

March 1, 2024

Public Health Madison & Dane County
Attn: Shannon Meyer-Animal Services
2300 South Park Street, Room 2010
Madison, WI 53713
Notice of Appeal. Case No 2024-65479

Dear Shannon,

Regarding case #2024-65479 involving our daughter's dog Rocco, we are appealing the decision that was made on 2-23-24 that he is to be considered a "dangerous animal". Since this was his first bite, we have and continue to train him and utilize a professional trainer. We don't believe he should be considered a dangerous animal. On the day of the incident, Rocco had just got back from a walk and was now working on his daily regimen of training in the front yard with Brenda and Alyssa. Neighbors had walked by without issue. Further down the road they were barked at by another neighbor's dog. Rocco ran to what we suspect he thought was a dog in distress. His E-collar didn't function properly and after checking it, we realized that it wasn't set correctly. We certainly do not want to diminish what happened to the neighbors that were bitten. No hospitalization was involved, and the wounds are healing well. The neighbors felt bad that the incident had to be reported by urgent care. Both are longtime dog owners themselves and knew this was an accident. A lifelong label as a "Dangerous Animal" is extreme and heavy-handed for a first-time offense and the degree of injuries involved.

We disagree with the description and characterization of the incident included in the report. We object to the omission from the determination of any mitigating factors found as part of your investigation. We request that the determination be reversed.

We have no issue with most of the restrictions that you want to impose on Rocco. The label of "Dangerous animal" just doesn't fit his demeanor or the level of training he has been involved in and continues daily, mostly in public settings. Rocco's training videos were never evaluated by your department, which alone should prove your determination to be incorrect.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Mark, Brenda, and Alyssa Larson