

ROSIE'S LAW INITIATIVE

Press Coverage

Compendium

A curated collection of national media coverage documenting the story of Rosie and the movement for companion animal custody equity in Illinois and beyond.

+70

Legislative
Supporters

+565

Media Outlets
Covering Initiative

+35

Advocacy
Organizations Aligned

1

Official
Legislative Hub

HB4540 — Companion Animal Custody Equity Act

Originally proposed & framework drafted by the Rosie's Law Initiative

www.rosieslaw.us

Justice for Rosie · Illinois Companion Animal Custody Equity

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ABOUT THIS COMPENDIUM

About This Compendium

This document compiles published press coverage related to Rosie's Law — a legislative and advocacy initiative founded by Dr. Tameer Siddiqui in response to a personal experience that revealed a profound gap in Illinois law: the treatment of companion animals as property rather than sentient beings with emotional bonds and welfare needs.

Rosie — a senior Puggle whose forced separation from her primary caregiver sparked national media attention — became the catalyst for HB4540, the Companion Animal Custody Equity Act. The bill has advanced through the Illinois Senate Judiciary Committee and is proceeding to a second reading, representing a historic milestone in companion animal law.

The articles gathered here were published independently across multiple national media outlets between November 2025 and the present. Together, they document both the human story behind the initiative and the broader legal and emotional case for reform.

"Rosie isn't property. She's family. Love shouldn't require a marriage license to be recognized in court."

— Dr. Tameer Siddiqui, Founder, Rosie's Law Initiative

Advocacy Resources

Website: www.rosieslaw.us

Petition: www.change.org/p/bring-justice-for-rosie-reform-illinois-pet-custody-laws

Legislation: HB4540 — Companion Animal Custody Equity Act (Illinois)

ARTICLE 01

Hollywood Daily Magazine

Rosie's Story: Why Illinois Must Rethink Its Pet Custody Laws

By Mia Thompson · November 17, 2025

www.hollywooddailymag.com/2025/11/17/rosies-story-why-illinois-must-rethink-its-pet-custody-laws/

Rosie, a senior Puggle with warm brown eyes and a gentle, trusting nature, spent most of her life in the care of one person — Tameer Siddiqui, the woman who fed her, trained her, groomed her, protected her, and loved her as family. For years, Tameer was not just part of Rosie's world — she was Rosie's world. Daily walks, medical appointments, routines built around comfort, emotional support, and a home filled with stability became the center of Rosie's life. But when Tameer's engagement ended, everything Rosie knew vanished overnight.

A Family Bond Erased by an Outdated Law

Despite being Rosie's primary caregiver for the majority of the dog's life, Tameer discovered that in Illinois, her devotion meant little in the eyes of the law. Because she and her former partner were not married, Rosie was not treated as a sentient being with a clear attachment and emotional needs — she was viewed strictly as property under Illinois' replevin statute.

Even though the former partner could not prove ownership beyond old veterinary records and social-media photos, and despite Tameer presenting extensive documentation of caregiving, the court still ruled against her. Witness affidavits from Rosie's groomer, sitter, and neighbors were dismissed as 'hearsay' simply because these individuals had to return to work before the delayed hearing was called.

In barely thirty minutes, the judge handed Rosie back to the person who had not been her primary caregiver for years — invoking 'sequence,' the idea that whoever originally acquired the pet automatically maintains possession. That single decision shattered a deeply bonded relationship.

A Call for Reform

Today, Tameer is speaking publicly so others don't experience the same devastating loss. Her mission is to push Illinois toward compassionate, modern pet-custody laws that recognize animals as sentient beings, consider caregiving, attachment, and welfare, protect bonds formed outside marriage, and prevent emotionally traumatic separations.

"Not who holds the paperwork. Who holds the leash. Who holds the history. Who holds the love."

ARTICLE 02

Hollywood Times Magazine

Rosie's Story: The Dog Torn From Her Caregiver and the Law That Allowed It

By David Meltzer · November 13, 2025

www.hollywoodtimesmag.com/why-the-usa-needs-to-rethink-its-pet-custody-laws/

When we talk about family, pets are often at the center of that definition. They're not just animals — they're companions, emotional anchors, and, for many people, chosen family. Yet in the eyes of the law, pets continue to be treated as property. And as one Illinois woman recently learned, that classification can carry devastating consequences.

Her story begins with Rosie — a sweet, energetic Puggle who had been her closest companion for more than seven years. She raised Rosie, trained her, paid for her medical care, and documented every stage of her growth. To her, Rosie was not 'a pet.' She was family.

But when her engagement ended, she discovered a painful truth: because she and her partner were not legally married, the state of Illinois did not recognize her right to even argue for custody of the dog she had cared for every day. Under Illinois law, pet-custody considerations apply only to married couples going through divorce. Unmarried partners — even those who have spent years sharing responsibility, love, and daily care — are excluded entirely.

The Emotional Toll on Rosie

What makes the situation even more troubling is that Rosie suffers from severe separation anxiety. She depended on her primary caregiver for emotional stability — something any behavioral specialist could attest to. Yet the court declined to consider Rosie's psychological well-being. For those who understand animal behavior, this wasn't just a legal oversight; it was an act of harm.

Research consistently shows that pets experience emotional distress, grief, and attachment in ways that parallel human bonds. Losing a primary caregiver can lead to anxiety, depression, and even physical symptoms in animals.

A National Problem

Although a few states — including California, Alaska, and Illinois (but only for married couples) — have introduced pet-custody laws that consider an animal's best interest, the majority of the country still lags behind. In a society where people are delaying marriage or choosing not to marry at all, laws built around outdated family structures fail to recognize modern relationships and leave countless animals vulnerable.

Rosie's story is not unique. It mirrors the experiences of countless pet guardians across the country who have lost their animals not because they were unfit, but because the law refused to acknowledge the depth and legitimacy of their bond.

8,767+ views on Hollywood Times Magazine alone. It's time for the U.S. to rethink its pet custody laws. Pets deserve far better.

ARTICLE 03

Los Angeles Feature Magazine

One Dog. One Verdict. One Movement.

November 22, 2025

www.losangelesfeature.com/world/one-dog-one-verdict/

Following her own clinical decline, Dr. Tameer Siddiqui submitted documentation identifying Rosie as a service dog — but she is clear: the designation was never the point. The point was Rosie herself. The bond. The years of care. The love that Illinois law refused to see.

Los Angeles Feature Magazine profiled the case that became a movement — a story that began in a Cook County courtroom and grew into a statewide legislative push. The piece captures what happens when a legal system built around property rights meets the undeniable emotional reality of human-animal bonds.

One dog. One verdict rendered in thirty minutes. And a movement that would not stop.

Published in the World section of Los Angeles Feature Magazine, this article brought the story to a broader national readership, situating Rosie's case within the wider conversation about what it means to be a family in the eyes of the law — and who gets left out.

ARTICLE 04

The NY Telegraph

Rosie's Story: The Separation That Sparked a Movement for Pet Custody Reform

Published 2025

www.thenytelegraph.com/rosies-story-the-separation-that-sparked-a-movement-for-pet-custody-reform/

The NY Telegraph chronicled the origin story of the Rosie's Law Initiative — the moment a personal loss became a public cause. For Dr. Tameer Siddiqui, the separation from Rosie was not just heartbreaking. It was a revelation about the invisible wall that Illinois law erects between caregivers and the animals they love when those caregivers are not married.

The article traces the arc from separation to advocacy: from the courtroom where Rosie was treated as property, to the statehouse where HB4540 — the Companion Animal Custody Equity Act — would begin its journey through the Illinois legislature.

The piece frames Rosie's case not as an isolated injustice, but as a spark — the kind of story that makes people say: this has to change. And it is changing.

PUBLIC PETITION

Change.org**Bring Justice for Rosie — Reform Illinois Pet Custody Laws**www.change.org/p/bring-justice-for-rosie-reform-illinois-pet-custody-laws

Alongside the press coverage, a public petition on Change.org has amplified the reach of the Justice for Rosie campaign, inviting supporters across Illinois and the country to add their voice to the call for reform. The petition calls on Illinois legislators to:

- Extend pet-custody protections beyond married couples to all domestic partners and co-habiting caregivers
- Require courts to consider the best interest of the animal — including established bonds and primary caregiving history
- Treat companion animals as sentient beings, not personal property, in custody disputes
- Close the legal gap that currently leaves unmarried caregivers with no recognized rights

The petition complements HB4540's legislative progress and serves as a direct line for public engagement with the Rosie's Law Initiative. Every signature represents a person who believes that love — not paperwork — should determine where a companion animal belongs.

ABOUT THE INITIATIVE

Rosie's Law Initiative

The Rosie's Law Initiative is an Illinois-based legislative and public advocacy campaign founded by Dr. Tameer Siddiqui, a licensed clinical psychologist and the primary caregiver at the center of the case that inspired it. The Initiative's central legislative vehicle is HB4540 — the Companion Animal Custody Equity Act — which recently passed the Illinois Senate Judiciary Committee and is advancing to a second reading.

The Initiative advocates for a legal framework in which companion animals are recognized as sentient beings with emotional needs, established attachments, and welfare interests — not merely as items of personal property to be divided in disputes. It seeks to extend the caregiving-centered protections currently available only to married couples under Illinois law to all caregivers, regardless of marital status.

Key People

Name	Role
Rep. Barbara Hernandez	Primary Bill Sponsor, HB4540
Senator Linda Holmes	Senate Bill Sponsor, HB4540
Dr. Tameer Siddiqui	Founder & Director, Rosie's Law Initiative
Hassan Mustafa	Policy Outreach Coordinator

Contact & Resources

Website: www.rosieslaw.us
Petition: www.change.org/p/bring-justice-for-rosie-reform-illinois-pet-custody-laws
Legislation: HB4540 — Illinois General Assembly

This press compendium was compiled by the Rosie's Law Initiative · May 2026 For media inquiries or to request additional materials, visit www.rosieslaw.us