

August 18, 2022

**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](mailto:hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov)  
[www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner](http://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner)

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V22013241-A22002973**

**BRIANNA CARRIGAN**

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A22002973

Appellant: **Brianna Carrigan**

[REDACTED]  
Shoreline, WA 98155

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)

On August 11, Animal Services requested we cancel the August 25 hearing and reschedule, given the complainant's availability. On a separate email chain, the complainant emailed that there was only one day that he would be available between August 19 and November 7.

After some additional emails, Ms. Carrigan emailed that "I'll just pay the fine. I didn't realize that [the complainant] would need to attend and I have no interest in making this more inconvenient for him." Something does not seem right about her dropping her appeal under these circumstances.

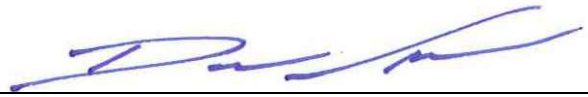
The code requires us to process all appeals as expeditiously as possible, including holding a proceeding within 45 days of our receipt of an appeal (here that deadline is August 29, and we scheduled an August 25 hearing). Unless we are missing something major (like the complainant cannot make himself available for three months because, say he has rounds of chemotherapy scheduled), we surmise that this is no longer a high-priority matter and perhaps the steps Ms. Carrigan has taken to confine Ayla and avoid a repeat of the June 6 incident have, in light of a bite that did not break the skin, proven relatively satisfactory to him.

Ms. Carrigan should not need to accept a viciousness designation for Ayla and the lifetime ramifications that entails just because a hearing is not a high priority for the complainant. That is not in anyway a criticism of the complainant—it may reflect a very logical assessment of the level of risk he feels Ayla possesses in relation to the steps Ms. Carrigan has taken and other demands on his time. But it seems to send a strong signal, and Ms. Carrigan should not feel compelled to waive her rights just to accommodate those preferences.

Thus, we DISMISS the V22013241 notice and order WITHOUT PREJUDICE, meaning there is no decision on the merits and no bar to Animal Services reissuing a violation notice and confinement order related to the June 6 event, if the situation changes in the future. (Ms. Carrigan should make extra sure she locks down Ayla, so that nothing happens to prompt a future complaint.) We also CANCEL the August 25, 2022, hearing.

If for some reason we have misunderstood the situation, Animal Services may file a motion for reconsideration providing several days in September when we can hold a hearing, or at least provide some strong reasons why this matter is crucial enough to warrant a hearing, yet not enough of a priority to hear before November.

DATED August 18, 2022.



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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 *September 19, 2022*. Either party may appeal this decision 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 no. **V22013241-A22002973**

**BRIANNA CARRIGAN**  
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 18, 2022.



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Lauren Olson  
Legislative Secretary

**Carrigan, Brianna**  
Hardcopy

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

**Wright, Kyle**  
Hardcopy