

February 2, 2026

**OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON**  
Telephone (206) 477-0860  
[hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov)  
[www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner](http://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner)

**REPORT AND DECISION**

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V25017894-A25005501**

**ALICIA SORENSON**  
Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A25-005501

Appellant: **Alicia Sorenson**  
[REDACTED]  
North Bend, WA 98045  
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)

Overview

1. After hearing the witnesses' testimony and observing their demeanor, studying the exhibits admitted into evidence, and considering the parties' arguments and the relevant law, we deny Ms. Sorenson's appeal.

### Procedural Background

2. On November 26, 2025, Jason Hayes filed an online complaint with Regional Animal Services of King County (Animal Services) for an incident on November 26. Ex. D3. On November 29, Animal Services issued Notice of Violation V25017894-A25005501 to Alicia Sorenson for her dog, Bowdee, trespassing and being unlicensed/unaltered. Ex. D5. Ms. Sorenson filed a timely appeal on December 11. Ex. D6.
3. We went to hearing on January 21, 2026. Participating in the hearing were: Sgt. Chelsea Eykel representing Animal Services, complainant Michelle Hayes, and appellant Alicia Sorenson.<sup>1</sup>

### Appeal Issues

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

4. In Ms. Sorenson's December 11, 2025, appeal statement, she acknowledges that Bowdee left the property on November 26, 2025, and that his license was expired on that date. However, she asserts that other facts and mitigating circumstances warrant dismissal of the violations and the monetary penalties.
5. The issues on appeal are, therefore, as follows:
  - A. Whether the November 29, 2025, violation for Bowdee "Trespassing on Private Prop. 1st Violation" (KCC 11.04.230.L) and the associated \$50 penalty are supported by a preponderance of the evidence and appropriate under the facts of this case.
  - B. Whether the November 29, 2025, violation for Bowdee being "Unlicensed Unaltered" (KCC 11.04.230.P) and the associated \$250 penalty are supported by a preponderance of the evidence and appropriate under the facts of this case.

### Factual Findings

Weighing all the evidence, the hearing examiner finds the following facts by a preponderance of the evidence:

6. On November 26, 2025, the neighboring property owner, Mr. Hayes, observed Bowdee on his property and filed a complaint with Animal Services the same day. Exs. D3, D4. Mr. Hayes' complaint states that Bowdee "roams the neighborhood and continues to come onto my property and bark at us aggressively. Attached are photos and videos from today." Ex. D4.

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Sorenson sought to submit additional evidence to the record after the close of the hearing. There was some correspondence between the parties regarding additional facts. The record was closed at the end of the hearing on January 21<sup>st</sup>. No additional evidence or communication will be considered or admitted for purposes of this decision.

7. Photos and testimony from Ms. Hayes showing the date the photos were taken established that Bowdee was on the Hayes' property on November 26, 2025. *Id.* No video evidence was provided and no evidence or testimony was given supporting allegations of aggressive behavior by Bowdee. Animal Services did not issue any violation related to allegedly aggressive or menacing behavior. Ex. D5.
8. Animal Services responded to the Hayes' complaint and determined that, in addition to the trespassing issue, Bowdee was unlicensed. Ex. D2. Animal Services had previously given Ms. Sorenson a warning about Bowdee being unlicensed in August of 2025. Eykel Testimony. As of the date of this hearing, Bowdee was still not licensed. *Id.*
9. Ms. Sorenson did not dispute that Bowdee has gone onto the Hayes property numerous times but indicated that Bowdee had historically been welcome on their property. Sorenson Testimony. Ms. Hayes testified that Bowdee has never been welcome on their property. Hayes Testimony.
10. Ms. Sorenson asserts that additional considerations warrant reversal of the violations or a reduction in the civil penalties. Sorenson Testimony; Exs. D6, A1-15. She provided a significant amount of background information regarding her history with the neighbors which she believes shows retaliatory reporting of Bowdee's actions and inconsistent enforcement by Animal Services. *Id.*
11. Ms. Sorenson asserts that the Hayes' reporting of this incident was retaliatory for her reporting a trespass by their dog, Marley, on November 24, 2025. Ex. D6. On that day, she alleges that Marley trespassed on her property and killed her turkey, Freya. *Id.* Ms. Sorenson suggested that the reason for Bowdee's November 25 trespass on the Hayes property was because he was grieving the loss of Freya. Animal Services investigated that incident but did not issue a Notice of Violation because of a lack of evidence. Eykel Testimony.
12. Since receiving the Notice of Violation, Ms. Sorenson testified that she has been prioritizing getting Bowdee licensed and ensuring he stays on her property. Sgt. Eykel stated that there are a number of additional trespass violations that have been issued and appealed by Ms. Sorenson since the November 26 incident.
13. Ms. Sorenson's primary dispute on appeal was not the fact of the violations, but the way they came about (through what she believes to be targeted and retaliatory reports from neighbors) and how enforcement has been limited to Bowdee (when she believes Marley trespassed and killed Freya with no repercussions).

#### Conclusions of Law

14. The hearing examiner has jurisdiction pursuant to KCC 20.22.040.
15. 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.
16. **Unlicensed.** There is no dispute that Bowdee was (and continues to be) unlicensed in violation of KCC 11.04.230.P. Typically we will reduce the \$250 penalty when an applicant has licensed their pet and brought them into compliance with the code prior to the hearing.
  17. In this case, there is no basis for a penalty reduction when Bowdee remains unlicensed almost six months after Ms. Sorenson was originally warned by Animal Services that he needs to be licensed. Although Ms. Sorenson testified that she is prioritizing getting Bowdee licensed, based on how easy it is to license a pet and how much time has gone by, this does not seem to be the case. The violation issued by Animal Services for KCC 11.04.230.P is affirmed.
  18. **Trespassing** occurs when a domesticated animal enters “upon a person's property or premises without that person's permission.” KCC 11.04.230.L. Ms. Hayes was clear that Bowdee did not have permission to be on their property on November 26.
  19. Ms. Sorenson’s appeal statement effectively admits the trespass violation on November 26. Ex. D6. To the extent she disputed the violation at the hearing it was only to question the evidence provided by Ms. Hayes which involved undated pictures. Sorenson Testimony. Ms. Hayes testified that the pictures submitted into evidence were taken on November 26 and showed the November 26, 2025, date of the photo on her phone during the hearing. Hayes Testimony; Ex. D4.
  20. A preponderance of the evidence supports the conclusion that Bowdee trespassed on the Hayes property on November 26, 2025. The violation issued by Animal Services for KCC 11.04.230.L is affirmed.
  21. I understand that this decision will be very frustrating to Ms. Sorenson. The issuance of the violations certainly felt like salt in the wound following Freya’s death. However, Animal Services can only work with the evidence they are provided, and I can only work with the facts relevant to whether or not the violations were properly issued. If neighbors continue to provide Animal Services with evidence of Bowdee being off the premises, then violations will continue to be issued.
  22. As pointed out by Sgt. Eykel, it does not matter if Bowdee is off the property for 30 seconds or 30 minutes...the result is a trespass if he is not welcome on the neighboring properties. Whether the neighbors motivation for submitting the complaints is retaliatory or in bad faith is largely irrelevant if the action they are complaining about is in fact a code violation.
  23. Despite the long and emotionally charged backstory between the parties, the decision here is limited what happened on November 26, 2025. And on that day, Bowdee was observed on the Hayes property and was not properly licensed. To avoid additional

violations, Ms. Sorenson should get Bowdee licensed and ensure he is confined to her property at all times.

DECISION:

1. Ms. Sorenson’s appeal is DENIED.

ORDERED February 2, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal tail, positioned above a horizontal line.

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 21, 2026, HEARING IN THE APPEAL OF ALICIA  
SORENSEN, REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES OF KING COUNTY  
FILE NO. V25017894-A25005501**

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. A25005501
Exhibit no. D3	Online Complaint form of November 26, 2025, incident by Jason Hayes, dated November 26, 2025
Exhibit no. D4	Photograph of Bowdee trespassing on the Hayes property
Exhibit no. D5	Notice of violation no. V25017894-A25005501, issued November 29, 2025
Exhibit no. D6	Appeal, received December 11, 2025
Exhibit no. D7	Map of subject area

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

Exhibit no. A1	Bear
Exhibit no. A2	Bowdees Appeal
Exhibit no. A3	Fence reinforcement
Exhibit no. A4	Jason 911 Audio file
Exhibit no. A5	Fire complaint
Exhibit no. A6	Kate 7-26 #1
Exhibit no. A7	Kate 7-29 #2
Exhibit no. A8	Kate 7-30
Exhibit no. A9	Kate 7-31 #3
Exhibit no. A10	Kate 8-1 #4
Exhibit no. A11	Kate 8-2 #5
Exhibit no. A12	Kate animal complaint 8-16
Exhibit no. A13	Court doc #1 8-15
Exhibit no. A14	Court doc #2 8-15
Exhibit no. A15	Bowdee

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V25017894-A25005501**

**ALICIA SORENSON**

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 2, 2026.



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Lauren Olson  
Legislative Secretary

**Eykel, Chelsea**

Regional Animal Services of King County

**Hayes, Jason**

Hardcopy

**Sorenson, Alicia**

Hardcopy