

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Thursday, May 16, 2024

Members present: Pat Brougham, Peg Flory, and Alis Headlam. Also present, Interim Animal Control Officer Sergeant Williams, Officer Ducharme, and Clerk Kapusta.
Also in attendance: Kiersten Sheldon, James Sheldon, and Michelle Wu.
Absent: Carrie Savage, Henry Heck, and Megan LaChance.

Chair Brougham called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM and noted that the Board was asked to hear a Concerning Canine complaint from Sergeant Williams, Interim Animal Control Officer, who along with Officer Ducharme investigated an incident that occurred on April 16, 2024, with a dog named Zuma and owned by Kiersten and James Sheldon (complainant) and a dog named Scarlet owned by Michelle Wu (respondent). Chair Brougham introduced all members and participants present. Chair Brougham asked if there were any conflicts or ex-parte communications from the Board. Seeing none, Chair Brougham asked Clerk Kapusta to swear in anyone giving testimony or evidence. Kiersten Sheldon, James Sheldon, Michelle Wu and Sergeant Williams were all sworn in.

Sergeant Williams read the Concerning Canine Complaint form and explained that Zuma was attacked unprovoked by another dog, Scarlet on the roadway which required Zuma to have surgery for an internal injury to his head. Sargent Williams presented evidence including sworn statements, vet records and police reports.

Mrs. Sheldon was asked to comment on the incident and gave verbal testimony of the incident. Mrs. Sheldon had got home from work and decided to take Zuma for a walk. She had Zuma on a leash and walked out the front door. As she was passing by the respondent's house, a dog named Scarlet came running from the driveway and attacked Zuma. After the attack Mrs. Sheldon told the neighbor to get her dog Mrs. Sheldon brought Zuma to the veterinarian to be examined the day after the attack. The veterinarian discovered Zuma had suffered an aural hematoma to his ear. Zuma is up to date on his vaccinations and is registered with the City of Rutland.

There was a brief Q & A with Mrs. Sheldon and the Board.

Miss Wu was asked to comment on the incident and gave verbal testimony. Miss Wu attends college in Syracuse, NY and stated that her dog Scarlet was at her mom's house for three (3) weeks while she had final exams. Miss. Wu was not at the house when this attack happened. Miss. Wu's mother cared for the dog. Miss. Wu's mother was not able to attend the hearing. Miss. Wu stated that her mother told her that she was at the side door taking Scarlet off the run and the dog got loose and ran around the back of the house. The mother said she heard someone say go away and she called Scarlet, and the dog came back. The mother had no idea that Scarlet had attacked another dog. Scarlet is registered in Syracuse, NY and is up to date on vaccinations.

There was a brief Q & A with Miss. Wu and the Board.

With no further questions from the Board, the Board concluded the open meeting session at 6:35 PM. At 6:40 PM the Board went into deliberations. The Board adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracy L. Kapusta
Clerk of the Board of Animal Control