in comfort, safety, stability and love. She is healthy with some medical issues that couldn't be avoided, because of the damage caused by the man she was rescued from. But now she has me, and I will work hard every day to keep her quality of life at it's absolute best. She deserves that.

You see, what you're failing to understand is that it's not the pitbull breed that is the danger. It's people. It has always been people. People are the reason we can't get our gun laws under control. People are the reason for crime. People are the reason for violence. Dogs just exist and adapt to their environment. If you bring a golden retriever into a violent abusive home and train it to be violent and abusive it's going to be just that. That is not the golden retrievers fault. That is just what it knows, and how it was trained to live. To survive.

Please open your eyes and see the real problem is not Pitbulls, but the people who mistreat them. Spreading of ignorance and fear is not the answer. Saving them is.

Thank you for your time. Your courtesy and consideration is greatly appreciated.

Katelyn Bartholomew
Dogmom and Pitbull Advocate