

August 8, 2023

**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

SUMMARY ORDER

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file nos. **V23014241 and V23014278**

CURTIS LE

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A23003222

Appellants: **Curtis and Erika Le**

[REDACTED]
Lake Forest Park, 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

The issue here is narrow. The Les' dog, Blaze, was declared vicious and ordered contained after biting and injuring a neighbor in January. One of the compliance terms was to padlock all passageways to keep Blaze from accidentally escaping. On March 8 Blaze and the Les' other dog, Roo, escaped when Mr. Le forgot to re-padlock the gate after workers had come in and out. The dogs made it back into that neighbor's yard.

Animal Services issued V23014241, for Blaze and Roo trespassing, and for both dogs running at large.¹ The Les do not challenge the violation, only requesting a penalty reduction.

In V23014278, Animal Services seeks Blaze’s removal from King County for failing to comply with the January containment order. The Les do not dispute the need to rehome Blaze, only requesting an extended period for compliance.

The Les did not attempt to shirk responsibility, and they took responsibility for not ensuring the gate was re-padlocked after the workers left. We will reduce the monetary penalty from \$700 to **\$300**. As to the timeline for getting Blaze rehomed, looking back at some of our past removal decisions, the longest we recall extending the removal deadline was 30 days post-decision; we will do that here as well.

Thus, by **September 7, 2023**, the Les shall either:

- A. Find a potential new owner outside of unincorporated King County and outside the cities that contract with Animal Services,² disclose to that person that Blaze was ordered removed as a threat to public safety, have that person agree to take Blaze on, actually get Blaze out, and provide Animal Services with
 - i. Blaze’s microchip number;
 - ii. proof that this new owner lives outside unincorporated King County and those contract cities; and
 - iii. the new owner’s contact information,

OR
- B. Surrender Blaze to Animal Services.

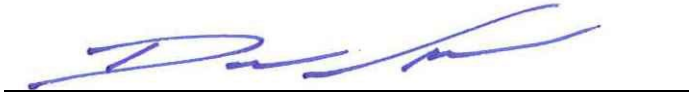
¹ For Roo it was a normal running at large violation with a \$50 penalty; for Blaze it was a vicious animal at large violation with a \$500 penalty.

² In addition to unincorporated King County, the contract cites where the same legal standard applies are currently:

A.	Beaux Arts Village	B.	Bellevue	C.	Black Diamond
D.	Carnation	E.	Clyde Hill	F.	Covington
G.	Duvall	H.	Enumclaw	I.	Issaquah
J.	Kenmore	K.	Kent	L.	Lake Forest Park
M.	Maple Valley	N.	Mercer Island	O.	Newcastle
P.	North Bend	Q.	Redmond	R.	Sammamish
S.	SeaTac	T.	Shoreline	U.	Snoqualmie
V.	Tukwila	W.	Woodinville	X.	Yarrow Point

If the Les successfully meet A. or B. and thereafter do not allow Blaze to return to King County or one of those contract cities, the \$1000 penalty attached to the removal order is waived. If not, the \$1000 penalty is reinstated and Animal Services may impound Blaze as an unredeemable animal.

DATED August 8, 2023.



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 7, 2023*. Either party may appeal this decision by applying for a writ of review in superior court in accordance with chapter 7.16 RCW.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file nos. **V23014241 and V23014278**

CURTIS LE

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

I, Jessica Oscoy, 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, through Quadient-Impress, 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 8, 2023.



Jessica Oscoy
Office Manager

Eykel, Chelsea

Regional Animal Services of King County

Kristie Stewart, Stuart Inglis

Hardcopy

Le, Curtis/Erika

Hardcopy