Lily’s folks went on vacation and Lily was anxious in her cage and she soiled it. But when it came time to clean the cage, Lily was so scared that the caretaker could not remove her so he cleaned around her. Lily immediately burned her tongue (50% has been removed including all taste buds) burned her foot pads and burned out her lungs and developed pneumonia. After 8 nights in the hospital Lily lives but not without round the clock care. More concerned about his reputation on social media than paying for the dog’s care, the owner’s representative offered a defense to our initial demand letter by reasoning that Lily consented to the chemical solutions being poured on and around her when she did not leave her cage.

The law must change to treat pets as more than simple property.  Those we pay to care for our pets should be held responsible for more than the cost to repair or replace them when they goof up.   Boston Dog Lawyers took a leap this week and filed suit for $500,000 on behalf of Lilly and her family, seeking punitive and emotional damages.  Through the courts we are looking to cajole future good behavior by financially punishing bad behavior.  The odds are against us recovering anything more than costs. But we have got to ask, right?  Finally holding pet professionals responsible for their mistakes seems like a logical way to work toward improved handling measures. This cold shoulder given to pet victims and their parents has been a way of life for far too long. We must force those we rely on to care for our pets to maintain higher standards and one way to do it is to raise the stakes when they let us down. Changes to laws come about on a very local level and we should all know where our city and state representatives stand on improving legal protections for our pets.

Ultimately the case resolved and Lily was treated as more than property because we had a progressive judge overseeing the matter.