



LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC INTEGRITY UNIT
OFFICIAL STATEMENT

CASE NUMBER: 14-072

Today's date is November 4, 2014 The time is 0814 hours.

This is an interview with Alisa Oerther (R/S) _____

This interview is being conducted at:

☒ Public Integrity Unit, 810 Barret Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204

☐ Other Location: _____

Present during this interview is;

Ms.

Oerther

(Title)

(Name)

- Q1 ☒ Are you aware this interview is being audio and/or video recorded?
Q2 ☒ Has anyone threatened you in order to obtain this interview?
Q3 ☒ Are you giving this interview of your own free will?
Q4 ☒ Please, state your full name, and spell your last name. What is your date of birth? [REDACTED]
Q5 ☒ State your home address including the zip code.
Q6 ☒ Is this the same as your mailing address? (If no) Mailing address?
Q7 ☒ State your home telephone number with the area code.
Q8 ☒ State your mobile and an alternate phone number with area codes.
Q9 ☒ Are you employed?
Q10 ☒ State your employer and the position you hold there.
Q11 ☒ What is your work telephone number?
Q12 ☒ Are you aware the following interview will be a sworn statement?

PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND

Do you, Alisa Oerther, solemnly swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

I UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE OATH THAT I HAVE TAKEN.

X Alisa Oerther
Signature

11/4/14
Date

8:16 am
Time

Sgt. Marcus Laytham
Witness signature

11/04/2014
Date

0817
Time

Subscribed and sworn to me by

Alisa Oerther

This 4 day of Nov, 2014

[Signature]
Notary Public, State at Large

My Commission Expires _____



Public Integrity Unit

Case # 14-072

Interview of:

Alisa Oerther

**Community engagement supervisor for
Louisville Metro Animal Services**



LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special Investigations Division Public Integrity Unit INVESTIGATIVE REPORT



Type of Investigation Animal Cruelty/Neglect	File No. 14-072	Date of Report: November 4, 2014
Activity: Interview with Alisa Oerther	Submitted By Sergeant Chad Kessinger	
	Lead Investigator: Sergeant Chad Kessinger	

INTERVIEW WITH ALISA OERTHER

On November 4, 2014, at approximately 0814 hours an interview was conducted with Alisa Oerther. Mrs. Oerther is more specifically identified as:

Alisa Oerther

This interview was conducted at the office of the Public Integrity Unit located at 810 Barret Avenue.. Also present during this interview was Sergeant Marcus Laytham. Mrs. Oerther was employed at Louisville Metro Animal Services as the Community Engagement Supervisor during the time frame of this investigation. Mrs. Oerther's interview was taken in the form of a sworn statement and the following are the key aspects of the interview:

- Alisa Oerther had never observed or witnessed Sadie and her injury.
- Heather Adkins was a regular foster, providing care for kittens and dogs.
- Mrs. Oerther believes LMAS was waiting on new equipment to perform the surgery.
- LMAS veterinarian was not qualified to conduct the amputation. Also, LMAS was in need of another veterinarian to perform the surgery.
- LMAS had a doctor (does not recall who) that was going to donate the surgery but fell through. Heather Adkins then began fundraising in order to have her veterinarian conduct the surgery.
- LMAS was made aware of Heather Adkins taking Sadie to her personal veterinarian, Dr. Stephanie Pollet. LMAS was then aware that Dr. Pollet was willing to conduct the surgery.
- LMAS provides what's called an open hours for fosters to bring in animals with concerns. Also, Animal House provides a vet tech that would provide treatment or follow up and take the animal to LMAS on Manslick Road for additional treatment.
- LMAS main veterinarian location is located at 3705 Manslick Road.
- A manual is given to all fosters by LMAS which provides contact numbers in the case that medical attention is needed or if there are any concerns with the animal.
- Heather Adkins was employed with LMAS and worked at the Manslick Road location. She had access to the veterinarian staff during working hours if needed.

Investigator's Signature:	<i>Sgt. A. Oerther</i>
Supervisor's Signature:	<i>LT. KELLY</i> 11/10/2014

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LMPD # 05-0002 10/05.

November 4, 2014

Kessinger This is Sergeant Chad Kessinger of the Louisville Metro Police Public Integrity Unit. This gonna be official statement in regards to Case #14-072. Today's date is November 4th, 2014. The time now is 08:14 hours. This gonna be an interview with Alisa Oerther. This interview is being conducted at the Public Integrity Unit Office located at 810 Barrett Avenue. Present durin' this interview is myself, Sergeant Chad Kessinger. Also present is Sergeant Marcus Laytham. Miss Oerther, are you aware this interview is being audio recorded?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger Has anyone threatened you in order to obtain this interview?

Oerther No.

Kessinger Are you giving this interview of your own free will?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger Please state your full name and spell your last name.

Oerther It's Alisa Oerther and its O-E-R-T-H-E-R.

KESSINGER And what is your date of birth, please?

Oerther [REDACTED]

Kessinger State your home address including the ZIP code.

Oerther [REDACTED]

Kessinger And is this the same as your mailing address?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger Please state your home telephone number with the area code.

Oerther I don't have a home phone.

Kessinger Please state a mobile or alternate phone number with area code.

Oerther [REDACTED]

Kessinger And are you employed?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger Please state your employer and the position you hold there.

Oerther Uh, it's the Kentucky Humane Society and it's the Donor Relations Manager.

Kessinger And what is your work telephone number?

Oerther [REDACTED]

Kessinger I just started.

Oerther And are you aware this, uh, interview will be a sworn statement?

Kessinger Yes.

Oerther Please raise your right hand.

Kessinger Do you Alisa Oerther, solemnly swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger If you would please, right next to the 'x' down that line. Sign your name and then next to that today's date, please. November 4th. And the time is 8:16 a.m. And we're here today, today to discuss, um, the issues regarding a Pit Bull by the name of Sadie. Are you familiar with that?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger Can you tell me at the time when Sadie arrived at Animal Services, can you tell me what your role, your responsibility was?

Oerther Um, I was the Community Engagement Supervisor at the time. So, at Metro Animal Services; I was in charge of, um, running the volunteers, organizing the volunteers and also the Public Education over at Animal House Adoption Center.

Kessinger Okay. And how does that, how's that role, uh, affect Sadie? I know she was fostered.

Oerther Uh-huh. Yes.

Kessinger And so, what role do you take with the person who fosters the dog?

Oerther Um, we had a Foster Coordinator. So, she was kinda the, the go-between and um, and then also we have Vet Services. So if there was, you know, medical concern then, we usually go to our Vet Services. Um, I was over at Animal House (Inaudible) a supervisor rode, role.

Kessinger Uh-hum.

Oerther Helping (Inaudible) the adoption process. Um, but just, you know, support. That type of thing. Um, I . . . directly, I, I wasn't talking to communication with. . . I wasn't. . . that was handled usually through the Foster Coordinator.

Kessinger Okay. And when were you made aware of Sadie?

Oerther Over all?

Kessinger Over all. When did you first hear of Sadie?

Oerther Sure. Um, I guess when she was being fostered. Um, just aware of that she was in foster care with Heather Adkins. Um and that potentially, you know, she needed something medically to be done. Um. . .

Kessinger Okay. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to cut you off.

Oerther Oh, no. You're fine. Uh and then when, you know, un, the unfortunate, uh, she passed away. Facebook.

Kessinger Uh-hum.

Oerther Was where I was made aware of that.

Kessinger Okay. And when. . . did you ever observe Sadie prior to her goin' into foster care?

Oerther I, I never got to meet Sadie.

Kessinger So, you never saw the dog?

Oerther There's pictures, of course.

Kessinger Okay. But as far as. . .

Oerther But I never physically got to meet her.

Kessinger Okay. Did you ever discuss Sadie's condition with Heather Adkins? Did y'all ever meet or did she ever come to you or call you?

Oerther Um. . .

Kessinger To discuss the condition of the dog?

Oerther I don't think we ever discussed it. I know we didn't face to face, um, that I'm aware of. I mean it. . . possibly if I saw her, ask her how are your fosters.

Kessinger Uh-hum.

Oerther She was a pretty regular foster. So, you know, we always like thank those people. Um, I think for the most part her Foster Coordinator was the kinda the go-between on that. Um, I know we were hoping to get her into surgery eventually, uh, for the leg. But she never came to me with a. . . Personally, I don't think she came to me with a concern.

Kessinger Okay.

Oerther I know Kim talked to her. Um, the Foster Coordinator, Kim Warden.

Kessinger Kim Warden?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger And as far as, as communicating with Miss Adkins.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger Did, do you recall ever having e-mail conversation? Phone conversation, text, anything of that nature?

Oerther Um, after the Sadie case, I did. Yes. Uh, for other foster concerns.

Kessinger Okay. But it wasn't just specific for Sadie?

Oerther Um, not, not that I can. . . no. I don't think so. I know Kim and I did talk about it somewhat though. Uh, and, and Margaret Brosko and I too.

Kessinger Okay. And you said Miss Adkins fostered other dogs?

Oerther She did. She did a lot of kittens afterwards. Uh, she may have done dogs. I, you know, I, I don't, I didn't keep (Inaudible).

Kessinger Okay. So, this is. . . just to say, this is not her first animal that she has fostered for.

Oerther Correct. Right.

Kessinger So, she is very aware of the problems.

Oerther She did a lot of little of kit. . . or litters of kittens.

Kessinger Okay.

Oerther She may have done other dogs. I don't know for sure.

Kessinger Now, I do have one e-mail that I'd like to show you.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger And it's from Miss Adkins and it's dated November 5th, 2013. Um and it's addressed to you. And it says, I've got your message. Thank you. I have 3 little fosters to bring in.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger For shots on my days off this week. Either Thursday or Friday. And I don't know what she means by uh . . .

Oerther Comin' in to Animal House to get their shots.

Kessinger Okay. All right.

Oerther These were her. . . these must've. . .

Kessinger So, AH means Animal House.

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger Okay. So and AH is closer to me than Manslick, so, I'll find out the paperwork and pay then.

Oerther Okay.

Kessinger Uh, any word on Sadie's surgery. We're fighting about over her keeping, keeping her from chewin' the bad paw. She's living in bandages and an e-collar. LOL.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger At the end of it. You recall this e-mail?

Oerther Um, yes. I mean, I'm. . . she, um, the fosters probably would've been kittens. That she was bringin' in for shots. Um and yeah. She, you know, she knew that we were tryin' to work on getting surgery for her and Kim, I know talked to her about that. A few times as well. Um. . .

Kessinger Okay. As far as the, the one below it here.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger Highlighted in green. Where it says any word on Sadie's surgery.

Oerther Right.

Kessinger And that was in November. Do you remember the. . . did you have a response for her?

Oerther Um. . . I think I checked with, with Margaret and she checked with Vet Services. 'Cause I believe what it was they were waiting on. . . they had to get new equipment.

Kessinger Okay.

Oerther To do the surgery. Uh, because our. . . what I knew our vet wasn't able to, um, do a amputation. She wasn't qualified or um, yeah. I think that's what the case. And they needed another vet to do the surgery. But they needed also new equipment.

Kessinger Okay. And I'm gonna show ya a second e-mail. It's dated Sunday, December 29th, 2013.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger This one's all, this one's from Kim Ward.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger And this one's to Margaret Brosko as well, as, as you.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger Um, it just says. Haven't been able to get the equipment for the surgery for her.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger And it says, Heather's told me that Sadie is chewing off her toenails and constantly mutilating them. Are we still able to get the surgery done as we had

told we were. (Inaudible). What I just read. Are you familiar with that one?

Oerther Yes. I, I knew we were trying to get the equipment. Um, that was what was being, you know, we're waiting on that. Um and then I, I don't know who the doctor was they had in mind but they had someone. I don't know if they were gonna donate, donate the uh, surgery but I know that fell through and then that's when, um, Heather started fundraising on her own to I think with her vet.

Kessinger Uh-hum.

Oerther Was possibly goin' to do the surgery.

Kessinger And do you know who, who orders the equipment to have these procedures done?

Oerther Um, I, I wouldn't know for sure. It pos. . .you know, Vet Services is, is my. . .

Kessinger Okay.

Oerther . . . my guess on that. Um, but I don't know who the vet was in mind.

Kessinger Okay. Were you ever made aware that Heather was taking Sadie to her own personal vet?

Oerther Yes. Because that's when we found out that the vet was maybe willing to do the surgery.

Kessinger Okay. But Miss Pollet. . . Miss Adkins veterinarian, Stephanie Pollet was, was maybe gonna do the surgery. Now, I'm gonna ask you some questions and if you don't know, uh, just tell me. It's. . . basically, while Heather Adkins was fostering Sadie.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger She have a access to a veterinarian?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger On staff.

Oerther Yes. The Fosters, um, they have open hours for Fosters to bring in any animals with any concerns. Uh, also Animal House, we have, I mean, we have a vet tech, um, that would . . . if there was something serious going on there. Would follow up and take the animal to, to Manslick Road.

Kessinger Uh-hum.

Oerther Where our main veterinarian was.

Kessinger Okay.

Oerther Um and they also. . . you know, a staff member. They have that resource too. To ask questions and um, bring in the animal.

Kessinger So.

Oerther That's highly encouraged if there's any problems or concerns that someone sees the animal.

Kessinger Okay. So, she has access out at the Animal House as well to the vet tech, you said?

Oerther Yes. She. . .the, the vet tech would've referred her to the veterinarian.

Kessinger Okay. So, she has um, a veterinarian.

Oerther Uh-huh.

Kessinger That she could contact with Animal Services. Now, what about after hours?

Oerther Um, if there was a concern, there is always someone on call.

Kessinger So, she. . .

Oerther And they would maybe refer her to a, um, outsourcing veterinarian if, you know, they thought necessary or. . .

Kessinger Okay. And. . .

Oerther . . .if it was a emergency or something like that.

Kessinger Now, when you foster an animal.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger Do they give a packet or a manual. . .

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger . . . that states if, if. . .

Oerther Of emergency.

Kessinger . . .if you have any concerns with an emergency. . .

Oerther Yes. Uh-hum.

Kessinger . . . are the contact numbers within this manual?

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger So, she is provided information to where if, if something is wrong.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger Uh and she has a concern or an issue with the dog. . .

Oerther Right.

Kessinger . . . that she could contact someone.

Oerther Uh and, and also of course, she had our management, the management team's

phone number as well.

Kessinger So, do you know if Miss Adkins, uh, ever brought the dog to Animal Services to be examined?

Oerther I don't know for sure on that.

Kessinger And did you ever. . .

Oerther I know it was originally examined when it was brought in. Um, when it was. . . I think it was a stray. Um, but no it was a owner surrender, I believe. So, it would have been examined that first time when they, you know, they do a basic wellness examine or if they need do shots and things like that.

Kessinger And then the position that, that you held there, do you review the medical records or do you follow up after examines? Or do it on Sadie?

Oerther I, I don't. Um, specifically, when we, you know, if I did an adoption, which I wasn't really a part of in my job, I, I would do some if, of course, we were short staffed. And we do review the medical history when we do an adoption. Um and sometimes, yes. Helping with fosters as they come in for like kitten shots. Things like that. We, we would help with those as well.

Kessinger Now, when Sadie was originally brought in to the shelter.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger Uh, she was seen, I guess, by, uh, Animal Services. . .

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger Veterinarian. And in a letter that was wrote. Miss Adkins. . . she had stated on here that he was immediately placed on the euthanasia list. Are you familiar with that?

Oerther Um, if an animal comes in and you know there's not an option for 'em and if they are um. . . If there's not a foster or a rescue that may take them or potentially adoption.

Kessinger Uh-hum.

Oerther Um, it just depends on what, what resources are out there. They do whatever they can to save as many as possible. Um, so that, yeah. That's definitely a possibility if they felt there wasn't a resource and I knew Heather did say, you know, I wanna try to foster this animal.

Kessinger Okay. So, since Miss Ad, Miss Adkins wanted to foster the animal. . .

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger . . . that's why the dog got. . . was put in her care so it wouldn't be euthanized?

Oerther Yes. She wanted to, you know, um, take care of it and try to get (Inaudible) and give it a chance.

Kessinger Now, as far as in, in the letter also, it says, Sadie broke through 2 e-collars. And got her, and got to her leg twice. Each time consisting of me waking up to her bleeding and rushing her to my personal vet and spending out of pocket to get her cleaned and bandaged. Plus purchasing another e-collar.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger And I'll show you here where it's highlighted in green. That's what I just read.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Kessinger Uh, with that statement there by Miss Adkins, is that somethin' . . . Again, I only spoke earlier that, if that had happened throughout the night or if that was an emergency, not only could she take that to her personal vet but she does have access to contact someone with, within Animal Services.

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger Is that. . .that's my understanding.

Oerther She. . . um, my, my understanding is, is there someone on call all the time um, with Vet Services that would either call her back and talk her through it and suggest to possibly go somewhere else if needed. Um, or come into Manslick and meet there for any concerns.

Kessinger Okay. And. . .

Oerther And she. . . as a foster if they feel that, you know, they need to go to their vet right away or whatever, if they can do that but they know that it's not um, their bill's not gonna be paid back.

Kessinger Okay. So basically, if she takes it to her own veterinarian, she has to pay the full bill. Okay. And Animal Services will not reimburse her for takin' it to her own veterinarian.

Oerther Right.

Kessinger Is that. . .? Can you explain why?

Oerther That's. . . The Foster Care Program they encourage you to bring the, the pet to, to Manslick. To Vet Services. So, you know, they're in their care. Um and they're takin' care of 'em. So they wanna be the ones that, to check in on them and uh. . . But of course, if it is after hours, they will tell them to go to a specific place.

Kessinger Okay. So, they'll direct them what to do with, with the dog.

Oerther Yes.

Kessinger Now, if she was to bring that dog to Animal Services, would she have to pay out of her pocket that you're aware of?

Oerther No. If it, if it went to. . .

Kessinger If it. . .

Oerther . . . the vet in Metro Animal Services, they would do what they (Inaudible) animal and that was. . . that would not be, uh. . . that's part of the Foster Care Program. That they have the, uh, you know, backing or whatnot. . .

Kessinger Uh-hum.

Oerther . . . um, of the, the vet.

Kessinger So, it's basically, Animal Services does provide care during the working hours and after hours. Is that. . .?

Oerther Either provide care if they can. Um, or they will prefer them to someone else that can.

Kessinger Okay. Did anyone at Animal Services or outside the agency ever tell you that Sadie was being neglected during this?

Oerther She with the, you know, chewing of the collars and things like that, um, it was definitely something, um, that we were hoping to, to help and, and handle and um, get. . . help the animal 'cause she was tryin' to (Inaudible) the animal. Uh, which is, which is a good thing but it was never. . . she never brought the animal in to get checked on. Um and she would. . . I know she would usually catch Kim up with the uh, if she took her to the vet and what their vet said and, and that type of thing. Um, but she never, yeah, she didn't when this happened she didn't call management or her vet services. With a concern. Um, you know, we, we, I found out through Facebook.

Kessinger How'd you find out?

Oerther Uh, just lookin', you know, news feeds and Facebook.

Kessinger Okay.

Oerther Um, as, with that. . . it's right there. (Chuckles)

Kessinger Okay.

Oerther I saw that.

Kessinger And basically, what you're pointin' at is, is an article, um, that was posted as. . . it's a letter from Miss Adkins. Is, is what you're pointing at.

Oerther The uh, the Facebook post that (Inaudible) Facebook post those.

Kessinger Okay. (Inaudible) picture was Sadie around, with the cone around her, her neck.

Oerther That's what I saw. Yes. Right. That's what I saw on her Saturday morning. I think it was.

Kessinger And did you ever do a home visit out to Heather Adkins house?

Oerther I have not. No.

Kessinger Do you know if... does Animal Services ever do home visits with, with, I guess those who foster animals?

Oerther Uh, they do. Sometimes. Depending on what's um, for staff, they do. Um and then also it... a management member always has to review the ASAP. Foster Application so, uh, one of the management team members and they usually did some visits out to the house as well.

Kessinger Okay.

Oerther I don't know with her case specifically when it was done or if, you know, who did it or that type of thing.

Kessinger Okay. Sergeant Laytham?

Oerther But I, I had never been to her home.

Kessinger Okay. Thank you. (Inaudible).

Laytham Now, Miss Adkins, was she employed durin' the...? Now, she took, uh, started fostering say in early September.

Oerther Uh-hum.

Laytham Until her, uh, it was eu, she was euthanized in February. Now, was, us, Miss Adkins employed with Louisville Animal Services this entire time?

Oerther Um, yes.

Laytham Now, where did she report to work at?

Oerther She was at the Manslick Road facility.

Laytham The same facility that houses all the veterinary. . .

Oerther Yes. Yeah.

Laytham Vets and everything.

Oerther That's the main, um, Pet Services Suite.

Laytham Okay. But she's employed where all the vets are located.

Oerther Yes. We have. . .

Laytham So she could. . .

Oerther There's full-time vet and one part-time vet at Metro.

Laytham Okay.

Oerther And they're both at, at Manslick usually. They'll come over, um, Animal House a few times just to check in. They come at least, usually once a week.

Um, just to check on the animals, so. But yes, they're usually at Manslick

Laytham So. . . Okay. If, if a foster has an issue with a, a pet. Wants to be seen by a vet; where do they take them?

Oerther Um, they can take them to Animal House if it's usually. . . Usually, they'll call and say what's going on.

Laytham Uh-hum.

Oerther Um, you know, if, if it's an upper respiratory or somethin' like that. Where kittens are sneezing a little bit, we can check them out and give them medicine. Um, usually our, our vet will see them at Manslick though. And they have hours. I don't know specifically what it is now. But um, I think it's twice a week usually that you can just drop in.

Laytham Uh-hum.

Oerther If you need to. But of course, if there's something goin' on, they can call and say yeah. Come on in.

Laytham So, if she was workin' at the Manslick Road, it would be very easy access for her to just to bring Sadie in on her way to work one or with her at work. Correct?

Oerther Yes, sir. She, she could've brought, um, Sadie in to see one of the vet services, technicians or vets or set up, uh, you know, an appointment as well.

Laytham Okay. With. . .

Oerther And that's part of the, the Foster Manual. They explain that.

Laytham Uh-hum. So, then, roughly 6 months that Sadie was in the, uh, care of Miss Adkins. She never brought a. . . even into work with her or saw the vet.

Oerther I'm don't know for sure on that because I wasn't, um, I was at Manslick a few times a week.

Laytham Okay.

Oerther But my office was at Animal House. So I don't know for sure on that.

Laytham All right. I don't think I have anything further.

Kessinger Okay. Is there anything you'd like to state for the record before we end?

Oerther Um, I, I don't think so.

Kessinger Is there. . .

Oerther You know, it was unfortunate what, what happened, of course. Um. . .

Kessinger Okay. Is everything you told me the truth to the best of your knowledge?

Oerther Yes.

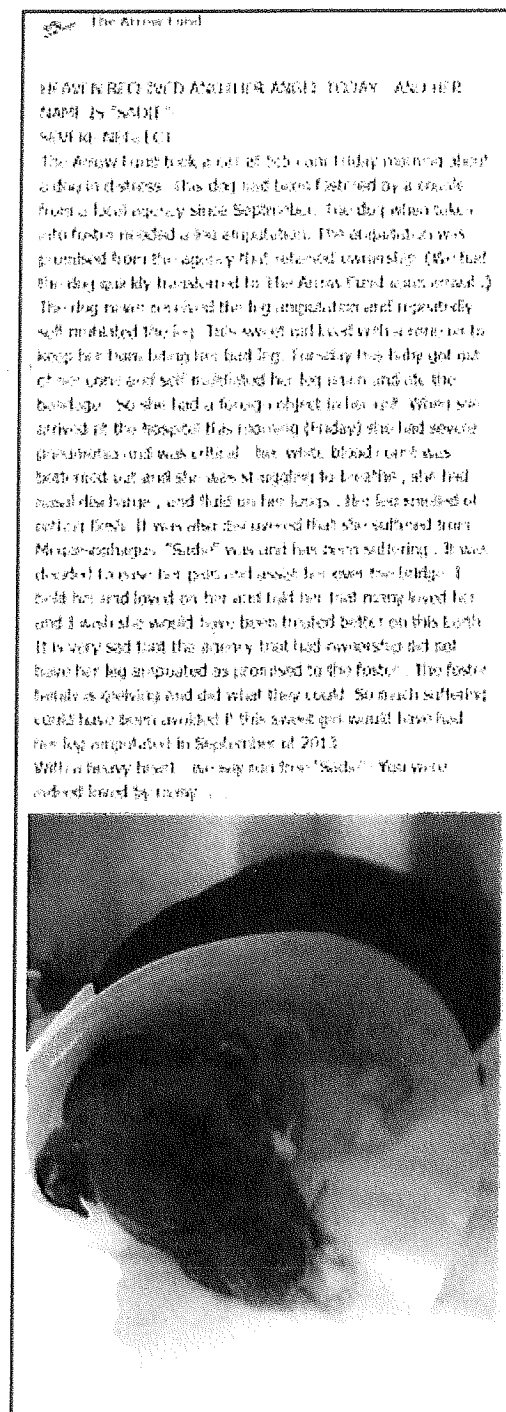
Kessinger

We will now conclude this statement. Time now is 08:36 hours.

END OF
STATEMENT

PIU

File #14-072/pm



CLICK TO ENLARGE

It wasn't a secret. Not something that can be covered up.

To make things sting a bit more for Brosko, LMAS, Greg Fischer and crew, here's the statement provided to us by Adkins:

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Heather Adkins, and I am a previous employee of Louisville Metro Animal Services. I left my position in May for many reasons, the biggest of which is a current

Another month passed. ~~I emailed often and received vague answers: We're waiting for the surgery equipment. Oh, the equipment is delayed. The equipment is here, but we haven't heard from the vet who does our amputations. Still no word. Sorry for the delay. These emails were to/from several different people including Kim Ward, Margaret Brosko, and Alisa Oerther.~~ There is even one email I remember vividly from Margaret in response to a fairly long request from me to get the surgery going: One word. Soon.

By this time, it was November, and Sadie began to chew on the paw. I guessed as it got colder outside, the leg began to ache, the way an athlete's old injury might. It wasn't serious at first; I'd just catch her nibbling at it, never hurting herself. But one morning I awoke to find she chewed through her paw, including several toenails, so I rushed her to my personal veterinarian, Doctor Stephanie Pollett in Bullitt County. Dr. Pollett cleaned her, bandaged her, and gave me the first of many cones for Sadie's neck.

At work that day, I emailed Margaret. This was around November 11th, I believe. I told her that Sadie had self-mutilated the night before, and I woke up to find her bloody paw. I said she was fine now, but the situation had hit crisis mode and we needed to get the surgery done NOW.

My husband and I were stunned by what happened next. I was informed that because they never heard from the amputation vet, that they'd had to use that pit bull donation on another dog. It had to be used "right away." So there was no money for Sadie. They couldn't do anything for us.

~~Sadie broke through two e-collars and got to her leg twice, each time consisting of me waking up to her bleeding and rushing her to my personal vet and spending out of pocket to get her cleaned and bandaged, plus purchasing another e-collar.~~

For most of the fall, I was very communicative with Dr. Pollett about how the shelter had promised Sadie help and hadn't done anything for her yet. Dr. Pollett offered very early on to do the surgery for low cost—it would include a hospital stay at her own practice, all equipment, all meds, everything. So I had emailed Margaret and told her the price Dr. Pollett stated, and that I was willing to raise this money myself and take care of everything if she would just give me permission to do so.

She said she would need to get permission from the SPOT board.

At a meeting just after Sadie's death in March, Margaret stated face-to-face she had told me Dr. Pollett was more money than they had raised. This was NEVER communicated to me. How would that have been an issue, when I specifically stated I would raise the money myself if they would give me permission?

On or around December 21st, three weeks after Sadie began self-mutilating and I notified Kim and Margaret, Margaret finally sent me an email giving me permission to raise the money ourselves and let Dr. Pollett do the surgery.

Over the course of January and February, Sadie did well as we raised money for her surgery. She stopped going after her paw, and was able to be out of the e-collar for long periods of time without paying it any mind.

At work, I personally received and cashed at least three payments on behalf of Sadie. One from my best friend, Ann Hunter, in the amount of \$50. One from a family friend, Judy

Sampson, in the amount of \$10. And a third from a Facebook friend, Christine Posey. I've contacted all three to request proof of their payment. When they were entered in the shelter's Chameleon software system, they were referenced as "Sadie's surgery" and donated as a DONATION SPOT. This is only three I know of; there were definitely others.

We hit our surgery goal on a Friday. That next Monday, I woke up to find Sadie had completely chewed through her bandages and reached her paw again. We visited the vet and cleaned up, talked about setting up Sadie's surgery—I just needed to let Margaret know we were ready to do so, if SPOT was ready to write the check. Then I took her back home.

As a side note here, I recently found out that a SPOT board member stated no information was ever brought to them regarding Sadie. They had never heard of her, nor had they given permission to do the donations through them to pay for the surgery. She stated they likely would not have been a part of this situation in the first place. So whether Margaret lied to me, or this SPOT member was misinformed, I'm not sure.

Within two days, Sadie went downhill. She began to cough and be lethargic. On Wednesday, she vomited several times. On Thursday, I took her to see Dr. Pollett, who did X-rays and found Sadie had actually consumed some of the bandages this time. She then suggested I contact the Arrow Fund and ask for help.

Which I did. I sent Sadie's story to the Arrow Fund via email that same night, and then spoke by phone with Rebecca Eaves. She wanted to help, and by early the next morning, Sadie was transferred into the care of the Arrow Fund. Her condition at this point was too severe—she'd developed pneumonia from the constant vomiting, on top of the bowel obstruction, on top of the leg that needed medical attention. They opted to euthanize her.

A meeting was set between Donald, Margaret, me, and our union steward, Sherry Goodman, in which they had me tell the story of what happened in the days leading up to Sadie being transferred to Arrow Fund. After, I was written up.

I told them if Sadie had received the help she was promised in the beginning, then I would have felt comfortable coming to them for help when Sadie ingested the bandages. But they'd proven, over the course of six months, that help would not be coming from MAS. They neglected Sadie, and in return neglected me as the foster parent. That's when I turned to Arrow Fund.

A month later, Donald Robinson, assistant director, pulled me into his office where he informed me if I wasn't his "star employee," he would fire me for bringing this bad press on them. He showed me the open records request from Karen Dickson, who I only knew by name at that point, and told me "Now we have to deal with this."

I am willing to swear under oath that there are a dozen or more emails in existence that took place between myself, Kim Ward, Margaret Brosko, and Alisa Oerther. I am seeking to provide proof of three separate donations for Sadie that were not claimed in the open records request, and I am also attempting to find all the documentation I had on hand regarding these emails about Sadie, showing the numerous times I reached out to the staff and received no help in return. You can find my story to be corroborated by several LMAS employees who were by my side during the entire ordeal, though I'm sure they fear retaliation and/or termination, so at this point it's doubtful they would step forward.

issue Ms. Karen Dickson is attempting to bring to light. For fear of retaliation, I didn't want to step forward. I'm no longer fearful.

Around September 2013, I took home my first and only foster dog, a beautiful gray pit bull named Sadie. She was about two years old, the sweetest, happiest dog you've ever met, with a horribly destroyed front leg. It dangled uselessly, likely from a previous traumatic accident that was never seen by a vet.

Sadie was impounded in March of 2013, and when the owner came to claim her, not only did the owner contest a spay (obviously because s/he was a breeder from the west end), s/he received a violation notice on Sadie's injury (images attached). When a vet notice is issued to an owner, they have to take the dog to the vet within 48 hours, and if they don't, they get taken to court.

That's exactly what happened with Sadie. Her owner didn't bother taking her to the vet, so s/he was given a court date. Which s/he didn't show up for.

This is the first instance in which Metro Animal Services dropped the ball. Nothing happened. A bench warrant was not issued. The owner was not tracked down to give proof Sadie had been seen. And the case was eventually dismissed by a judge.

Several months later in July, Sadie ended up back at the shelter. After a month, the owner told the shelter in no uncertain terms s/he would not be returning to get Sadie.

~~Sadie was immediately placed on the euthanasia list.~~

Rather than see perfectly happy and sweet Sadie put down for only the crime of A—being a pit bull, and B—having a bum leg, I took her home as a foster. This was around the first of September.

The next day, I emailed the foster coordinator at that time, Kim Ward, and asked about my options. I told her my husband and I were willing to raise funds for Sadie's surgery. As with all MAS fosters, the animals ARE MAS property, and as such, foster parents have little control over what they can or can not do, so I knew I needed permission to go forward.

Kim was right on board with this idea, and she let me know she'd run it by her boss, Margaret Brosko, and get back with me.

In the meantime, I told Tabitha Gray, the vet staff supervisor about Sadie's situation. I told her Sadie would be a wonderful adoption candidate because she loved other dogs, loved cats, loved people, and was an all-around sunny dog. Tabitha informed me her vet staff wouldn't do anything for Sadie because they wouldn't see a financial return on her.

Within a couple days, Kim emailed me back to say hold off on collection any money, because Margaret wanted to use Sadie as a PR tool. They'd received a donation from a citizen that was specified to be used to save a pit bull, and Sadie would be perfect for this. I agreed, because I didn't care how Sadie got the surgery, as long as she did.

A month passed with no word. I wasn't concerned at this time because Sadie was happy and healthy, and the leg didn't seem to bother her at all. I emailed Kim to ask what the status of her surgery was, and Kim let me know they were waiting on the surgery pack.

This is not all that I have to say on the subject of Animal Services. It is a corrupt place, led by people who care not for the animals, but for good press. They will lie, cheat, and steal to remain in the Mayor's good graces, and they will grab every success story to the forefront, while dutifully covering up the bad, much as they are trying to do now with Sadie.

Heather Adkins

After all that, Fischer and crew promoted Brosko to work in his office and have taken great pains to cover the scandal up. They also tried to hire another abysmal director, until we revealed *her* mess publicly. His staff — government officials paid for with your tax dollars — are now attempting to retaliate because they know we're blowing the lid off the LMAS nightmare once again.

In all these eight long years of covering corruption at Metro Animal Services and within Metro Government, this takes the cake. It beats everything we've seen and our investigations have directly resulted in the firing of several directors, don't forget. It's worse than all of that. It's worse than Gilles Meloche injecting air into the hearts of animals instead of humanely euthanizing them. It's worse than throwing freshly killed animals into the city dump instead of incinerating them. It's worse than sexual harassment scandals and legal settlements. It's worse than Wayne Zelinsky and the escort service shenanigans. It's worse than Jackie Gulbe stuffing an elderly, overheated dog into a suitcase to take it to the shelter (yes, that's why she was let go — we've already proved it). It's worse than Margaret Brosko damaging someone's vehicle with an LMAS truck, which was verified by LMPD and Metro Government, only to be covered up and whitewashed.

This is the worst thing we've seen from LMAS because we finally have evidence that everyone from Greg Fischer on down are mismanaging the troubled agency while violating the law in an attempt to withhold information from the public. All in an attempt to whitewash reality and make themselves look like they're doing a stellar job. Everyone involved ought to be prosecuted, fined, fired and held responsible. It's just tough to have faith in anyone with an ability in government to do the right thing.

Will Jack Conway, who is now running for governor, step up and do the right thing? Or will this end as just another scalp in our LMAS trophy case?

Something tells us Conway won't want Jamie Comer, his eventual Republican opponent, hanging this around his neck.

Here's hoping.

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38 responses so far ↓

- [1 Sarah Bauer](#) // Jul 22, 2014 at 1:58 pm

I am horrified by this story. Something must be done immediately to resolve the problems at MAS. There is no excuse for what happened to Sadie — NONE.

- [2 jake](#) // Jul 22, 2014 at 1:59 pm

Sadie's not even the worst case.

Brosko, Margaret A

From: Adkins, Heather
Sent: Tuesday, November 05, 2013 10:27 AM
To: Oerther, Alisa

I got your message! Thank you!! I have three little fosters to bring in for shots on my off days this week (either Thurs or Fri) and AH is closer to me than Manslick, so I'll fill out the paperwork and pay then :)

~~Any word on Sadie's surgery? We're fighting a battle with her on keeping her from chewing on the bad paw. She's living in bandages and an E Collar LOL~~

Brosko, Margaret A

From: Ward, Kim N.
Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2013 1:15 PM
To: Brosko, Margaret A; Oerther, Alisa
Subject: Sadie A485350

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Have we been able to get the equipment for the surgery for her? Heather has told me that Sadie is chewing off her toenails and constantly mutilating it. Are we still able to get the surgery done as we had told we would?

Thanks!



Kim Ward

Foster Coordinator

Animal House Adoption Center
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www.louisvilleanimalhouse.com

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