No way to justify shooting of dog

 I felt so sad and hopeless after reading about Derrick Simonis's dog, Dutchess, being shot.

I cried hearing how the beloved pet made it home and over the fact that some human was cold enough to shoot a pet. This is where I totally disagree with the person who wrote about ?Dog owners have responsibilities.?

Yes, we do but there are circumstances beyond our control and like anything else, people should not make decisions over other's lives, human or animal. If someone was upset that the dog wandered onto their property it should have been dealt with very differently.

I do agree with being responsible for your pet but the letter was cold and times have changed. Dogs are part of people's families now, they are not just farm dogs anymore. I don't know how often Dutchess wandered off the property but some things are out of an owner's control and the dog nor the owner should be punished with shooting a family pet.

Sometimes dogs and cats get out of their owners control, it happens, and hopefully they return home safely and most times the owners are very careful after that. If a neighbouring farmer has a problem with someone else's dog wandering onto his property, there are a number of different ways to handle the situation and shooting the pet is not one of them, not in today's world!

I'm in my 50s and have had a lot of dogs and cats over the years and still own both now. I am very responsible and keep control of them but one day someone else could leave the gate open and I may not know. If that were to happen I would hope that someone would return my dog or report it found but didn't shoot it.

We have stopped and helped a few dogs on our road, keeping them safe until the owner, looking frantically for them, drove by and they were returned safely. My animals are a huge part of our family, they live with us, inside and out and I felt the absolute heartbreak of losing ?Buddy? my cat that I had for 18 years to kidney disease.

My condolences to the Simonis family.

Name Withheld Upon Request