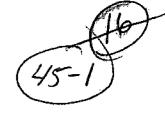


CITY OF SACRAMENTO



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

915 I STREET CITY HALL ROOM 203 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 TELEPHONE (916) 449-5426

April 10, 1985

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Mayor and City Council City Hall Sacramento, CA 95814

Members in Session:

SUBJECT:

Appeal of Bridget Ow from the decision of the Animal Control Division regarding two vicious animals.

SUMMARY

Attached is the appeal of Bridget Ow from the decision of the Animal Control Division, as required by Section 6.104 of the Sacramento City Code.

BACKGROUND

Under Sections 2.323 and 2.324 of the City Code, the Council may appoint a hearing examiner to hear the appeal if it finds that "the appeal may involve a lengthy factfinding process which would be more appropriately accommodated by a formal hearing before a hearing examiner."

FINANCIAL DATA

The estimated cost would be \$100.00 and would be available from the Animal Control Division budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS

 If the Council should decide to appoint a hearing examiner, it is recommended that the following motion be adopted: "The Council hereby determines pursuant to Section 2.324, City

LORRAINE MAGANA CITY CLERK City Council April 10, 1985 Page 2

Code, that this appeal will involve a lengthy factfinding process which will be more appropriately accommodated by a formal hearing before a hearing examiner. Therefore, the Council appoints Barry Martin as Hearing Examiner to hear the appeal on Thursday, April 25, 1985 at the hour of 9:00 A.M. at McGeorge School of Law, 3287 Fifth Avenue, Sacramento, California.

2. If the Council should decide to consider the appeal itself, it is recommended that the hearing be set for April 30, 1985.

Respectfully submitted,

dune J. Mason

LORRAINE MAGANA CITY CLERK

Anne J. Mason

Assistant City Clerk

LM/AJM/dah Attachment

cc: Barry Martin, Hearing Examiner
 Bridget Ow, Appellant

Animal Control

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:

Walter J. Sripe City Manager

> April 16, 1985 District 4

RECEIVED ONLY CLERKS OFFICE NOTICE OF APPEALOUTY OF SAGRAMENTO

APR 4 4 47 PM '85

DATE: APITI 4, 1903
Pursuant to Section 2.320, City Code, I wish to appeal the decision <u>made by</u>
Animal Control Chief Ruben Mora made on March 27, 1985
regarding destruction of two Doberman Pinschers belonging to Bridget Ow, because
they were deemed vicious and a danger to the general public
as required by section 6-104(b) and (c) , City Code.
My reason for appealing is as follows: SEE ATTACHED
******** PLEASE PRINT:
NAME: BRIDGET OW
ADDRESS: 5701 13th Avenue
CITY: Sacramento STATE: CA ZIP CODE: 95820
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (916)-455-6827

James J. Kaufman, Esq. Kaufman and Lehrman 1029 K Street, Suite 25 Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 443-5918

JAMES J. KAUFMAN, Attorney for appellant

REASONS FOR APPEAL

Sections 6-105(b) and (c) of City Ordinances #83-031 and #3211, or sections 6-105(b) and (c) of the Animal Control Law, Chapter Six of the City Code, all provide viable alternatives to the authorities for controlling a vicious animal and protecting the general public, without requiring destruction of the animal at the outset.

Realizing that there have been several alleged reports of attacks on humans by the two Dobermans, it is our contention that the Animal Control Chief's decision to destroy both dogs is arbitrary and capricious, and has not allowed appellant an opportunity, as owner, to gather evidence to try to disprove the alleged charges. It is our contention that the two (2) dogs are not vicious and are not a danger to the public, and we appeal to the City Council to release the two (2) dogs to the owner Bridget Ow immediately.

We intend to show by convincing and overwhelming evidence that the dogs are not vicious, are not a danger to society in general, and that the alleged "attacks" are gross exaggerations based on assumptions and misinformation. The female dog "Tasha" had never been reported or accused of any vicious activity and the male dog "Fook" was reported to be involved in only one minor incident prior to this one which could be characterized as an "attack". Affidavits of neighbors, the dog's veterinarian and others (attached as Exhibits 1-16) will attest to the dogs' good temperment and friendly disposition.

In the one prior reported case, the dog was provoked and in the other incidents cited, the dogs involved were not either of appellant's Dobermans. In addition, in the this incident where an alleged bite occurred, only one bite was reported and there were two or more dogs involved according to witnesses. There is no reason why both dogs should be incarcerated for one alleged bite.

Addressing the charges in chronological order, appellant would like to begin by noting that the April 1984 incidents involving Diane Freeman and Erin and Allison Foster occurred two months before appellant acquired Tasha, the female dog. (Appellant obtained the dog in June, 1984). The April 1984 incidents apparently involved two completely different dogs, and therefore should not be considered as evidence of a vicious nature as to appellant's animals.

The second set of incidents involving Mr. and Mrs. Warren Moffat and Christopher Tippets can also be explained and should not be considered as evidence of vicious temperament in the animals (see Declaration attached as Exhibit 1). Both Mr. and Mrs. Moffat have stated that they do not want the dogs to be destroyed; that they are merely afraid of dogs in general, and would be satisfied if appellant constructed a better fence around her yard. (A new fence is already under construction.) As for Christopher Tippets, appellant denies the allegation as being completely untrue, (see Declaration attached as Exhibit 2). Christopher's father, David Tippits, has also stated that

his son was <u>never</u> chased or attacked by appellant's dogs and will testify to those facts.

The third incident involving Frances Pullen on July 18, 1984, involved only the male dog, who became confused and upset when he saw Mrs. Pullen standing in front of appellant's house when appellant's neighbor was running to help her crying child. (The child had just fallen or hurt herself in some way while playing.) The male dog "Fook" then followed the neighbor to "protect" her and the child from what he thought was an unfriendly stranger. Again, the female, Tasha, was not involved in the situation; therefore, this allegation is completely untrue as to her and should be inapplicable as evidence of her disposition. In this situation the Animal Control Board and Mrs. Pullen obviously did not render the situation serious enough for any further action.

The fourth allegation concerning an allegedly unprovoked attack on Raymond Castin and Mrs. Sydney Charles on March 14, 1985, is untrue and without basis (see Declaration attached as Exhibit 3) -- there were no reports to appellant of any such behavior by her dogs, and Mrs. Charles will so testify at the hearing. Therefore, appellant contends that this charge is not valid evidence of alleged vicious tendencies in her dogs.

The fifth and final charge concerns an allegedly unprovoked attack on a Ms. Bonnie Parker and her daughter. Witnesses to the incident have stated that Fook and Tasha were provoked by another dog and were beginning to chase it when Ms. Parker and

her daughter approached; only one dog then snapped at Ms. Parker and Ms. Parker stated to witnesses that she did <u>not</u> remember which dog snapped at her. Ms. Parker's daughter was not attacked by the dogs. At this time appellant has not received any medical reports, etc. on Ms. Parker's alleged bite injury, and as far as appellant knows, the "bite" Ms. Parker received did not even break the skin. Therefore, based on the above facts, we contend that this incident was not an "unprovoked attack" situation, and that the dogs were reacting normally to a perceived "threat" to their environment — another dog. Ms. Parker has a subconscious fear of Dobermans because of a previous incident with Dobermans and therefore very likely has exaggerated the present incident.

As a fair and desirable solution to this problem, appellant proposes that both dogs be returned to appellant and allowed to live in confinement according to one or more of the regulations contained in Section 6-105(b) and (c) of the Animal Control Law.

Keeping the animals confined in an approved enclosure on the premises, leashing and/or muzzling them when taking them out in public, and requesting all city/county officials, the postmaster, utility companies, etc. to notify their employees of the animal's history and possible dangerous nature should take care of the problem. Any other conditions for return imposed by the Animal Control Chief would also be met gladly, including posting of the \$10,000 bond or insurance policy.

Further impoundment of the dogs until their behavior has

been approved as normal by a licensed veterinarian (see Declaration attached as Exhibit 4) would also be an acceptable alternative to destroying them, and appellant believes that further observation of the dogs by Animal Control Officials while in the custody of a licensed veterinarian will bear out our contention that they are not vicious, not a threat to society in general, and should be returned home to their owner.

At present, appellant is very concerned about the health and welfare of the dogs while they are being held by the Animal Control authorities. The "kennel-type" environment of the detention center is very detrimental to Fook and Tasha's physical and "emotional" well-being, as they need to be with someone who will give them a little affection, exercise, etc. as well as seeing to their basic physical needs.

We would like to request that both dogs be transferred to the care and supervision of a veterinarian pending determination of this appeal, so that we may be sure they are receiving proper care and treatment. Appellant proposes that Dr. Hunter, or or Dr. Warehine, as stated in their Declarations attached as Exhibits 4, take over as supervising veterinarian. Both doctors have agreed to board the dogs at their facility pending the outcome of this action, and we contend that the dogs will be much better off under his supervision and care than they are now under the care of City Animal Control.

DATED: 4/4/85

Respectfully submitted,

DAMES J. KAUFMAN, Attorney at Law

Jo whom It May Concern:

We, Mr. & Mrs. Warren Moffat of 3669 57th Street, Sacto., Ca. We have no problem with the two dobermans of 5701 13th ave. returning home if Certain restrictions are placed on them. The fence reinforced and musceled.

We do not want to See them destroyed. Our incident with them scared us, but they did not atlack us.

Sincerely,

Mus albie maffat Warren Waffat

OUER)

lender penalty of perjury we hereby swear the above statement to be true 4-3-85 mas ablic mattat

I, David Jeppets of 3668 57th Street, Sacto., Ca. do not want the two dobermans of 5701 13th Avenue put to sleep. They did not attack my son, Christopher. I linder penatty of perjury do herebif swear the above statement to be true.

april 2, 1985

Danil Lipsto
Mantha tippeto

on march 14, 1985 Raymond cartain and O (Sydner Charles) were walking back from the Store between 4 pm ana 5:30 pm. When we came out of the allequay (next to ALL HALLOWS PURISH) We Daw 3 dogs (2 dobermans \$ 1 smaller dog) Rounding the corner of 57th St and 13th ave when we reached the front of the building the dags tran up to us like they (the days) were going to attack, I was very scared Reymond harded me the grocery bag and picked up Stick he growled at the dog (the bigger dovermon). The dog barned and growled at Raymond and Started to lunge at me when Raymond yelled at the dog to STOP! go away! The dog han across the Street with the other 2 days to 5701 15th ave. I was very upset and Concerned not only for myself and other adult residents of this neighborhood but for

the school children (at all Hullows School). The next day Bonnie Parkets Came to our house at 5501 13thave and asked about our experience with the days. She showed me where the days she showed me asked me to testify against the dogs and I agreed secouse in light of both of our experiences I felt the dogs where were a danger to the Community.

I do not want heverge against leither the dogs or other the owners of the dogs. I simply want a lafe Community. If the owners can garante quevante that the dogs can not and will not get out and terrorise this neighborhood. I do not want the dogs to die. I think it would be overheating and inhumane.

Syde Charles april 2, 1985 Under penalty of perfury Dereby Swear this above Statement to be true Syde Charles

Mary 1 St.

•

. .

MCINTYRE VETERINARY SERVICES, INC.

1983 JUNIPERO SERRA BLVD. DALY CITY, CALIF. 94014

TELEPHONE 755.0969

april 3, 1985

To Whom at may concern;

This clinic is willing to board fook, and Josha or either one of them for perpose of observation or confinement if domed helpful by the parties involved in the incident and investigation in Sacramento, as we have boarded fook here and treated him here many times.

OR. Warehime J. DVM

MCINTYRE VETERINARY SERVICES, INC.

1983 JUNIPERO SERRA BLVD. DALY CITY, CALIF. 94014

TELEPHONE 755.0969

april 3,1985

To Whom It May Concern:

In my note regarding Fooks personality I wrote that he belonged to Mr. allen Master, since he was the person who we saw will. Fook most when he has boarded less on living examined by us. To clarify this, I am aware this is the same fook who actually belongs to Mrs. Bridget Ow. Her name is on our most weent records but Mr. Masteis name is on the area designated for the owner, since we dealt will him.

O. R. Warehime, Jr. DVm.

EXHIBIT 46

MCINTYRE VETERINARY SERVICES, INC. 1983 JUNIPERO SERRA BLVD. DALY CITY, CALIF. 94014

TELEPHONE 755-0969

March 30, 1985

James Kaufman, Attorney at Law 1029 K Street Suite 25 Sacramento, Ca 95814

Sirs:

l, O.R. Warehime Jr., DVM, a veterinarian licensed to practice in California for nearly eleven years, have seen Fook, a black Doberman belonging to Mr. Allen Master since January, 1983. He has always been docile and even friendly with everyone at this clinic. I am considered by some to be extra cautious by muzzling with gauze any dog who looks or acts "spooky". I have never considered doing so with Fook and have never hesitated to work on him by myself with nobody restraining him.

I have no reason to suspect he might be a dog dangerous to society.

I declare the foregoing to be true under penalty of perjury.

O.R. Warehime, Jr., DVM.

O. R. Warehino, J. DVM. March 30, 1985

AANA

MicIntyre Veterinary Service Inc.

O.R. WAREHIME, DVM

1983 JUNIPERO SERRA BLVD. DALY CITY, CALH'ORNIA 94014

PHONE 755-0969 -NEW CO

THES J. KAUTON

SACRAMENTO ANIMAL HOSPITAL 5701 H STREET 5ACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95819 PHONE 451-7213

4/1/85

The Sacramento Animal Hospital saw Tasha on 10/29/84 for spaying and was seen again on 11/8/84 for suture removal. To our knowledge this animal showed no signs of aggression or viscious tendencies while in our hospital for treatment.

R.B. Meyers, D.V.M.

Sacramento Animal Hospital.

SAGRAMENTO ANIMAL HOSPITAL 5701 H STREET SACRAMENTO, CA 95819 PHONE 451-7213

EXHIBIT 4d-1

The state of

THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON OF T

NEUTERING CERTIFICATE

OWNER Bridgett Ow	PHONE 455-6827			
ADDRESS 5701 13th Ave Sac. CA.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	95820	_	
SPECIES K-9 BREED Dobie	SEX _	female	_	
NAME Tasha COLOR blk/tan	AGE _	born	1981	
This is to certify that I have performed:				
VASECTOMY OTHER on the animal described.				
VETERINARIAN H.F.Meyers LIC	ense #	1551		
SACRAMENTO ANIMAL HOSPITAL 5701 H Street				
Sacramento, California 95819				
DATE 10/29/84				

EXHIBIT 4-d-2

To Whom It May Concern:

I, the undersigned, Alan Master residing at 515 Pierce Street, Apt. 4, San Francisco, have known the two Dobermans, a male (Ow Fook, since three months old and the female (Tasha) since June 1984. They have stayed with me in my two room apartment a number of times with my daughter and three cats. At no time or under any circumstances have I ever considered them vicious or dangerous. I have left my ten year old daughter alone with them and has has taken them for walks, one or the other, and has never had a problem. I, myself was afraid of dobermans until I helped raise these two and have found them to be loyal and protective, but never vicious. I come to visit Bridget Ow on the weekends and feel much better knowing the dogs are there, because there have been a number of violent incidents, and break ins, in and around the neighborhood.

Under penalty of perjury I swear the above statement to be true.

Sincerely,

Alan Master (4/5) 626-1485

To Whom It May Concern:

I, Pam Rozenski, residing at 5701 13th Avenue, Sacramento, Galif., am writing this letter in behalf of Ow Fook and Tasha.

I have been living with these two dogs for approximately the past four months. I do not in anyway feel these dogs are vicious nor do they show any vicious tendencies. They are very loveable animals and since they have been at the City Animal Control, under what I consider very unsuitable conditions for any animal to be caged with no exercise or fresh air. I have in fact visited these two dogs daily to hand feed, brush, bring fresh blankets and love. Even under these adverse conditions, these two dogs have been nothing but loving and respectful with me.

I know these two dogs would not attack anyone without provocation. I have seen them in numerous situations with children and adults and they have NEVER chased or attacked.

I have know their owner, Bridget Ow and her daughter April Ow for approximately 16 months. Bridget is a very responsible person and provides these two dogs with so much love and attention. I know Bridget and April have felt very unsafe not having them at home and they miss them more than words can express. I know Ms. Ow will meet any conditions you set in order to bring Ow Fook and Tasha home where they belong. I truely hope you will find them not vicious and will not destroy two dogs because most people have a fear of a breed (Dobermans).

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby swear the above statement to be true.

Sincerely, Dam Rozenski

Pam Rozenski 6701 13th Avenue

Sacramento, CA. 95820

(916) 455-6827

I TOTAL (OUT) am aware that the dogs of Bridgett Ow are in custody and are pending death. I know that these animals are not vicious. The dogs Tosha Ow and Ow Fook are not wandering or not taken care of and I feel that I must act as a character reference as these dogs are not able to speak for themselves. Tosha and Ow Fook deserve to live, therefore I am signing this in conciousness, hoping that their lives may be saved.

Under Penalty of Purgery, I here by sware-that these statements are true.

City, State, 'Zip Phone number: Thous two doubters ages typs of 1 ye's And how allowed then to forself plus worldblooks. I have svery considerce in these trodunds RESpect Lie hunon lote,

vesday Aprel 02, 1985 clam writing this letter in attempt to some the lefe of 2 dogs which I have Known for some time. The dogs, Ow Fook, which I have known since he was 3 months old, and Josha Ow, which I have known counce June of 1984, are being sentenced to an unjust death. Since they aannot express their defense, elfeel I must write this letter to act as if on their behalf. These dogs me not vicious un controllable animals but are my priends. They have never been vicious, nos mestreated of these dogs meed a. character reference, surely they have me to stand as such. Under penalty of purgery, I here by sware that these statements one true. signed Brad I Amartin 595 Y RIVERSIDE BLUD. SACTO OA 95831

EXHIBIT 8

916) 395-1965

WK) 442-2684

Under peratty of pajury, I hereby succerthant these statements are true:

April 2, 1985

As nonember, nonsessifer, childwitter and dogsither for Ms. Bridget On, residing at 5701-13th Avenue, I find it extremely difficult to understand that Ms. Ow's two animals, Cu Fook * Tosna, will be put 10 sleep.

I also find hard to comprehend that these two animals have been deemed vicious or even selfacked others, without provocation, since an more than several occasions (Detween 1984 shru 1985) I entered on my own accord, this same residence and grounds, without any problems.

Please enter my pleastogopec4 the determiningion of this action.

Bamara J. Pays

To whom It may Concern, I, April Dw, of 5701 13th our, Souramento, colifornia, disogree with your statement chiming clustock and Tasha vicious. I live in the same house with them I have had firsthand experiences and in no warfind them vicious. I have walked, fed, + played with these "vicious" animals and they have never bit or attacked me. and even like to dresp with me at night. I am thirteen years old + live with these so-called "vicious" animals. These dogs are very protective but they have a humanistic quality that makes me love them all the more. I miss my dogs + the comfort of the knowing that their here to protect me. I sow on the news that they let a murderegut of pil that didn't want to be set free, yet you'll kill my dogs over something I consider minor. I ottend All Hollows school, where mos Bonnie Porker is a yord duty teacher. The day ofter the incidence thought occurred, she was back at work with no apparent injury on her hlor.

I also sow that a child molester was set free on the streets, to molest more children. As you should hour self allreadythise dogs play a big role in my life. I would do onything to get them back.

Also I don't think that the condit.

long my dogs hoult to live in while in care of the Animal Shelter are fitting. No fresh dire, no exercise, none of the love, and attention that they, are used to the only connection with home they receive is the daily visito from Pamela hozenski in which su & brings fresh food + blankets from home, my mother + I care a lot for these dogs, and would be crushed to hove them killed. I hope you will take my letter into consideration I, under the penatty of perjury do hereby swear the above statement

to be true

April 3, 1985

Sincerely, appul Ow.

April: 3, 1985

To, whom it may concern,

I, Angel Hearn of 2264 Belvedere Ave, san heandro CA, dont understand why ow-fook and tasha should be put to sleep for no reason.

You call them vicious but I

you can them vicious but I dont. The first might I came to visit my ount Bridget, the dogs adjusted to me the second I wanted in the Front door.

Im 12 and small for my age. I oftened played with ow-footh and tashed and walked them with no problems. If ow-footh tash we'vicious they would not have been as careful as they were with me while we were playing.

Ow-Fook has an usual talent of smilling. It looks like he is actually ready to bite but he is actually. Smilling. Since owfook has been taken away from us, He no longer smiles because he misses Bridget and the people he loves.

I, under the penalty of perjury, do hereby swear the above statement to be true.

angel flease Hearn

EXHIBIT ______

TO: SACRAMENTO COUNTY, SPCA

RE: FOOK AND TASHA OW

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN;

THIS IS TO VERIFY THAT I MARIA LOPEZ-KIRK AND MY HUSBAND JACQUES H. KIRK OF 2024 ORTEGA, SAN FRANCISCO, CA. 94122,...

WE HAVE KNOWN FOOK OW SINCE HE WAS A TINY PUPPY AND HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN HIM TO BE A HOUSE PET, VERY WELL BEHAVED AND WELL NATURED. WE KNOW THAT BOTH FOOK AND TASHA OW ARE DOGGIES WELL LOVED AND CARED FOR BY BRIDGET OW, WHOM WE KNOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER.

THESE POOR DEFENSELESS ANIMALS ARE NOT VICIOUS, THEY ARE FULL OF LOVE AND ARE TREATED LIKE FAMILY MEMBERS.

WE ALSO OWN TWO DOGS OF SIMILAR SIZE AND ALSO TWO CATS WHO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE COMPANY OF FOOK AND TASHA OW AND THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY MISCONIUCT BETWEEN THEM.

MS. OW'S "dobies" ARE FAITHFULL AND EFFECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY IN HELPING KEEP THE AREA SECURE FROM CRIMES AND A HOODLUM TYPES.

RESPECTFULLY;

JACQUES H. KIRK

MARIA L. KIRK

APRIL 2, 1985

EXHIBIT 12

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is for the benefit of two dobermans named Owfook and Tasha.

I have had personal contact with these dogs when they visit my neighbor; and they have never made me feel threatened nor appeared vicious.

I hope you will give Owfook and Tasha another chance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Hali J. Winston

515 Pierce, #2

San Francisco

(415) 552-9745

1020 Piedmont Drive Sacramento, CA 95822 April 3, 1985

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I understand there is a question that has arisen as to the proper care and management of dogs owned by the occupants of a home at 5701 13th Avenue in Sacramento. I am not acquainted with these occupants, but do park in front of their home on the average of four times per week when I visit my grandchildren in an adjoining home. I have had many opportunities to observe anything of a disrupting nature in and around this house and yard. It has always appeared to me to be extremely well kept up and orderly. In fact, I was totally unaware that animals were kept in the yard. There was never a sound nor smell to indicate otherwise.

I respectfully request that my observations be considered in deciding the matter in question.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Payne

EXHIBIT

april 4,1985

The street at 5681 13+74 Avenue, the street at 5681 13+74 Avenue, whom the dogs in question. We have three children ages 6 yrs, 2 yrs, and 6 months old. We have never what any problems with the dogs. We have mever seen them out loose in the neighbor-hood or had problems with them barking. We have lived here for a little more than a year. Under the penalty of pargery of do

Under the penalty of pargery of do hereby Sevean that the above statement is true.

April 4, 1985 4-4-85 Sixon f. Azelline More Azelline 5681 13 TH Avenue Sacramento, CA 95820 452-9644

EXHIBIT 15

Vary truly yours. EXHIBIL TO Ow so a consuntioned day owner? It would openion that me. Andered propord. the presence of the dogs on the & have never felt thustened by are Lept in a fenced backyard. In the occupant and that the dogs have been extremely well mointained yard, I have observed that the grounds douby shoung a dononer feres and opportunity to vow the house and youd dose prosenning & have had ample with the occupant, but bring in such arene. I am not personally aquanted the obsupport of the home at 5701-13th I am unding in the support of To Whom It may Course. april 2, 1985

350-58th Street Decrements, Da. 95820