

Potter, Cora

From: Joe Pritchard [JPritchard@lowndescounty.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 22, 2010 11:38 AM
To: Potter, Cora
Subject: Lowndes County Animal Shelter

Ms. Potter,

Both the County Attorney and I will be out of town on the 30th and 31st. Is it possible for me to contact you on January 3rd to set a meeting date in Atlanta?

Thank you for your cooperation.

Merry Christmas!

*Joseph D. Pritchard
County Manager
Lowndes County
Board of Commissioners
ph (229) 671-2400
fax (229) 245-5222*

Potter, Cora

From: Sims-Green, Venessa
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 2:28 PM
To: Potter, Cora; Gunter, David
Cc: Black, Carter
Subject: Joseph Pritchard-Valdosta Lowndes County Animal Services 3-11.docx
Attachments: Joseph Pritchard-Valdosta Lowndes County Animal Services 3-11.docx

Greetings:

Attached is a draft letter for follow-up to meeting last Thursday. Feel free to change, edit, etc. and David, it can go out under your signature if you prefer.

Sincerely,
Venessa



Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

Gary W. Black
Commissioner

March 1, 2011

Writer's Direct:

Telephone: (404) 656-4914

Facsimile: (404) 463-8195

E-mail: Venessa.Sims-Green@agr.georgia.gov

Mr. Joseph Pritchard
Valdosta-Lowndes County Animal Services
325 West Savannah Avenue
P.O. Box 1349
Valdosta, Georgia 31603-1349

re: Violation Meeting

Dear Mr. Pritchard:

I would like to thank you and Ms. Patelski for meeting with our Legal Services Division and Animal Industry staff on Thursday, February 24, 2011 at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Atlanta Office.

As a follow-up to that meeting, there were certain provisions that were to be addressed related to the operations at Valdosta-Lowndes County Animal Services. These items were:

1. Creation and training of Standard Operating Procedure Manual
2. Implementation of a procedure re: sick or injured animals
3. Re-training of staff of animals that enter premise with humane care concerns
4. Secondary Point of Contact, i.e. Kennel Supervisor, who can make decisions regarding the well-being of animals in kennel facility
5. Signature of both euthanasia performer and witness on euthanasia form
6. Unannounced Inspections for the next 6 months

I will address your concerns regarding your earlier Euthanasia letter in a separate correspondence. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 404-656-4914. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Venessa Sims-Green, Interim Director
Animal Protection Section



Gary W. Black
Commissioner

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

March 2, 2011

Writer's Direct:

Telephone: (404) 656-4914

Facsimile: (404) 463-8195

E-mail: Venessa.Sims-Green@agr.georgia.gov

Mr. Joseph Pritchard
Lowndes County Animal Services
P.O. Box 1349
Valdosta, Georgia 31603-1349

Re: Violation Meeting

Dear Mr. Pritchard:

I would like to thank you and Ms. Patelski for meeting with our Legal Services Section and Animal Industry Division staff on Thursday, February 24, 2011, at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Atlanta Office.

As a follow-up to that meeting, there were certain provisions that were to be addressed related to the operations at Lowndes County Animal Services. These items were:

1. Creation of and training on a "Standard Operating Procedure Manual"
2. Implementation of a procedure regarding sick and/or injured animals
3. Re-training of staff on animals that enter premise with humane care concerns
4. Providing a secondary point of contact, i.e. Kennel Supervisor, who can make decisions regarding the well-being of animals in the kennel facility
5. Signature of both euthanasia performer and witness on euthanasia form
6. Unannounced inspections for the next 6 months

In addition to your letter submitted on October 15, 2010 discussing operational policies and procedures and the implementation thereof, this meeting and subsequent action items should address the concerns regarding euthanasia requirements. If you have any questions, I can be reached at 404-656-4914. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Venessa Sims-Green, Interim Director
Animal Protection Section

cc: Dr. Carter Black, State Veterinarian
David Gunter, Legal Services Manager

Potter, Cora

From: Sims-Green, Venessa
Sent: Saturday, May 21, 2011 7:41 AM
To: Schronce, Arty; Cobb Jr, Robert Murray; jessica.holthouse@agr.georgia.gov; Seidu, Yao; Potter, Cora; Gunter, David; Skaggs, Billy
Subject: Fwd: GA 5-11 Lowndes County Animal Shelter Probed

FYI

----- Original Message -----

Subject: GA 5-11 Lowndes County Animal Shelter Probed
From: Paul Miller <PMiller@hswcmd.org>
To: Paul Miller <PMiller@hswcmd.org>
CC:

Lowndes County Animal Shelter Probed

The Georgia Department of Agriculture is keeping an eye on an area animal shelter and has cited it for several violations.

Posted: 6:27 PM May 19, 2011

Reporter: Gabrielle Sarann

Email Address: gabrielle.sarann@wctv.tv

 Lowndes Animal Shelter Investigation

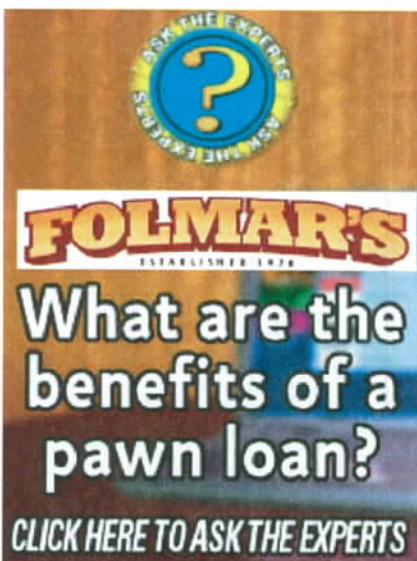
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"I've seen a lot of the animals come in the shelter and not get vet care and sometimes that comes in the form of euthanasia," says Susan Leavens, an animal control officer for Lowndes County.

This led several Lowndes County Animal Shelter employees to file a complaint with the Georgia Department of Agriculture.



It launched an investigation citing the facility for not providing humane care.

And in routine inspections over the last year, several euthanasia violations were written-up.

"It did not matter how you euthanized or what numbers you used, it didn't matter if it was a 30lb dog and you used 6 cc's," says Leavens. "It need to be 60 pound dog."

The Department of Agriculture says the Lowndes County Animal Shelter failed to provide care to an emaciated bulldog picked up in September.

The report says its gums were white and it couldn't stand on its own.

Susan Leavens says she did her best to care for the dog, but it took two days for the director, Linda Patelski, to have the dog euthanized.

"Three or four times that day I'd spoken to her about that particular dog," says Leavens. "On each instance, she was doing something else. The dog was never seen by a vet that day."

Lowndes County Manager Joe Pritchard says, "I don't believe through our investigation, nor through any info we received from the Department of Ag, are able to indicate any malicious intent."

The Department of Agriculture has not fined the Lowndes County Animal Shelter.

Its last inspection was March 15. The shelter is now subject to an additional unannounced inspection.