SB581 Good afternoon,

On June 20th of 2018 my wife and I came home from our Rotary Club meeting at around 8pm. Three of our four dogs came running as usual to greet us, however Buddy was very slow to greet us. I checked him over and found a bloody hole on his abdomen.

We rushed him to the emergency vet in Annapolis and they said it was a superficial wound and to treat it topically. The next day things changed and back to the emergency vet in Annapolis. They did an x-ray and found a metallic round object in this spleen.

We took Buddy to our Vet in Pasadena and Dr. Vera at Happy Tails did the operation as she was way less expensive then the Emergency Vets. The Emergency Vets wanted \$10,000! Our vet charged me Two thousand dollars.

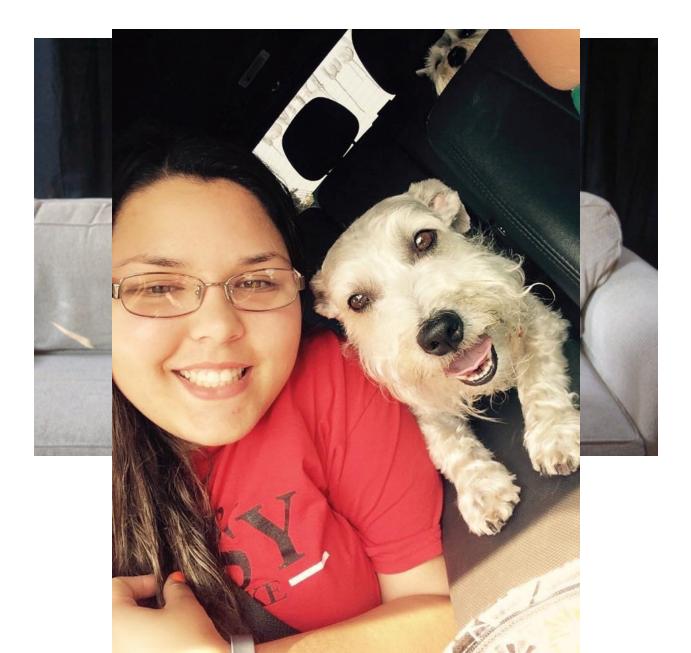
Buddy crossed the rainbow bridge on June 30th of 2018. We believe that one of our previous neighbors shot Buddy with the same BB rifle that they would shoot the Geese with. We called Anne Arundel Police and spoke with Det. Milford. He informed me that he would do his best, but since our beloved pet's are considered Property in Maryland. He did go to the house and the riffle was on the kitchen counter.

He came over to tell me what he saw but they were no cooperative. The husband tried to tell him that my son shot his own dog! He said he would take a polygraph as long as my son would take one. He said his wife would not take one. On the day that was set up he never showed up. My son passed it with flying colors.

In late August I had professionally installed cameras all around our house. When they were finished my wife posted on "Justice for Buddy" on Facebook that we can see their pimples. Labor Day weekend they put their house up for sale and moved to the other side of the Baltimore beltway.

We sued them in civil court, by the time things progressed through the courts we were in the middle of Covid-19. I promised Buddy as he was dying in my arms that I would get Justice for him and to help others in similar circumstances. In 2019 we started with bills in the House and the Senate. We did get it through the House but not the Senate.

I spent over \$14,000 to save our beloved Buddy a 20lb. Schnoodle. Plus over \$22,000 in attorneys fees. We need to get this passed as this happens more than we all realize. Our police need more to be able to get these types of Horrible people arrested and brought to Justice. Our pets are not



## Property. They are Family. I have attached pictures of our beloved Buddy with his siblings.



## Please, please let's get this done. SB581