

## Roberta DiMezza

---

**From:** Leah Collins <leahmcollins24@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 2, 2026 12:08 PM  
**Cc:** nardone@rilegislature.gov; noret@rilegislature.gov; read@rilegislature.gov; roberts@rilegislature.gov; raptakis@rilegislature.gov; ag@riag.ri.gov; info@rispca.org; House Judiciary Committee  
**Subject:** Constituent Concern: Inadequate Penalties for Severe Animal Cruelty

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

[You don't often get email from leahmcollins24@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Representatives

I am a Rhode Island resident writing to you with deep concern following a recent animal cruelty case in Coventry in which a woman who starved her dog received community service as part of a plea deal.

I understand that sentencing decisions involve many legal factors, but intentional starvation is prolonged and extreme abuse. Outcomes like this feel profoundly inadequate and have left many members of the community disturbed and discouraged. When consequences are minimal, it sends a message that animal cruelty is not treated with the seriousness it deserves.

I am urging you, as my representative, to support stronger animal cruelty laws and sentencing standards in Rhode Island — including tougher penalties for severe neglect, limits on plea reductions in extreme cases, and permanent bans on animal ownership for offenders.

This issue matters deeply to me and to many others who believe animals deserve meaningful protection under the law. I would appreciate knowing your position on strengthening animal cruelty penalties and whether this is something you are willing to advocate for.

Thank you for your time and for representing our community.

Sincerely,  
Leah Collins

Sent from my iPhone