

February 17, 2026

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**
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REPORT AND DECISION

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V25017622-A25004138**

TIMOTHY MYERS

Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A25-004138

Appellant: **Timothy Myers**

[REDACTED]
Bellevue, WA 98005

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

Overview

1. After hearing the parties' testimony, studying the exhibits admitted into evidence, and considering the relevant law, we deny Mr. Myers' appeal.

Procedural Background

2. On September 4, 2025, Alven Mei filed an online complaint with Regional Animal Services of King County (Animal Services) for an incident on September 3. Ex. D3. On September 12, Animal Services issued Notice of Violation V25017622-A25004138 to Timothy Myers for his dog, Bella, menacing, running at large third offense, failure to register potentially dangerous animal, and potentially dangerous compliance. Ex. D4. Timothy Myers filed a timely appeal on October 6. Ex. D12.
3. We went to hearing on January 16, 2026. Participating in the hearing were: Sgt. Chelsea Eykel representing Animal Services and appellant Timothy Myers.

Appeal Issues

Per the Notice of Hearing, the issues identified for consideration on appeal are as follows:

4. In Mr. Myers' October 6, 2025, appeal statement, he acknowledges the violations of "Menacing" 2nd offense, and "Running at Large" 3rd offense for Bella on September 3, 2025. These violations are therefore not at issue on appeal.
5. The issues on appeal are whether the September 12, 2025, notice of violations for "Failure to Register Potentially Dangerous Animal" (KCC 11.04.230.V) and "Potentially Dangerous Animal Order Compliance" (KCC 11.04.230.U), along with the associated \$250 penalties for each violation, are supported by a preponderance of the evidence and appropriate under the facts of this case.

Factual Findings

Weighing all the evidence and testimony, the Examiner finds the following facts by a preponderance of the evidence:

6. On September 3, Alven Mei was walking his dog, on leash, in their neighborhood. Two loose German Shepherds, later identified as Nike and Bella, charged at them. Ex. D2. Mr. Mei described the dogs as equally aggressive at first when they approached, but Nike stopped and returned to the owner's property while Bella continued to follow him and his dog down the road. Ex. D14.
7. Mr. Myers owns Bella. Nike is owned by Mr. Hadjene. This appeal pertains only to Bella.
8. Bella was designated as a Potentially Dangerous Animal in May 2025, case #A25-2139 for biting Mr. Wettlaufer. Exs. D7, D8. Based on that violation, Mr. Myers was required to register Bella and comply with the requirements associated with the designation, including having Bella muzzled and leashed when off Mr. Myers' property. Ex. D9. Mr. Myers was provided the "Potentially Dangerous" registration checklist at that time.

9. There was also a prior incident in January of 2025, where Bella aggressively charged at and nipped Ms. Lee when she was walking past Mr. Myers' house. Case A25-0419. The violations issued for that incident were "Public Threat" and "Running at Large." Ex. D5.
10. Mr. Myers had the records associated with the prior violations as well as the registration requirements in front of him during the hearing, but still maintained that "Bella has never bitten anybody." Myers Testimony. He further asserted, "I don't know anything about Ms. Lee," and contended that the prior violations were ambiguous. *Id.*
11. Mr. Myers did not appeal the January or May 2025 violations and the facts supporting those violations are treated as true and final for purposes of this review.
12. Mr. Myers' appeal statement suggested that he was confusing paying the fines for the prior violations with paying the registration fee. Sgt. Eykel's email on October 7 shows that Mr. Myers was on notice on that date, at the very latest, that he still needed to pay the registration fee. Ex. D11. As of the date of the hearing, Bella was still not registered as Potentially Dangerous. Eykel Testimony.
13. Based on Mr. Myers' testimony at the hearing that he had attempted to mail hardcopy documentation in October and then resent pictures by email in December establishing that he had complied with the registration checklist items, we left the record open to enable either party to submit proof that the registration materials had been submitted or that Mr. Myers was in compliance with the registration requirements.
14. Animal Services provided Ex. D15 which reflects the payment they received from Mr. Myers in June of 2025, but did not contain any further documentation of compliance with the registration requirements. Eykel Testimony.
15. On February 2, Mr. Myers emailed Sgt. Eykel providing an explanation of why the information did not reach RASKC in December, and providing the information necessary to register Bella. Sgt. Eykel indicated that Mr. Myers "is essentially in compliance with the requirements with the exception of the muzzle and paying for the registration once it is created." Eykel Feb 6, 2026 email.

Conclusions of Law

16. The hearing examiner has jurisdiction pursuant to KCC 20.22.040.
17. Animal Services bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of evidence both the violation and the appropriateness of the remedy it has imposed. KCC 20.22.080.G; .210.B. We do not grant substantial weight or otherwise accord deference to agency determinations. Exam. R. XV.F.3.
18. Mr. Myers filed an appeal on October 2, 2025. He does not dispute or appeal the Running at Large or Menacing violations. The issues on appeal are limited to the Failure to Register Bella as a Potentially Dangerous Animal (KCC 11.04.230.V) and Failure to Comply with the Potentially Dangerous Order. (KCC 11.04.230.U).

19. There is no factual dispute as to either of the appealed violations. Bella is still not registered as Potentially Dangerous. However, it appears that Mr. Myers did attempt to have Bella registered after this incident. The registration, however, should have been handled after the original designation and is still incomplete. The violation of KCC 11.04.230.V is affirmed but I will reduce the penalty to \$100.
20. It is also undisputed that Bella was off the premises and unmuzzled on September 4. This is in violation of the prior, unappealed, potentially dangerous order. Exs. D8, D9. There is no basis for a fee reduction for this violation. The violation of KCC 11.04.230.U is affirmed.

DECISION:

1. The penalty associated with the failure to register violation is reduced from \$250 to \$100.
2. Mr. Myers' appeal is otherwise DENIED.

ORDERED February 17, 2026.



Devon Shannon
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 in accordance with Ch. 7.16 RCW. It is the responsibility of the party seeking to appeal the examiner's decision to determine and meet the legal requirements for filing an appeal.

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 16, 2026, HEARING IN THE APPEAL OF
TIMOTHY MYERS, REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES OF KING COUNTY
FILE NO. V25017622-A25004138**

Devon Shannon was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner's Office.

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

Exhibit no. D1	Regional Animal Services of King County staff report
Exhibit no. D2	RASKC investigation report no. A25004138
Exhibit no. D3	Online Complaint form of September 3, 2025, incident by Alven Mei, dated September 4, 2025
Exhibit no. D4	Notice of violation no. V25017622-A25004138, issued September 12, 2025
Exhibit no. D5	RASKC investigation report no. A25000419
Exhibit no. D6	Online Complaint form of January 17, 2025, incident by Jennifer Li, dated January 27, 2025
Exhibit no. D7	RASKC investigation report no. A25002139
Exhibit no. D8	Notice of violation no. V25017082-A25002139, issued May 13, 2025
Exhibit no. D9	Potentially Dangerous Designation
Exhibit no. D10	Bite Quarantine Notice
Exhibit no. D11	Animal Services email, dated October 7, 2025
Exhibit no. D12	Appeal, received October 7, 2025
Exhibit no. D13	Map of subject area
Exhibit no. D14	Photograph and video
Exhibit no. D15	Documents on submission

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V25017622-A25004138**

TIMOTHY MYERS
Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

I, Lauren Olson, 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, 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 February 17, 2026.



Lauren Olson
Legislative Secretary

Eykel, Chelsea

Regional Animal Services of King County

Mei, Alven

Hardcopy

Myers, Timothy

Hardcopy