

**ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD
FOR CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND
MINUTES OF MEETING - CASES
Tuesday, April 7, 2015**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Animal Control Board for Charles County, Maryland, was convened by the Chairman at 6:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Meeting Room, Charles County Government Building, with the following Board members in attendance.

Andrew Parker, Chairman
Mandy Foreman, Vice-Chair
William Van Blarcum
Kristin Lake
Carl Blumenstein
Edward Tucker, Chief
Melody Haynes, Associate County Attorney
Maria Team, Clerk

A quorum was declared based upon the presence of a majority of the appointed Board Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Animal Matters Hearing Board for March 17, 2015, were approved and adopted.

Citation No. 6454 - issued to Gregory Woodland, 3269 Indian King Court, Waldorf, MD 20602 for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.A, Section 230.12 and Section 230.9.A of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Mr. Woodland did not appear at the hearing, and there being no request for a continuance, this case was referred to the State's Attorney's Office for failure to appear.

Citation No. 6452 and 6453 - issued to Joseph L. Collins, Jr., 21676 Freemantle Court, Waldorf, Maryland 20601 for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.A, Section 230.12, and Section 230.9.A of the Charles County Animal Regulations for Citation No. 6252 for his dog "Bruce" and Section 230.10.A and Section 230.9.A for Section 6453 for his dog "Princess". Mr. Collins was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony heard from Mr. Collins and Animal Control Officer Alison Budd. Mr. Collins admitted to being in violation of all the allegations for his two dogs. Entered into evidence was one photo marked AC Ex. 1. Also entered into evidence was a current rabies certificate and a current animal license for both dogs marked Owner Ex. A.

Based on the testimony heard, the Vice-Chair made a motion to find Mr. Collins in violation of all the violations and fine him a total of \$ 450.00, and suspend \$345.00 from that amount on the condition that he obey all laws for 18 months. A second was made by and the vote passed unanimously. The Board allowed Mr. Collins until the close of business on April 21, 2015 to satisfy the amount of \$105.00.

Citation No. 6426 - issued to Giles E. Fletcher, 6450 Milstead Road, Indian Head, MD 20640 for the alleged violation of Section 230.8 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for his horse. Mr. Fletcher was not present at the hearing, and there being no request for a continuance, this case was referred to the State's Attorney Office for failure to appear.

Citation No. 6438 - issued to Tanita L. Wimbush, 2752 Moran Drive, Waldorf, MD 20601 for the alleged violation of Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dog "Blu". Ms. Wimbush was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. She denied being in violation of Section 230.12.5 of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Testimony heard from Ms. Wimbush and Animal Control Officer Jeff Gustafson. Testimony also heard from Jacob Moyer (witness for AC). Entered into evidence was a vet report marked AC Ex. 1. Also entered into evidence was a vet bill marked Owner Ex. A.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Vice Chair made a motion to find Ms. Wimbush in violation of Section 230.12.5 and a fine her \$500.00, and suspend \$400 from that amount on the condition that she obey all laws for 18 months and complies with the requirements of Section 12.5.E. 1,2,3,5 (a) and (b), 7 and 8 of the Charles County Animal Regulations. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board allowed Ms. Wimbush until the close of business on April 21, 2015 to satisfy the amount of \$100.00.

Citation No. 6455 - issued to Kristopher Simmons, 5413 Tilapia Court, Waldorf, MD 20603 for the alleged violation of Section 230.8 and Section 230.9.A of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dog "Diesel". Mr. Simmons was not present at the hearing, and there being no request for a continuance, this case was referred to the State's Attorney's Office for failure to appear.

Citation No. 6435 - issued to Bridget M. Rice, 13401 Edgemeade Court, Brandywine, Maryland 20772 for the alleged violation of Section 230.10.C of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her various dogs. Ms. Rice was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Ms. Rice admitted to being in violation of Section 230.10.C of the Charles County Animal Regulations. Testimony heard from Ms. Rice and Officer Alison Budd.

Based on the testimony heard, the Chairman made a motion to find Ms. Rice in violation of Section 230.10.C of the Charles County Animal Regulations, and fine her a total of \$250.00, suspending \$150.00 from that amount on the condition that she obey all laws for 18 months. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board allowed Ms. Rice until the close of business on April 21, 2015 to satisfy the balance of \$100.00.

Citation Nos. 6456 and 6457 - issued to Bridgett Rice, for the alleged violation of Section 230.8 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dogs “Bandit” and “River”. Ms. Rice was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony heard from Ms. Rice and Officer Alison Budd. Ms. Rice denied being in violation of section 230.8 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for her dogs “Bandit” and “River”.

Based on the testimony heard, the Chairman made a motion to find Ms. Rice not in violation of Section 230.8 for her two dogs, and no fines to be imposed. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously.

Citation No. 6458 and 6459 - issued to Bridgett Rice, for the alleged violation of Section 230.11 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for 36 animals. Ms. Rice was present at the hearing and not represented by counsel. Testimony heard from Ms. Rice and Officer Alison Budd. Entered into evidence was a photo of a dog house marked Owner Ex. A, an application for an Animal Establishment License marked Owner Ex. B and 39 current rabies certificates for her dogs marked Owner Ex. C.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Chairman made a motion to find Ms. Rice in violation of Section 230.11 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for 36 dogs, fine her a total of \$1260.00, with \$0 suspended from that amount and that (1) she obey all laws for 18 months, (2) that spot checks are done by Animal Control Services randomly at their discretion, (3) that she contact Maryland Department of Agriculture for a soil and air quality test to present to the Board when she comes back in July 2015, (4) that she show the Board what steps have been taken to keep the kennel door secure, and (5) provide written instructions to her caretakers on cleaning the kennels properly. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board will review the documentation presented from Ms. Rice at the hearing scheduled on April 21, 2015 to determine if she is in compliance with Board’s Orders.

Citation Nos. 6405 and 6406 – issued to Diana Darling, 7570 Mason Springs Road, La Plata, Maryland 20646 for the alleged violation of Section 230.11 for Citation No. 6405 and Section 6406 of the Charles County Animal Regulations for 35 dogs in Citation No. 6406. Ms. Darling was present at the hearing and represented by Anne Miller, Esq. Ms. Darling, through her attorney the alleged violations. Testimony heard from Ms. Darling, Officer Jeff Thomas and Officer Jeff Gustafson. Entered into evidence were 58 photos marked AC Ex. 1, a sketch of Ms. Darling’s property, marked AC Ex. 2 and a temperature chart, marked AC Ex. 3. Also entered into evidence were four photos marked Owner Ex. A.

Based on the testimony and evidence presented, the Chairman made a motion to find Ms. Darling not in violation of Section 230.8 for her 35 dogs. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Chairman also made a motion to find Ms. Darling in violation of Section 230.11 D.2.D for her 35 dogs (no bedding) and fine her a total of \$1245.00 and suspend \$725.00 from that amount on the condition she obey all laws, and that Animal Control Services do random compliance checks at their discretion for compliance. A second was made and the vote passed unanimously. The Board allowed Ms. Darling until the close of business on May 5, 2015 to satisfy the balance of \$500.00.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the hearing at 10:50 p.m.

