Appeal of Bup Bertlin, owner of dog being Debbie Bertlin

Case Number: A24-003890, Violation Date 7/14/24

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As the owner of Bup, I am appealing the Dangerous Dog Declaration. I do not dispute the likelihood that the complainant was bitten; I dispute assertion that both dogs bit the complainant, specifically the dog named Bup.

Until August 7, 2024 I was the owner of two sibling/ male dogs, Stan and Bup, littermates and both of the same approximate weight and height. The dogs were nearly identical in size, height, weight and coloring with most people unable to identify which was which until after some period of familiarity. It is my assertion there is no certainty or proof that Bup bit the claimant, thus making it inappropriate to declare him a dangerous dog. The reasons for this assertion include:

- No witnesses testify that both dogs were responsible for the bite(s) that broke the skin.
- The claimant did not file a police report until August 5, 2024, 22 days after the presumed violation (July 14, 202). Recollections after this length of time may be unclear and memories faulty.
- The claimant would understandably claim both dogs bit him, given the high probability that one dog could not be easily identified over the other.
- That the claimant understandably had heightened emotions associated with the event, adding to the lack of specificity re the event.

I was informed by a public safety officer that the bite incident had been reported AFTER I made the decision to euthanize Stan, which occurred on August 7, 2024. (Unfortunately I do not recall the exact date I was first notified though I am sure there are call logs which can substantiate this.) Thus this serious step was made of my own choice, in advance of any notification of official action, with recognition of the responsibilities that come with ownership of dogs, particularly large dogs. Stan in particular, rather than Bup was euthanized given his increased protectiveness after the death of my husband, March 18, 2023. In addition, the training specialist I hired to work with me and the dogs summer of 2023 confirmed that as the dominant of the two dogs, Stan would generally be the "instigator".

Given that Bup has idiopathic epilepsy, it would have been more "convenient" to euthanize him, however my understanding and having professional opinion, I felt it appropriate to address the potential for on-going agitation that Stan represented. I offer this as another testament to the seriousness with which I take these recent events and logic associated in greatly minimizing further concern.

Given the facts and circumstances, I request that Bup retain "potentially dangerous" status and not be declared a "dangerous dog". I commit to on-going training with him, using appropriate restraints, and that he be under the care of a responsible person. I will no longer have my sister take responsibility or care for Bup in any meaningful way.

Debbie Bertlin, September 23, 2024

7225 SE 27th Street

Mercer Island, WA 98040

Substantiating documentation

The dogs would be very difficult to identify idividually

Lap of Love Veterinary Hospice
Receipt for Euthanasia Appointment

Debbie Bertlin
7239 Southeast 27th Street, Mercer Island, Washington 98040

Pet Information:
Name: Stan | Species: Dog | Gender: Male | Weight: 115

Appointment #1328502 on 8/7/2024:

Euthanasia	$495.00