

# [***Kristi Noem Hit With Brutal Community Note***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BY2-X3R1-JBR6-90XB-00000-00&context=1516831)

Newsweek.com

May 3, 2024 Friday 7:46 AM EST

Copyright © 2024 Newsweek Inc. All Rights Reserved



**Length:** 701 words

**Byline:** James Bickerton

**Highlight:** Kristi Noem's defense of the killing of her dog Cricket allegedly morphs from "danger to livestock" to "threat to her kids."

**Body**

South Dakota Governor [*Kristi Noem*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/kristi-noem?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) has been hit by a community note on X, formerly [*Twitter*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/twitter?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), after her reasons for killing her dog, Cricket, allegedly "morphed" from "livestock threat" to "danger to her children".

Noem, who has been tipped as a potential 2024 running mate for [*Donald Trump*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/donald-trump?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), [*describes shooting the farm dog*](https://www.newsweek.com/republicans-slam-kristi-noem-killing-puppy-1894765?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) dead in her forthcoming book *No Going Back: The Truth on What's Wrong with* ***Politics*** *and How We Move America Forward*.

Community notes are written by X users and attached to a tweet if there is enough support for them from others on the platform. In this case, the note picks up on the lack of any mention that the dog had put her children at risk in a short excerpt from her book published by *The Guardian*.

After publication of the extract, in which Noem also describes killing a goat for being smelly and chasing her children, she defends her actions in a tweet, saying: "We love animals, but tough decisions like this happen all the time on a farm."

But the episode has sparked a backlash, including from some [*Republicans*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republicans?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), and resulted in a [*sharp fall in the bookies' odds*](https://www.newsweek.com/kristi-noem-killing-dog-trump-running-mate-odds-1894844?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) on Noem being chosen as Trump's prospective vice president.

On Thursday Noem again defended her actions on X [*commenting*](https://twitter.com/KristiNoem/status/1786018855476777270): "Don't believe the #fakenews media's twisted spin. I had a choice between the safety of my children and an animal who had a history of attacking people & killing livestock. I chose my kids."

The governor also shared a segment from a [*Fox News*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/fox-news?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) interview with host [*Sean Hannity*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/sean-hannity?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in which she claims Cricket was an "extremely dangerous" working dog.

She said: "It had come to us from a family who had found her way too aggressive, we were her second chance and the day she was put down was the day she massacred livestock that were part of our neighbors. She attacked me and it was a hard decision.

"The reason its in this book is this book is filled with tough challenging decisions I've had to make throughout my life … this was a dangerous animal and I had a choice between keeping my small children and other people safe or a dangerous animal and I chose the safety of my children."

However other X users were unconvinced by this and attached the community note which stated: "Noem's description of why she shot Cricket has morphed. Her book describes the dog as untrainable for pheasant hunting + killed chickens.

"When criticized Noem altered her story from Cricket snapped at her to did bit her, to biting history, to 'danger to children.'"

The note also included links to articles from *The Guardian*, [*CNN*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/cnn?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), Forbes and FOX 5 KSWB-TV referencing these claims. Community notes "require agreement between contributors who have sometimes disagreed in their past ratings."

According to the extract published by *The Guardian* Cricket was a "wirehair pointer, about 14 months old" which Noem wanted to train for pheasant hunting.

However, the dog allegedly ruined a hunt by going "out of her mind with excitement, chasing all those birds and having the time of her life." Then, on the way home, Noem says the dog attacked another family's chickens "grabb[ing] one chicken at a time, crunching it to death with one bite, then dropping it to attack another."

When she grabbed Cricket, Noem claimed the dog "whipped around to bite me." In response Noem branded the dog "untrainable" and "less than worthless … as a hunting dog," adding "I hated that dog."

Concluding it was "dangerous to anyone she came in contact with" Noem shot Cricket in a gravel pit along with a "nasty and mean" goat which had taken to chasing her children.

*Newsweek* contacted Governor Noem via the contact form on her official website at 5 a.m. ET on Friday. This article will be updated if she decided to comment.

Noem [*defended her actions*](https://www.newsweek.com/kristi-noem-responds-after-backlash-over-killing-puppy-1894966?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) in a statement published on April 28 in which she insisted she "followed the law and was being a responsible parent, dog owner, and neighbor."

The [*Republican*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republican?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) added: "South Dakota law states that dogs who attack and kill livestock can be put down. Given that Cricket had shown aggressive behavior toward people by biting them, I decided what I did. As I explained in the book, it wasn't easy. But often the easy way isn't the right way."

The book, published by Center Street, is due out on May 7.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2387558/south-dakota-governor-kristi-noem.jpg)

**Graphic**

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem

KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/AFP/GETTY

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem speaking during a Buckeye Values PAC Rally in Vandalia, Ohio, on March 16, 2024. An X post from Noem defending shooting her dog Cricket dead received a community note from other users of the platform.

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2024

**End of Document**