

May 24, 2019

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue Room 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104
Telephone (206) 477-0860
hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner

REPORT AND DECISION

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V19009157**

ALLI HIGHLEY

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A19000853

Appellant: **Alli Highley**


Seattle, WA 98146

King County: Regional Animal Services of King County
represented by **Chelsea Eykel**
Regional Animal Services of King County
21615 64th Avenue S
Kent, WA 98032
Telephone: (206) 263-5968
Email: raskcappeals@kingcounty.gov

KCC 11.04.030.A requires all dogs eight weeks old and older be licensed and registered. Alli Highley agrees her dog did not have a license as of the date Animal Services issued a violation notice. Instead, she states that she has been unable to afford the license. Unfortunately, a pet license—along with things like pet food and veterinarian care—are responsibilities of pet ownership. Such costs play into the calculation of whether one can afford to have a dog.

We noted in our prehearing order that where an individual licenses a pet after the violation but before our hearing, we have never eliminated—but we have often reduced—the penalty. We wrote that it would behoove Ms. Highley to license her dog as soon as possible, and that, if the parties could not reach a settlement before our hearing, we could listen to the arguments and figure out a penalty *reduction* at hearing

Despite Ms. Highley not licensing her dog before hearing, Animal Services generously offered to waive the *entire* penalty if she got her dog licensed in the next two weeks. That is more than we would have ordered, but we will go along with it.

We DENY Ms. Highley’s appeal as to the violation. We SUSPEND the \$250 penalty until June 7, 2019. If the dog is duly licensed by then, the entire penalty is waived. If the will he dog is not licensed by June 7, the entire \$250 penalty becomes due.

ORDERED May 24, 2019.



David Spohr
Hearing Examiner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

King County Code 20.22.040 directs the Examiner to make the County’s final decision for this type of case. This decision shall be final and conclusive unless appealed to superior court by *June 24, 2019*. Either party may appeal this decision by applying for a writ of review in superior court in accordance with chapter 7.16 RCW.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2019, HEARING IN THE APPEAL OF ALLI HIGHLEY, REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES OF KING COUNTY FILE NO. V19009157

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing were Chelsea Eykel and Alli Highley. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner’s Office.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the record:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Exhibit no. 1 | Regional Animal Services of King County staff report to the Hearing Examiner |
| Exhibit no. 2 | Online complaint form of February 19, 2019, incident submitted by Brandon Krafka, dated February 19, 2019 |
| Exhibit no. 3 | RASKC investigation report no. A19-000853-01 |
| Exhibit no. 4 | RASKC notice to Appellant regarding pet licensing, dated February 20, 2019 |
| Exhibit no. 5 | Notice of violation no. V19009157, issued March 4, 2019 |
| Exhibit no. 6 | Warning notice, issued March 4, 2019 |
| Exhibit no. 7 | Appeal, received April 3, 2019 |

DS/vsm

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V19009157**

ALLI HIGHLEY

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

I, Vonetta Mangaoang, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that I transmitted the **REPORT AND DECISION** to those listed on the attached page as follows:

EMAILED to all County staff listed as parties/interested persons and parties with e-mail addresses on record.

placed with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to the non-County employee parties/interested persons to addresses on record.

DATED May 24, 2019.

Vonetta Mangaoang

Vonetta Mangaoang
Senior Administrator

Eykel, Chelsea

Regional Animal Services of King County

Highley, Alli

Hardcopy

Krafka, Brandon