

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Members present: Police Commissioner Pat Brougham, Peg Flory, Alis Headlam, and Carrie Savage. Also present, Sergeant Williams, Attorney LaChance, and Clerk Kapusta. Absent Henry Heck.

Chair Brougham called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and noted that the Board was asked to hear a Concerning Canine complaint from Sergeant Williams, who investigated an incident that occurred on March 3, 2024, with a dog named Sandy owned by Kristen Eddy (respondent) and a Dog named Tucker owned by Dan Pearson (complainant). 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. Sergeant Williams, Kristen Eddy and Dan Pearson were sworn in.

Sergeant Williams explained that he received this animal bite report from Rutland City Health Officer Michael Brookman on April 17, 2024. Apparently the hospital had not forwarded the report in a timely manner as the incident took place on March 3, 2024. Sergeant Williams read the Concerning Canine Complaint form and explained that Ms. Eddy and her dog Sandy were attacked and bitten unprovoked by Tucker and required emergency medical attention. Sergeant Williams presented evidence including sworn statements, medical records, and police reports. Sandy is a 30–40-pound light brown male mixed breed dog that was registered and vaccinated at the time of the incident. Tucker is a 67-pound American Pit Bull male according to East Wood Animal Clinic and was vaccinated at the time of the incident. Tucker was not registered with the City of Rutland until June 10, 2024.

There was a brief Q & A with Sergeant Williams and the Board.

Chair Brougham then asked Ms. Eddy to explain what happened. Ms. Eddy explained that she had been walking her two (2) dogs, Sandy and Mack, before she had to go to work and had just returned to her driveway, when Tucker came across the street and approached Sandy in a way that made Ms. Eddy feel that he was going to attack him. When Tucker attacked Sandy, Ms. Eddy's other dog Mack attempted to flee which caused Ms. Eddy to become entangled in his leash and she fell to the ground. That's when Sandy and Tucker started fighting over her and Ms. Eddy was bitten on the back of her right thigh and right ring finger. Ms. Eddy stated the injury on her thigh was too severe to be caused by Sandy. Neither of Ms. Eddy's dogs were injured during the attack. Ms. Eddy did seek medical attention at the hospital for the injuries she received.

There was a brief Q & A with Ms. Eddy and the Board.

Chair Brougham then asked Mr. Pearson to explain what happened. Mr. Pearson was moving a new radiator into his home and believes the door to the residence was left open allowing Tucker to escape. Mr. Pearson did not witness the attack but as soon as he realized that Tucker got out he ran over to get him. Mr. Pearson stated he bit Tucker on his ear to get him to stop. Mr. Pearson took Tucker to the vet, but he did not need medical attention just a little cleaning up. Mr. Pearson adopted Tucker five (5) years ago and has never had any problems with Tucker and the other dog he owns. He said that Tucker is always harnessed and has a fenced in area in the back yard. Mr. Pearson said that he has been in constant contact with Ms. Eddy to make sure that she is alright. Mr. Pearson also stated that Tucker is a Rhodesian Ridgeback not an American Pit Bull.

There was a brief Q & A with Mr. Pearson and the Board.

With no further questions from the Board, the Board concluded the open meeting session at 6:24 PM.

At 6:25 PM a motion was made and seconded (Flory, Headlam) to enter into deliberative session. Motion passed.

At 6:51 PM a motion was made and seconded (Savage, Headlam) to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy L. Kapusta
Clerk of the Board of Animal Control