

Dear Council Members,

As I am not sure I will be able to make it to the city council meeting tonight (I have a long-standing obligation out of town), we wanted to make sure you knew where the Faribault County Humane Society stands on this issue.

JUSTICE FOR BUDDY!!!!

Since September 10th, the Faribault County Humane Society has been caring for a dog at the pound, a husky named Buddy. Buddy was brought to the pound because he had bitten a kid who came to their house selling something. Buddy was tied in the yard 24/7, with no socialization of any kind. Since Septmeber 10th, Buddy has made leaps and bounds with his socialization, and he loved people! He enjoyed our morning walks, his belly rubs, and his special treats.

His owners, Brandi Drake and some guy whose name I can't remember, hired an attorney to work with the City Attorney, David Frundt, on an agreement so that they could have Buddy back. This agreement was presented to the City Council on October 21st. Buddy's owners had agreed to all of the stipulations, including building an outdoor kennel and having him microchipped. This is what I gathered from the last city council meeting.

Friday, November 1st, they contacted city hall and said that they had everything in place, and they needed to get Buddy to the vet for microchipping. Officer Missy Felion (I believe) accompanied them to the vet's office. Missy had gotten a call from dispatch, and told the owners that she would be back in a half hour to bring Buddy back to the pound after his microchipping. Instead of having Buddy microchipped, the owners had Buddy euthanized. He was dead by the time Officer Felion came back to take him to the pound. At least this is my understanding of the events, and I could be wrong on the timeline, but the end result is the same - Buddy is dead, and he should not be dead.

Folks, my heart is broken. These people lied to everyone - the City Administrator, the police, the vets, the city council, the city attorney, and even their own attorney. *There must be ramifications and consequences for this kind of malicious behavior!* There were plenty of volunteers who would have taken Buddy, he just needed people to shower him with love and attention. And we did that in spades!

So, the Faribault County Humane Society would like to know:

- 1) How did the owners happen to be the ones who took Buddy unsupervised out of the pound?
- 2) Buddy had been in the pound since September 10th - aren't these matters supposed to be handled within a timely fashion? How did these people end up with a month and a half, and nothing was done?
- 3) Do you honestly think that these people will now pay the bill for Buddy's care and board? Who is responsible if they don't pay? Or will the Humane Society, after having cared for this precious being for almost two months, just have to take a financial hit because of someone else's carelessness?

4) What will be their consequences? What will they be charged with? If they are allowed to get away with this, there will be egg on everyone's face who was involved.

These are very direct questions, and we expect very direct answers. Not a bunch of words with no meaning and half baked excuses.

Buddy deserves some justice! He was so beautiful, with a sweet personality and a loving spirit. I am sick to my stomach to write this, but everyone who ever met Buddy, or had any kind of vested interest in him, deserves to know what happened.

We are also quite frustrated with the lack of progress in hiring an Animal Control Officer and getting the agreements between Blue Earth and the other towns and the county completed. Repeated inquiries to officials have only said that they haven't had time to meet, and that the Faribault County Humane Society is not allowed to be a part of this process because of privacy matters. I find this an interesting statement, since there was plenty of time for these people to get together previously to discuss the FCHS's shortcomings and God knows what else. We couldn't tell you because, even though the discussions center around our services, we are excluded from any of the meetings. Wrong information has been reported as fact, which has hurt the Humane Society, not just financially, but also causing confusion when people call us, trying to reclaim their lost dog, and we don't know what has happened to it. Winnebago now uses a private kennel facility, and Wells is looking at using a private veterinarian outside of Faribault County for their impounding services. Kathy Bailey has stated that the ACO position won't even be publicized until agreements with all of the other cities are in place. And yet there's no time to have these meetings, and the FCHS can not attend them. This just seems like the tail wagging the dog at this point.

All of the Faribault County Humane Society members are dedicated to saving the lost, abused, and neglected animals of Faribault County. We donate more time to the pound than most people volunteer in their lifetimes. We are tired of waiting for things to get done on the governmental end - I would hope, after what has happened to Buddy, that it might just light a fire under somebody's rear end and things begin to happen in a positive way! His death will NOT be in vain!!!!

Staci Thompson

President, Faribault County Humane Society