

August 30, 2021

**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

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file nos. **V21012251 & V21012252**

SKYLAR GRIFFIN

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A21002974

Appellant: **Skylar Griffin**

[REDACTED]
Auburn, WA 98001

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

We emailed and mailed on July 28 our Notice of Video/Telephonic Hearing for the August 25 hearing. We received no communication in response. Appellant's failure to appear constitutes abandonment of the appeal. We DISMISS Skylar Griffin's appeal.

Last week before the hearing, the dogs got out yet again and threatened another neighbor. Animal Services responded by impounding the dogs. That has two implications.

First, the removal order required Mr. Griffin to find a new owner who lives outside of King County, disclose to that owner that the dogs were ordered removed from King County as a

threat to public safety, and provide King County with the new owner's information. That is still true, but now Animal Services has custody of the dogs. So, Mr. Griffin will need to provide that information to Animal Services *before* Animal Services releases the dogs to Mr. Griffin.

Second, there was a concern raised by the witnesses who showed up at our hearing that given the consistent threat these dogs have posed, moving the dogs out of King County would simply export the danger to a different jurisdiction. That could be true, but if the dogs have a more stable home and are properly confined, that threat may dissipate; Animal Services noted that the dogs have done well in a structured environment of Animal Services, where the dogs are adequately supervised. So, before Animal Services releases the dogs to Mr. Griffin to be rehomed, Animal Services should verify that the new living situation is not simply a set up for more failure.

If Mr. Griffin wants a say in where the dogs get rehomed, then by **Monday, September 13, 2021**, he must find a person who lives outside of King County ready to rehome the dogs, disclose to that person that the dogs were ordered removed from King County as a threat to public safety, and provide King County with that new owner's name, address, phone, and email. Before Animal Services releases the dogs to Mr. Griffin to take them out of the County, Animal Services should verify that the new living situation is not simply a set up for more failure. If Mr. Griffin does not provide the contact information by September 13, or if Animal Services finds that the new housing arrangement will not adequately protect the public, it should locate alternative arrangements to place the dogs outside King County.

Moving forward, at no point will the dogs be allowed back in King County. We had an unfortunate case recently where dogs were ordered removed, and the owner found a new custodian outside of King County. All was well and good, until the dogs were illegally brought *back* into King County, where they were impounded. In addition to monetary penalties, the owner lost any say in where the dogs would be permanently rehomed. That is in no one's best interests.

DATED August 30, 2021.



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 applying for a writ of review in superior court in accordance with chapter 7.16 RCW.

DS/lo

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file nos. **V21012251 & V21012252**

SKYLAR GRIFFIN

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

I, Lauren Olson, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that I transmitted the **ORDER OF DISMISSAL** 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 August 30, 2021.



Lauren Olson
Legislative Secretary

Eykel, Chelsea

Regional Animal Services of King County

Griffin, Skylar

Hardcopy

Mobley, Tara

Hardcopy

Provan, Michelle

Hardcopy

Pulliam, Danielle

Hardcopy

Ray, KC

Hardcopy

Reints, Tammy

Hardcopy