

## GARRETT SAYS CRITICS ARE LIKE 9/11 TERRORISTS

*The following e-mail message was obtained during discovery for Atlanta Humane Society v. Mills.*

**From:** Bill Garrett [SMTP: bgarrettahs@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, January 11, 2002 2:17 PM

**To:** abhinton@kyhumane.win.net; astensrud@animalhumanesociety.org; belinda.lewis@ci.ft-wayne.in.us; brohde@ddfl.org; cagostino@hsbroward.com; ChristieS@potterleague.org; director@seaaca.org; dogman@hcsPCA.org; eblow@co.jefferson.ky.us; GTiscornia@spcamc.org; hspca@houstonspca.org; jcasey@ddfl.org; jmccall@dbqhumane.org; jojabrit@aol.com; JSnyder@hsus.org; KathyW@HSMO.org; mpboatfield@hotmail.com; mulliganrr@aol.com; nancy@seattlehumane.org; patb@indyhumane.com; RAIken04@aol.com; sheri.downey@lnk.goexel.net; tedford@lollypop.org; victoria@humane.mil.wi.us

**Subject:** update yo our gang of fellow rogues

I just wanted to give you an update since it has become obvious that a simple defamation/libel case seems to be making the national rounds. Here are some dull straight forward facts. Yes, the Atlanta Humane Society and myself personally have filed more than one suit against individuals for libel. (The printed version of slander). There could very well be more suits.

I do not think it is hype when I say "September 11th" changed all of us forever. Some of us certainly a lot more than others. One of the changes I experienced personally, and I know some of us joked about this before the 11th when everyone saw just how vicious and evil a zealot could be. I no longer joke about those in the animal world who think it is their mission from God to bring down the successful, effective main stream agency and the hard working men and women (many of whom have been involved for years engaged in this work). These people operate under the same premise as those who ran airplanes into buildings. They simply do not care who gets hurt - not the animals, certainly not the people, and not the organizations which they see as mere buildings and symbols to be brought down.

We need to take a lesson from the animal researchers, medical schools, psychologist and psychiatrist who have known for years that with the zealot it has nothing to do with animals. The zealot is only interested in self-aggrandizement and is absolutely in love with that one-eyed monster called a TV camera.

I, in no way, will attempt to speak for any of my colleagues; however, Marsha in Indianapolis; Pam and Becky in Hawaii; Al in Minnesota; Patti in Houston; Eric in Kentucky, and hundreds of others can tell you just how destructive a very few people can be (to any of you I've mentioned I apologize if in any way you wish I hadn't). There are those in our field who know what it is like to be stalked; to have to have police or body guard protectors; to wear body armor and in some instances go armed. The general public thinks this is because we fear the dog fighters, the gang bangers, the unscrupulous breeders and the gamblers. This is simply not the case. Those criminals understand the rules and hide from the law and publicity; the zealot embraces it. They are the ones who send hate mail, phone in the death threats, burn the shelters and attack you and your personal property; and, simply do not give a damn about any people or animals that may get hurt.

Again, I truly am not trying to be guilty of undue hype, I say without emotion that after "September 11th", I said to myself "never again". I do not intend to take the high road anymore and sit back and just pray these vicious little campaigns will just blow over. I am extremely fortunate that so far I have had 100% support from my Board and I do not believe there is a zealot in hiding sitting on my Board. I know many of you have one on your Board, or fear you do. I also know that all of us have well-meaning, well-intentioned Board and supporters who simply do not grasp that there are people who will behave in such insanely vicious behavior. I urge you to please do whatever you can to convince them they truly will. "The best trick the devil ever pulled was to convince us he didn't exist".

A brief report on my situation is that a tabloid type TV reporter using a combination of mis-statements and out right, provable lies, along with edited and incomplete stolen documents ran a story. Even though he

had access to and refused evidence refuting the story. He made the statement, "I don't care if these people are lying, I'm doing a story. If they are lying, sue them". People, these reporters hold these zealots in contempt, ridicule them and still use them. Our zealots have reported straight out that the Atlanta Humane Society was under investigation by the Attorney General of our state. A straight out lie. The Attorney General's office had only been asked for an opinion on a legal question concerning records.

The other component is a small group of people (less than a dozen) with several little "cutsie" organization names engaged in a vicious Internet campaign of more out right lies.

Courts all over the country (and we have received help from, of all places, the Washington Post) in getting this data and have found that Georgia is one of those states that even the appellate courts have said, "the Internet is the newspaper, it is printed on a screen and you can print it on paper. It is not private, it can be and is frequently sent to people uninvited (a lot of you have received this about the Atlanta Humane Society and myself; it is untrue and, it is libel.) We have chosen to go after these people and fight.

People, in concluding this epistle, I am now going to be guilty of some hype. "This is not an effort to send you a wake up call like those nice little soft rings you get in some hotel (where you are probably doing a work shop for free or at your own expense), but it is a trumpet in your ear sounding out loud, clear and long.

We all need to wake up and start fighting back. These people are small in number, but are capable of huge destruction. Less than a dozen people brought down the World Trade Center and killed thousands. I guess you can say, someone has figuratively flown a piper cub into my building. The fight is on. We are looking to win, we intend to stop this evil.

These zealots will seek the help of every vicious little cell in your community and sadly they will get it. I ask that you and your Boards consider "If we don't do something, will it ever stop and when will it be our turn?" The answer is never and your turn is now.

Best, Bill Garrett

Thank you for listening. I will try to respond to any inquiries you may have, but things are going to be a little busy around here.

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The friends to whom Garrett sent this message are:

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