



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FOSTER DOG OF MARYLAND ANTI-CHAINING ADVOCATE POISONED**

**Reward of \$14,125 offered for information leading to arrest and prosecution of killer**

6 March, 2007, Altoona, PA — Niko, a formerly penned dog fostered by Dogs Deserve Better Area Rep Lynne Gillis was poisoned February 16, 2007, by what was seemingly a tennis ball thrown into Ms. Gillis' fenced yard. The case is currently under investigation by the criminal investigation team at the Calvert County, Maryland Sheriff's Department.

Niko, who was featured in the DDB Holiday Gift Program, was set to be adopted by Ms. Gillis, and had become part of her family.

According to States Attorney Laura Martin, the killer will face felony charges punishable by up to 3 years in prison and a \$50,000 fine.

Ms. Gillis has stepped aside as Area Rep while she assists in the investigation of the crime. It remains unclear at this point whether the poisoning was a result of Ms. Gillis work for chained dogs, or if there was other motivation for the crime.

Tammy Grimes, founder of Dogs Deserve Better, states: "We are doing all we can to assist Ms. Gillis in obtaining justice for Niko's death. We have not ruled out the possibility that this attack was an act of vengeance against Ms. Gillis for her work with chained and penned dogs. We have provided the criminal investigation team a list of all Maryland addresses to which we've mailed educational materials. A person who would commit a crime of this nature is unconscionable. Please, if you have any information pertaining to this case, call the Calvert County Sheriff's Department or our office at 1.877.636.1408 immediately."

Dogs Deserve Better, along with the Humane Society of the United States and other groups and individuals have banded together to offer a reward that now stands at \$14,125 for any information leading to the arrest and prosecution of the killer.

Dogs Deserve Better is a 501c3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Tipton, Pennsylvania, is the 2003 First Place Winner of the ASPCA Pet Protector Award, and currently has 150 area reps in 38 states as well as in Canada. For more information, visit the website at [www.dogsdeservebetter.org](http://www.dogsdeservebetter.org).