



November 7, 2008

Joseph R. Macejko, Prosecutor  
26 South Phelps Street  
Youngstown, OH 44503

Dear Prosecutor Macejko:

I am writing to you as president, on behalf of the American Rottweiler Club, a national organization with over 1,000 members many of whom live in Ohio. It has been brought to our attention the disturbing story of the death and torture of several dogs by Steven Croley that has occurred within your jurisdiction. It is our understanding as well that many of the charges have been dropped. Holding a man such as this accountable for his actions and animal cruelty is a must to ensure that not only he is never allowed to do this again but to send a message to others who care so little for animals that have been entrusted to them. Our members locally and nationally have been made aware and are making others aware of the situation in hopes that you will reinstate all charges against Mr. Croley and prosecute him to the fullest, without plea bargain or agreement to reduce any sentence. Mr. Croley should serve the full available jail time for all 19 counts of animal cruelty as originally charged.

We strongly believe that if the humane agents involved acted properly in their initial identification of a problem, such that those counts are proper, then there certainly would have been probable cause to obtain the remaining evidence without violating anyone's constitutional rights. When animals are seen in clear and imminent danger, as initially observed, in plain view, we see no excuse for dropping charges based upon additional evidence found after following up of an emergency situation. In this particular case, it appears they acted promptly and appropriately and you should back their decisions by prosecuting Mr. Croley on all counts.

Not only were these animals, including "Nitro" (the Rottweiler), tangible property of their owners but they were also living, breathing beings. Ohio's cruelty statutes are designed just for this purpose, to protect such animals from abuse. What message does it send to allow Mr. Croley to get away with his actions after the voters of Ohio through their elected representatives, have passed cruelty statutes that clearly apply?

We as an organization and made up of members, many of whom live in Ohio, ask that you prosecute Mr. Croley to the fullest on all counts for all animals and owners involved. We will continue to monitor the outcome of this matter. If we may be of any assistance, please advise at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Gwen Chaney  
President

American Rottweiler Club, Inc.  
5014 Granger Court, Indianapolis, IN 46268-4400

cc: American Rottweiler Club Board of Directors  
Animal Charity  
[www.Vindy.com](http://www.Vindy.com)