

March 22, 2021

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

King County Courthouse  
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Seattle, Washington 98104  
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[www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner](http://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner)

**SUMMARY ORDER**

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V21011530-A2015568**

**CHRIS AND LINDSEY CARRUTHERS**

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A20015568

Appellants: **Chris and Lindsey Carruthers**

[REDACTED]  
Issaquah, WA 98027

Telephone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

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](mailto:raskcappeals@kingcounty.gov)

Mahnaz Akbari testified that at several points, as she and her husband walked their dog down the public sidewalk in the vicinity of the Carruthers' house, the Carruthers' dog, Leni, came off the property, barked at them, and followed after them. In one of those incidents, Ms. Akbari twisted her wrist.

On November 24, as Ms. Akbari walked her dog by the Carruthers house, Leni was loose again. Ms. Akbari saw Ms. Carruthers at their door, talking to who Mr. Carruthers would later explain was the nanny. Ms. Akbari approached Ms. Carruthers and asked her to contain Leni. Ms.

Carruthers brushed her off. Ms. Akbari then moved back across the street and videoed Leni out and on Ms. Akbari's side of the street, while Mr. Carruthers and the nanny conversed in the Carruthers' doorway across the street. Ex. D3.<sup>1</sup> Ms. Akbari filed a complaint with Animal Services later that day. Ex. D10.

On Christmas day, Leni was out as Ms. Akbari walked by again. Ms. Akbari would later submit video of Leni loose, barking, and then following her. Ex. D4. Ms. Akbari called in a second complaint later that evening, and followed up with an email a few days later. Exs. D11, D2.

Animal Services responded by contacting the Carruthers on December 30. The officer spoke with Mr. Carruthers, who denied Leni had been out on Christmas and requested public records. Ex. D5 at 002, n.3.

Animal Services served a violation notice on January 3, related to the Christmas Day running at large. Ex. D8. Having received Ms. Akbari's email via the Public Records Act disclosure, Ms. Carruthers emailed Ms. Akbari on January 29, and then filed an appeal on February 1, disputing that Leni was running at large. Exs. D15 & D13.

We went to hearing on March 18. Having reviewed the video, Mr. Carruthers agreed it was Leni running at large, apologized for their initial reaction, and provided some context. He agreed they had not done enough to contain Leni, and he explained the steps they have since taken (including purchasing a shock collar and educating their kids about not letting Leni out). Ms. Akbari accepted the apology, and noted that in the future, if Leni gets out again, she will re-approach them directly, instead of calling Animal Services.

There is not much to discuss. Mr. Carruthers' acceptance of responsibility and apology are certainly well-taken, both by Ms. Akbari and by us. Obviously the Carruthers will need to continue their recent efforts to contain Leni, but they seem to be on the road to doing that. And they have re-opened the door for Ms. Akbari to again try contacting them directly, if Leni gets out in the future.

In sum, we DENY the Carruthers' appeal.

ORDERED March 22, 2021.



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David Spohr  
Hearing Examiner

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<sup>1</sup> Note, although Animal Services marked the video as December 30, it appears from Ms. Akbari's November 24 complaint discussing her unsuccessful interaction with Ms. Carruthers of earlier that day, exhibit D10 at 002, that she tried to talk with Ms. Carruthers *before* she filed her first complaint with Animal Services.

## 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 *April 21, 2021*. 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 MARCH 18, 2021, HEARING IN THE APPEAL OF CHRIS & LINDSEY CARRUTHERS, REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES OF KING COUNTY FILE NO. V21011530-A2015568

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing were Chris Carruthers, Chelsea Eykel, and Mahnaz Akbari Kasten. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner’s Office.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the record by Animal Services:

Exhibit no. D1	Regional Animal Services of King County staff report to the Hearing Examiner
Exhibit no. D2	Online Complaint form of December 25, 2020 incident by Mahnaz Akbari, dated December 29, 2020
Exhibit no. D3	Video showing a female at Carruthers residence and loose dog
Exhibit no. D4	Video showing the same dog at Carruthers residence loose on December 25, 2020
Exhibit no. D5	RASKC investigation report no. A20015568
Exhibit no. D6	Photograph of Leni supplied by Mr. Carruthers
Exhibit no. D7	RASKC form
Exhibit no. D8	Notice of violation no. V21011530-A2015568, issued January 3, 2021
Exhibit no. D9	Proof of Service
Exhibit no. D10	Online Complaint form of November 24, 2020 incident by Mahnaz Akbari, dated November 24, 2020
Exhibit no. D11	RASKC investigation report no. A20015075
Exhibit no. D12	Warning Notice V20011422-A20015075
Exhibit no. D13	Appeal, received February 1, 2021
Exhibit no. D14	Map of subject area
Exhibit no. D15	Post on Facebook neighborhood group
DS/jo	

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V21011530-A2015568**

**CHRIS AND LINDSEY CARRUTHERS**  
Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

I, Lauren Olson, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that I transmitted the **SUMMARY ORDER** 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 March 22, 2021.



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Lauren Olson  
Legislative Secretary

**Carruthers, Chris/Lindsey**  
Hardcopy

**Eykel, Chelsea**  
Regional Animal Services of King County

**Kasten, Mahnaz Akbari**  
Hardcopy