

INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER
600 Curtis Street
Mason, MI 48854
(517)676-8370

COMPLAINT# 2018-33652

DATE OF REPORT:
03/28/2018

VENUE:
Ingham County Animal Shelter, 600 Curtis Street, Mason, MI 48854

REPORTING ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:
Officer Jodi LeBombard #355
Ingham County Animal Control
Animal Cruelty Investigator/ Lead Officer
600 Curtis Street
Mason, MI 48854
(517)676-8370

INFORMATION:
On 03/26/2018 Ingham County Animal Control Officer Caitlin Budzinski came to reporting Officer, Jodi LeBombard, with concerns about the condition of two pit bull dogs currently in the custody of Ingham County Animal Shelter.

COMPLAINING OFFICER:
Officer Caitlin Budzinski #356
Ingham County Animal Control
Animal Control Officer
Currently assigned to: Dog fighting investigations
600 Curtis Street
Mason, MI 48854
(517)676-8370

CONCERNS OF OFFICER BUDZINSKI:
Officer Budzinski stated she has a number of dog fighting pit bulls currently being held as evidence at the Ingham County Animal Shelter. Officer Budzinski said the dogs have been held as evidence to a number of ongoing dog fighting cases for approximately nine months. Officer Budzinski indicated she is concerned about two of the pit bull dogs being neglected of adequate care at the Ingham County Animal Shelter. Officer Budzinski indicated the two dogs are both in poor condition- one of which is in a state of emaciation. Officer Budzinski showed reporting ACO a photo, and later the dog, which appeared so emaciated the musculing of the dog appeared to be wasting away and almost nonexistent. Officer Budzinski reported both of the animals to be in good condition upon impoundment to the shelter on June 23rd, 2017. Officer Budzinski reported the dogs have been caged in Ward 3 of the animal shelter- a locked down ward away

from other shelter dogs, public, or staff with limited access. Officer Budzinski said due to a previous incident she has felt obligated to report back to the Ward every so often to view her evidentiary dogs to ensure they appear adequately cared for.

Officer Budzinski stated the poor condition of the two dogs has been ongoing. Officer Budzinski said she noticed the one dog appearing too thin about a month ago when she went back to check on them. Officer Budzinski said as a result of her concern she filled out a request to have the dog evaluation by the shelter veterinarian, Dr. Karen Worthington. Officer Budzinski followed up with the shelter staff to inquire about the findings of the examination. Officer Budzinski said she was told by shelter veterinarian, Karen Worthington and Samantha Beckley they were aware the dog was underweight but they have "tried things" but nothing had been working. On March 21st Budzinski inquired about the status of the dogs and was told whip worms that was the contributing factor to the weight loss. Officer Budzinski was told the dog would be treated appropriately with panacur.

Officer Budzinski stated she grew concerned again when the dog appeared to be in the same state or worse on or about 03/26/2018 approximately one month after her previous inquiry about the state of the dog. Officer Budzinski was concerned the lack of improvement to the dog's state could indicate a misdiagnosis or animal neglect concern.

Officer Budzinski stated to reporting officer she was not sure how to proceed with her concerns being that these concerns were ongoing and she felt last time it was reported no action was taken. Officer Budzinski also reported receiving pushback from the shelter kennel staff and veterinarian each time she has brought up her ongoing concerns for the welfare of the involved dogs.

CONTACT WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR BURNS:

Reporting animal control officer went to Deputy Director Anne Burns to bring to her attention the complaint/concerns. Deputy Director Burns was also shown a photo of the dog's current state and both Officer Budzinski and reporting ACO restated the above concerns. Deputy Director Burns instructed Officer Budzinski to immediately take the dogs to Southside Veterinary Hospital for assessment. Deputy Director Burns requested Officer Budzinski to present only the animals as to not bias them to a medical opinion in favor of Ingham County Animal Control. Deputy Director Burns contacted the Ingham County Animal Control Director who was off duty for the day and requested approval for an internal investigation through the Michigan Humane Society. Director Dinon approved this request.

VETERINARY EVALUATION:

Officer Budzinski then transported the dogs to Southside Animal Hospital for examination and documentation of the findings. Officer Budzinski picked the dogs up the following day on 03/27/18 and reported the veterinarian concluded emaciation as a result of starvation- insufficient food intake. (See report of Officer Budzinski for full evaluation).

PREVIOUS CONCERNS:

Prior to the above mentioned concern involving two pit bull dogs, there were two other dogs in the care of Ingham County Animal Control which concerns of neglect were concerned to be the contributing factor to their death. These two dogs were also being held at the Ingham County

Animal Shelter as evidence to an ongoing dog fighting investigation. These two dogs can be identified as Animal#35520 JayJay" and Animal# 35516 "Dreamville".

CONCERN OF ANIMAL#35516 "Dreamville":

In September of 2017 Officer Budzinski came to Officer LeBombard with concerns of animal# 35516 "Dreamville". A kennel staff worker, Jackie Flynn went to Officer Budzinski "really upset" saying this dog was suffering and being "neglected in our care". Jackie Flynn told ACO Budzinski of the dog falling over in its cage too weak to stand when they were moving it cage to cage in the cleaning process. Flynn was upset indicating she was off work from the 14-17th and felt the animal was in terrible condition on the 18th upon her return. Flynn told Officer Budzinski she filled out a medical veterinarian examination request for the dog upon noticing its condition when she returned to work on the 18th. The dog was later euthanized by Ingham County Animal Control to alleviate further suffering as a result of its poor condition.

Reporting animal control officer notes "Dreamville" weighed a total of 44.8 pounds on 08-11-2017 and only 31 pounds on 09-28-2017.

The dog was transported to Michigan State University for necropsy by Officer Budzinski and reporting animal control officer. Prior to dropping the dog off Officer Budzinski photographed its condition (see external documents).

On 09/28/2017 ACO Budzinski and reporting Officer Jodi LeBombard requested a meeting with the Ingham County Animal Shelter Director, John Dinon and Deputy Director, Anne Burns due to concerns of neglect to the animal. During the meeting Director Dinon indicated the animals in the shelter are "well maintained/cared for". Director Dinon ensured ACO's the dog was "under close veterinary care". Director Dinon further indicated "Dr. Karen took a conservative course of treatment" on this dog. Officer Budzinski brought up concerns with the lack of documentation to the care of the animals. Director Dinon told ACO's they "don't have an accurate picture" on the entire care of the dog at the shelter and are getting "inaccurate information". The meeting concluded with Director Dinon stating "I think if this turns out to be something it needs to be between me, Anne, Dr.Karen, and kennel staff". Director Dinon further stated "If this turns out to be something I will remind them to dot their I's and cross their T's. These are fighting dogs and a court case", indicating it is not the business of Officer Budzinski or reporting animal control officer.

On October 17th, 2017 reporting animal control officer spoke with Michigan State University necropsy Dr. Kurt Williams who was confident the dog died from inadequate care- feeding (see external document of full explanation).

Reporting animal control officer received no further update with the course of action.

CONCERN OF ANIMAL #35520 "Jay-Jay":

On October 14th reporting animal control officer received an emailed request from Officer Budzinski requesting another evidentiary fighting dog be taken for necropsy at Michigan State University. The dog "Jay-Jay" was said to have suffered a sudden seizure and later went

comatose at the shelter. This dog was euthanized by Ingham County Animal Control staff upon becoming comatose.

On October 17th, 2017 reporting animal control officer also spoke with Michigan State University Dr. Kurt Williams who stated he appeared to have been poisoned in some form of another.

EXTERNAL DOCUMENTS:

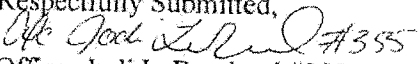
- Email dated October 17th, 2017
- Email dated October 14th, 2017
- Necropsy request with history re: JayJay
- Necropsy request with history re: Dreamville
- Photos before and after re: Animal#35516

DISPOSITION:

A copy of this report will be turned over to the Ingham County Animal Control Deputy Director.

STATUS:

Unknown.

Respectfully Submitted,

Officer Jodi LeBombard #355
Ingham County Animal Control
Animal Cruelty Investigator