



Public Integrity Unit

Case # 14-072

Interview of:
Amanda Wolfe
LMAS



LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special Investigations Division

Public Integrity Unit

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

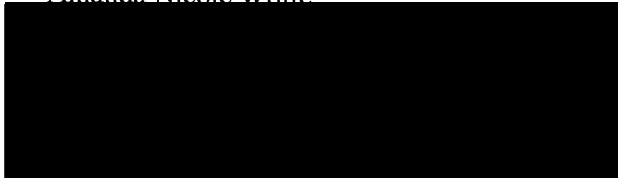


Type of Investigation Animal Cruelty/Neglect	File No. 14-072	Date of Report: November 5, 2014
Activity: Interview with Amanda Wolfe	Submitted By Sergeant Chad Kessinger	
	Lead Investigator: Sergeant Chad Kessinger	

INTERVIEW WITH AMANDA WOLFE

On November 5, 2014 at approximately 1251 hours an interview was conducted with Lisa Wolfe. Mrs. Wolfe is more specifically identified as:

Amanda Nicole Wolfe



The interview was conducted at Louisville Metro Animal Services located at 3705 Manslick Road. Also present during the interview was Sergeant Marcus Laytham. Ms. Wolfe was employed at Louisville Metro Animal Services (LMAS) as the Animal Care Coordinator during the time frame of this investigation. Ms. Wolfe's interview was taken in the form of a sworn statement and the following are the key aspects of the interview:

- Ms. Wolfe was made aware of Sadie when she was called in to a disciplinary hearing with Assistant Director Robinson and Heather Adkins regarding her stepping out of protocol.
- Amanda Wolfe stated *"Our protocol is not for fosters to directly contact umm rescues in regards to animals in their care. The protocol is actually to follow a chain of command. You notify the foster coordinator, the foster coordinator makes contact with the rescue coordinator who makes contact with the rescues. And that protocol was not followed."*
- Amanda Wolfe had seen emails stating Kim Ward was contacted about the condition of the dog.
- Amanda Wolfe said nothing about this case was by protocol. Louisville Metro Services protocol is that the veterinarian on staff needs to be aware of everything that's going on. That protocol was not followed.
- As an employee foster, you personally have the veterinarian staff on call number because it goes out in an email. The veterinarian staff rotates between the following:
 - Brenda Keel
 - Tabitha Gray
 - Dr. Congolton
- Investigator asked Amanda Wolfe if Heather Adkins ever explained to her why she did not follow the protocol in place. Ms. Wolfe stated *"she was afraid the dog would be euthanized."*
- Heather Adkins never provided Amanda Wolfe with any of Sadie's medical records.

Investigator's Signature:	
Supervisor's Signature:	11/10/2014

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LMPD # 05-0002 10/05.



LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC INTEGRITY UNIT
OFFICIAL STATEMENT

CASE NUMBER: 14-072

Today's date is November 5, 2014 The time is 1251 hours.

This is an interview with Amanda Wolfe (R/S)

This interview is being conducted at:

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

☒ Other Location: 3705 Manslick Rd. Louisville Metro Animal

Present during this interview is:

Ms.
(Title)

Sgt. C. Hoosinger Sgt. M. Laytham
(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?
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, Amanda Wolfe, 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.

A. Wolfe
Signature

11/5/14

Date

12:52

Time

Sgt. Marcus Laytham
Witness signature

11/5/2014

Date

1252

Time

Subscribed and sworn to me by

Amanda Wolfe

This 5 day of November, 2014

Notary Public, State at Large, KY
My Commission Expires Mar. 29, 2017

Notary Public, State at Large

My Commission Expires

November 5, 2014

This is Sergeant Chad Kessinger with the Louisville Metro Police Department Public Integrity Unit. This is going to be an official statement in regards to Case #14-072. Today's date is November 5, 2014. The time now is 12:51 hours. This is an interview with Amanda Wolfe. This interview is being conducted at 3705 Manslick Road at the Louisville Metro Animal Services. Present during this interview is myself, Sergeant Chad Kessinger; and also present is Sergeant Marcus Laytham.

Kessinger Miss Wolfe, are you aware that this interview will be audio recorded?

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger Has anyone threatened in order to obtain this interview?

Wolfe No.

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

Wolfe Yes.

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

Wolfe Amanda Nichole Wolfe. W-O-L-F-E.

Kessinger And what is your date of birth please?

Wolfe

Kessinger And please state a home address including the ZIP code.

Wolfe

Kessinger And is this the same as your mailing address?

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger State your home phone with area code please

Wolfe All I have is this cell phone [REDACTED]

Kessinger And are you employed?

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger And please state your employer and the position that you hold there.

Wolfe Louisville Metro Animal Services. I am currently an animal care coordinator.

Kessinger And what is your work telephone number?

Wolfe It's 502-361-1318.

Kessinger Okay. Are you aware the following interview will be a sworn statement?

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger If you would, please raise your right hand. Do you, Amanda Wolfe, solemnly swear to affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger If you would please sign right there next to the X. And then next to that, I'm sorry, if you could date today's date, November 5th. The time being 12:52. Thank you.

Wolfe Uh-huh.

Kessinger And we're here today to discuss the incident regarding a pit bull by the name of Sadie. Are you familiar with the dog?

Wolfe Not the dog specifically, but of the existence of the dog.

Kessinger Okay. Can you tell me how you were made aware of this dog?

Wolfe Umm, I was called in to a disciplinary hearing with Assistant Director Robinson and Heather Adkins regarding her stepping out of protocol.

Kessinger Okay. And when you say stepping out of protocol, what is that?

Wolfe Our protocol is not for fosters to directly contact umm rescues in regards to animals in their care. The protocol is actually to follow a chain of command. You notify the foster coordinator, the foster coordinator makes contact with the rescue coordinator who makes contact with the rescues. And that protocol was not followed.

Kessinger Okay. Is—and at the time I guess the coordinator that Miss Adkins would had to have contact, do you ...?

Wolfe That is Kim Ward.

Kessinger And do you know—you have information that Kim Ward was not contacted?

Wolfe No. I've seen emails stating that she was contacted. Not specifically about rescue, but about the condition of the dog.

Kessinger Okay. Alright. And did you ever see Sadie?

Wolfe No.

Kessinger Did anyone ever contact you umm within Animal Services or even Miss Adkins, did they ever contact you saying that Sadie was being neglected medical treatment?

Wolfe No.

Kessinger Were you ever made aware of any medical needs for the dog Sadie?

Wolfe We knew that Heather, in general, people knew that Heather had a medical foster that needed treatment. But the details weren't something we—all I knew that she was raising money for a foster to get treatment. Umm, the specifics I didn't find out until I became to represent her in the union.

Kessinger Okay. Sergeant Laytham?

Laytham No, I don't believe I have any questions.

Kessinger Is there anything you would like to state for the record before we end?

Wolfe I don't believe this is a one person failure. I believe it was a systematic failure of Metro Animal Services. I don't believe that there's a specific person that should be targeted. I believe it was a protocol that umm...needed to be fixed. And unfortunately, Sadie was the victim of that protocol. Now that it has been fixed uhh I just don't see any one person as being at fault. I think there—as an agency, we were at fault.

Kessinger. Okay. But...with that being said...do know of anybody that was—that was brought to their attention that Sadie was suffering or in pain or requiring immediate medical attention and was denied?

Wolfe There was never any blatant denial. If you'd look at the emails between the foster, the foster coordinator and Margaret Brosko, and whatever her title was at the time, umm it was made known that Sadie was suffering. And it was not handled.

Kessinger Okay. And if—in who's care was the dog in at the time?

Wolfe Fosters have the animals in their possession. But the dog is the property of Metro Animal Services. The animal in foster is always the property of Metro Animal Services. Now, nothing about this case was by protocol. By protocol, our Vet staff at this facility should have seen this dog. You just don't take it to a third party Vet. But Metro Animal Services protocol is that the Vet on staff needs to be aware of everything that's going on. That protocol wasn't followed either.

Kessinger And that wasn't followed by who?

Wolfe The foster.

Kessinger Which would have been at the time?

Wolfe Heather Adkins.

Kessinger Okay. And so...

Wolfe It's—it's not just one person. It's...it's a systematic failure.

Kessinger Okay. So if the dog required medical—immediate medical attention.

Wolfe Uh-huh.

Kessinger The person who has care custody of that dog, do they have—do they have contact numbers?

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger Here with Metro Animal Services to contact them during working hours or outside of working hours?

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger If there is a medical emergency or a need that arises with that fostered animal?

Wolfe Yes. And with an employee foster, you have an even more extensive network of numbers that you can call. As an employee foster, you personally have the Vet staff on call number because it goes out in an email. Depending on who it is. It rotates through three people. Uhh, Brenda Keel, Tabitha Gray and Dr. Congleton all share that responsibility. And their work numbers are readily available to all employees.

Kessinger Okay so when you saying protocol wasn't followed, you're saying she went outside of the Vet staff here with Animal Services and got medical—or sought medical attention for Sadie elsewhere?

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger Now when the dog is seen elsewhere? What's the protocol from there?

Wolfe The protocol is that our Vet staff is supposed to have all access to all medical records. Because ultimately the disposition of the dog is up to Metro Animal Services. Umm, but yea. I mean even if you take it to a third party Vet, you're supposed to have either a checkup or bring the medical records in for our medical staff to look at. Because the assessment by a third party Vet is going to be different than the assessment by a shelter Vet. I mean it's totally different style of medicine.

Kessinger Where you ever given medical records by Miss Adkins from another Vet?

Wolfe No.

Kessinger Sergeant Laytham?

Laytham Do you know how long Miss Adkins fostered this dog? Do you know how long it was in her care?

Wolfe I know it went into her care in September. I don't know specifically right off the top of my head when it went to rescue.

Laytham Okay. So September of 2013? Correct?

Wolfe Uh-huh.

Laytham And I don't think there's any debate how it went to foster the day that it was euthanized. Is that correct? Or went to uhh rescue the day of it was euthanized?

Wolfe I don't know. I don't feel it was that day or a few days after. Umm, what I was told by Miss Adkins was the dog had to be euthanized because it had a blockage after eating its cast.

Laytham Okay. Well I think we have records here saying that the date was approximately February 28th I think when it went to rescue. And so I think that we can all agree that it's fair to say that it was in her care from September '13 until February of '14. So six months.

Wolfe Uh-huh.

Laytham Is that unusual period for a dog to be fostered?

Wolfe For medical? No. No, no. It just depends on what the medical is.

Laytham Is it unusual for it to be out on a medical and the foster not to bring it in to Louisville Metro Animal Services to be seen by a Vet? It's out on a medical issue and it's 6 months and...?

Wolfe As typical rule, yes. Although we typically for dogs that have significant injuries like this, they usually go to rescue. They don't usually stay in our system. And then there's a reason for that. I mean we're just not equipped to do the surgeries and the things that are necessary. I do not know why this was different than most cases. Umm, (Inaudible) I was un—until I got called into that meeting, I didn't even know that the injuries were as significant as they were. I just assumed that it was a dog with a broken leg that she was raising money for. Or a dog with an injury that she was raising money for. I didn't—I don't think anyone else at this facility really understood the significance of Sadie's injuries.

Laytham Okay. As a Louisville Metro Animal Services employee, if a dog comes in here that's injured and they cannot locate a—a foster or a rescue for it.

Wolfe Uh-huh.

Laytham What would happen to that animal?

Wolfe It would depend on the injuries. The network...

Laytham Well this particular injury we're discussing.

Wolfe This particular injury, personally I would have contacted KJS. They have grant funding, they have significant amounts of money and they are a partner with us through the ASPCA. I'm yet to be denied a rescue for medical animal through them.

Laytham Okay so...

Wolfe Sadie, I would have sent to KHS. I would not have left her in our care.

Laytham I don't think that's what I asked. I said what would typically happen to an animal that come in that way?

Wolfe We would search out rescue. If we didn't have rescue in a rare event, which is pretty rare, umm I mean I can get part of the dogs out of here. In the rare event there's no rescue, is there no way to get it out, and we can't afford medical treatment, euthanasia is the next step.

Laytham Okay. Alright. That's all I have.

Kessinger And did Miss Adkins ever explain to you why she did not follow the protocol set in place?

Wolfe She was afraid the dog would be euthanized.

Kessinger Is there anything else you like to state for the record before we end?

Wolfe Nope.

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

Wolfe Yes.

Kessinger We will now conclude this statement. The time now is 13:02 hours.

END OF STATEMENT

Amanda Wolfe / File #14-072

/jkc