



*Letters to the editor*

## An expensive lesson about dogs running loose

This is a message to everyone who loves and cherishes their family dog.

I am the proud owner of four wonderful dogs -- a rottweiler named Chopper, a black pug named Mr. Pugglesworth, a pit bull named Sosha and a new addition to the family, a pit bull German Shepherd mix named Loco.

This story is about my pit bull named Sosha. She originally was owned by my neighbors, who purchased her from the Humane League.

My neighbor ended up extremely ill and could not take care of her anymore, so I adopted her into my family.

Sosha is the biggest lovey anyone could ever have, but her only downfall is is that she is quite the escape artist. She loves being outdoors and, if she sees a way to get outside, she takes it.

We live in a wooded area, but there are houses nearby. So, when she gets out, she usually ends up down the street.

In recent months, Sosha got out a few times, and two of the times a West Hempfield Police officer brought her back before we could find her.

The first time the police brought her back, the officer cited me for her license being expired, and I received a \$140 fine. Quite understandable.

The second time, the officer informed me that this is no longer a misdemeanor but a criminal charge and I could possibly do jail time for this.

Mind you, the second time she was brought back, it was a different officer who was quite rude.

Just the other day, I received paperwork of a criminal case filed against me and that I would have to go to court which, upon the time of the court hearing, bail would be set.

Also in the paperwork was a paper stating I need to go to West Hempfield Township Police Department to be fingerprinted.

Mind you, this is all just from her getting loose. She did not harm any humans, property or any other animal while being loose.

I can't help but wonder if this would actually be taking place if it were my little pug who got loose instead.

I also can't help but wonder why the creeps out there who harm, neglect and starve their dogs, cats and, especially, horses seem to only get a slap on the wrist and are let go to do the same thing to their animals all over again.

This is a warning to all you dog owners and, especially, to the dogs that they consider vicious (even though the police brought her back in the squad car, not tied down) that you may find yourself in a heap of trouble if your dog gets loose.

**Maxine Kurtz, West Hempfield Township**

