

November 6, 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. **V19009746**

CHRISTINE FOHRMAN

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A19003997

Appellant: **Christine Fohrman**

Black Diamond, WA 98010

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISION:

Department's Preliminary Recommendation:

Deny appeal

Department's Final Recommendation:

Deny appeal, lower fine

Examiner's Decision:

Deny appeal, lower fine

EXAMINER PROCEEDINGS:

Hearing Opened: October 23, 2019
Hearing Closed: October 23, 2019

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner's Office.

After hearing the witnesses' testimony and observing their demeanor, studying the exhibits admitted into evidence, and considering the parties' arguments and the relevant law, the examiner hereby makes the following findings, conclusions, and decision.

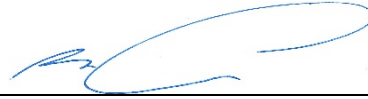
FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

1. Christine Fohrman was issued a Notice of Violation and Order to Comply V199009746 by Regional Animal Services of King County (RASKC) Animal Control Officer Diana Fowler for nine counts of harboring unlicensed, unaltered pets with a fine of \$250 for each animal; for a total fine of \$2,250.00.
2. On July 8, 2019, RASKC received a complaint that Ms. Fohrman had upwards of 15 cats on her property.
3. Upon arrival RASKC Officer Fowler observed seven adult cats and two eight-week old kittens.
4. Ms. Fohrman then told Office Fowler that she had 25-30 cats coming and going from her property.
5. On July 21, 2019, Sally Halela of South County Cats advised that they were willing to help Ms. Fohrman trap and alter cats to avoid civil penalties.
6. KCC 11.040.030 requires all dogs and cats eight weeks old or older that are harbored, kept, or maintained in King County to be licensed and registered.
7. On August 18, 2019, Ms. Fohrman still had nine unlicensed, unaltered cats at her residence; resulting in the above fine.
8. RASKC was able to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that "Ms. Fohrman" was in violation of KCC 11.040.030, therefore the notice of violation is upheld, however the associated fine shall be reduced to \$250.00.

DECISION:

1. Ms. Fohrman's appeal is denied, except that her fines are reduced to \$250.00.

ORDERED November 6, 2019.



Michael McCarthy
Hearing Examiner pro tem

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 *December 6, 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 OCTOBER 23, 2019, HEARING IN THE APPEAL OF CHRISTINE FOHRMAN, REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES OF KING COUNTY FILE NO. V19009746

Michael McCarthy was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing were Shelby Russell, Christine Fohrman, Diana Fowler, and Sally Halela. 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 | Notice of violation no. V19009746, issued August 18, 2019 |
| Exhibit no. 3 | RASKC investigation report no. A19003997 |
| Exhibit no. 4 | Appeal, received September 4, 2019 |
| Exhibit no. 5 | Email from Sally Halela, sent July 31, 2019 |
| Exhibit no. 6 | Photographs of cats |
| Exhibit no. 7 | Map of subject area |

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V19009746**

CHRISTINE FOHRMAN
Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

I, Jessica Oscoy, 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 November 6, 2019.



Jessica Oscoy
Legislative Secretary

Fohrman, Christine
Hardcopy

Fowler, Diana
Hardcopy

Halela, Sally
Hardcopy

Henriquez, Jennifer
Hardcopy

Russell, Shelby
Regional Animal Services of King County