
To: King, Shirley
Subject: RE: open record

Information requested is attached. Any questions or concerns pertaining to the contents of all documents are to be addressed/directed to: Director, Venessa Sims-Green, Animal Protection Section, 404-656-4914.

Stated information was previously provided as Part II, pages 3 – 19 of an Open Records reply dated 3-23-11.

Animal Protection Section
Custodian of Records

From: King, Shirley
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 2:44 PM
To: Mitchell, Patricia
Subject: FW: open record

From: SUSAN LEAVENS [<mailto:sleavens4@bellsouth.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 11:49 PM
To: King, Shirley
Subject: open record

Ms. Shirley, thank you so much for you help :) I spoke to pat smith and I am missing records that were lost when Mary Green was in office; it is my statement along with Ronnie Ganas, I am not sure but I think ms. pat smith is suppose to be getting copies to you. That will be all I need from the previous open records request. I thank you so much for all your help and being so kind an patient with me :)

Thank you so much,
Susan Leavens
229-305-1947

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Susan Leavens I have been employed with the Lowndes County Animal Services since March 2006; I was hired as an Animal Control officer; I have had to witness many disturbing things from abuse, neglect, suffering to the falsifying of federal, state and local documents. At this time some dates I don't specifically remembered but all documentation is at the shelter or the administration building. I am writing this statement on my own free will, I have not been influenced in any way, other then by the suffering and abuse I have witnessed for the past 4 years.

In the summer of 2007 I was dispatched to a home off Grover Hicks Rd. in Valdosta in reference to a skinny horse. When I arrived I noticed a sorrel lying under a make shift shelter, the owner advised me the horse had been down two days. The horse was turned over to Lowndes County that day, Officer Ricardo Mercardo, James Blackledge, Weyman Bozeman and my self pulled the horse on the trailer as it could not get up, he was transported to LCAS were we pulled him off the trailer an laid him on the ground. Linda Patalski came out side and got a scoop of sweet feed to see if he would eat, I told her if he was gonna eat anything it probably needed to be oats, she gave me a dirty look an continued on. The horse had boils on this elbows, hip bones, outside knees and hocks. The horse was never seen by a veterinarian, he laid in his own feces and urine for 3 days. I asked Linda if she was going to get Dr. Thornhill to look at him, Linda Patalski said

"No need he's to far gone at this point"... on the second day the horse was in the protective custody of the county I was appalled that he had not been seen by a vet, at that time I called Steve Shaddock with the Department of Agriculture and advised him of the horrible situation and asked him to come look at the horse. When Steve arrived I took him to the pasture in the back, he was even appalled at the condition of the horse! After Steve looked at the horse Linda came outside, Steve told her in his opinion the horse needed to be euthenized.

Shortly after the horse incident, 2 pot belly pigs were turned in. They were both intact males. Linda decided they needed to be cut (castrating make them a barrow). Linda recruited a shelter attendant her name was Amanda Jordan; one hog at a time was taken into the tech room and brutally castrated by Linda Patalski; their tusk were also cut, the hogs were not given any pain meds or anti-biotic; the main thing I remember was they were screaming so loud it hurt my ears; they were places back outside; I was off the next two days, when I returned to work I went to see how they were doing, they both were not eating and they had fly larva (maggots) in the wounds, I advised Amanda and she told Linda, the hogs were taken from their outside pen later that afternoon and placed into D room (isolation) and washed off with a high pressure hose. They were still never given any anti-bionics' or pain meds! Linda bragged about working in the hog confinement and knowing how to cut hogs. Amanda Jordan was injured while holding one of the hogs and a Workman's Comp report was made and she was sent to Convenient Care South the report was sent to Jessica Mathews at the administration building.

I do not remember the exact date to this incident only the year 2008 and the account of what happened, I was in the tech room with Ryan Curtis when Linda came in, I had a cat on the table getting ready to euthenize it when Linda took the penta-sol and told Ryan he had a call in the front office. Linda took control of the euthenizing she pulled 1cc and injected it into the cat, the vein blew and it only knocked the cat out, at that time I saw the cat licking his lips and blinking, I drew .5cc's more and when I turned around to face the table, to my horror Linda had her hands pushed firmly down on the cats upper chest (lung area) I again noticed the cat licking his lips and blinking, she looked at me and actually smiled and said "No need for that...if it can't breath it will die!" I watched in horror as that cat licked and blinked for several more mins, she kept her hands over the cat's rib cage until it stopped breathing. She told me to put it in the bag, I said "Ms. Linda this cats heart is still beating" she said "put it in the bag it will stop in a while its not breathing" before dumping the cat it took another ten mins to expire! This cat was not humanely euthenized it was suffocated by the hands of my director Linda Pataiski, I have witnessed her do this on many occasions. Again in 2008 I witnessed Linda attempt to euthenize a kitten, it failed, he kitten was unable to react but was aware of what was happening, Linda grasped the kittens' neck and squeezed firmly around its throat, while holding it in the air! I remember thinking, "God...this is just wrong" I just wanted to leave the room, the building for that matter; I use to think I was going to go to hell for what I witnessed in that shelter!

In the middle of 2008 I was euthenizing with Ryan Curtis, Ricardo Mercardo was pulling dogs and I was holding them. Ricardo brought up a young dog who was excited about being out of the kennel area, he was wiggling around excited someone was petting him, Ryan stuck the euth needle in his left an the dog jumped, Ryan reached his arm way back an hit the dog in the eye and ear, the dog yelped and coward down holding his eye shut! Ricardo went to Linda's office, I told Ryan he shouldn't be hitting the animals, he said "well, they shouldn't be so fuckin stupid an be still!" Ricardo informed Linda and she told him, Ryan was young an needed sometime!! Ryan was never reprimanded for his abusive actions. I left the room at the time.

On 7-9-09 Ricardo Mercardo (still employed) advised me that Jacob Fox one of our shelter attendants got pissed off at him because he thought Ricardo wasn't holding the dog right and grabbed the dog by the skin on both sides of the rib cage an threw it at him. He told me he went to Linda's office to inform her and he said Linda said "Jacob is having a bad day he is under a lot of pressure and he just needs some time-out"! Ricardo told Linda if he witnessed any more abuse he was going to write them a citation!!

There were so many things going on in the shelter all the ACO's and the Shelter Attendants went to the administration building to advise them of what was happening. A short while later, Our county manager Joe Pritchard, Mickey Tillman and Suzanne Pittman came to the shelter for a meeting, James Blackledge, Weyman Bozeman, Derrick Daniels, myself several shelter attendants,

Linda Patelski, Michelle Shultz and Kay Jones attended this meeting, we all were informed if one more person came to the administration building we would all be fired, he would keep Linda, Michelle and Kay, get inmates to clean the shelter and rehire more employees! At that point we had no place to go! At the end of 2009 the Acos meet with our local Humane Society, Cheryl Hatcher, Michelle Sullivan, Melissa Alderman (works at the State Prosecutors office) and William Whitesell who is now are county prosecutor. We informed them of everything that had been going on, the HS agreed to buy us camera pens, two were purchased but unfortunately our schedules were changed and it became hard to get in the tech room with shelter attendants to video anything.

Euthenizing Log

As Long as I can remember I have witnessed Michelle Shultz redo the euthenizing log. The best incident I recall is On August 13th 2009 I brought in a shepherd, Sharpe male; his tracking number is 86109, I picked him up at approx 430 am, I transported him to the Shelter, A VPD Officer O. Pena was there to process the arrow (case report 09-02384) and he helped with euthanasia of the dog and photos were taken. It was early in the morning and I accidentally put the dog on the August 12 euth log. I had other calls and at 715 went back to the shelter to eat my breakfast and start my work day which starts at 8 am. When I entered the office Michelle was very irritated at me because I put the dog on the wrong log date I told her I was sorry and she throw the paper at me and

Michelle said "well ya better fix it, Pat (state inspector) is a fuckin bitch and I have told you that." I scribbled it out and handed it back...

Michelle said "thats not gonna fuckin work, you can't scribble things out" I said "look I have been up since 330 am it's now 740 I am trying to eat my breakfast and I will talk to you at 8!" She thru the paper work down and

Michelle said

"It wont matter I have to redo the fuckin log because she (Pat) is a bitch about not being able to read the log anyway I have told ya'll that a million fuckin times"

I watched her rewrite the log and she told me to sigh it and I did because I would of been fired for not doing so and then she shredded the old euth log!

There are several employees who have also witnessed the log being redone by Michelle Shultz, they are Weyman Bozeman, Ricardo Mercardo, Ryan Curtis

(who has helped her), Ronnie Ganas, Derrick Daniels, Eric Sharp, Jacob Fox,

Rose Bonney, Amanda Jordan, the list is longer but these people are just a few!

The euth log would be redone for the day prior and then shredded. Michelle

would say things like "well I'm glad that's done that state bitch would get our

asses on that one"! This practice has been going on for years!! The log has been

tampered with for over 3 years as I can recall. When I would euthenize a kitten IC

(intro-cartial) I was still told to write down IV (intro-vein) I never used IP. We

were all told if we wrote it any other way we would be in big trouble. Several

times I had written Kitten and Puppy on the Log an got yelled at by Michelle

Shultz. This all started back in 2007, I remember Michelle would come running

outside when we pulled up and would tell us to clean our trucks because the

fuckin bitch from the state was there. I told Michelle my truck was always clean and disinfected unless I just took animals off it. There is more times then I can count that I have seen Michelle Shultz redo the euth log and the old one was shredded. Michelle would say "That fuckin bitch can't add I'm tired of her asking all the questions, I give her dumb ass a calculator and she still can't add! I hate when she come, she nit picks about everything and we never pass!" On the last inspection from Pat Smith in 2010 we were informed by Linda Patalski and Michelle Shultz, that we were all fuckin dumb asses and were as bad as Pat that we couldn't fuckin add either because we failed our inspection again an we were missing 13cc's of pentasol!" Michelle stated "that fuckin bitch fails us every year and always bitches about the amounts even when she has a fuckin calculator in front of her the bitch can't add!" At that time the euth log was changed. On 4/27/2010 I came in the tech room an Michelle was in the tech room, putting pentosol in 10cc syringes. I asked her what she was doing, she said "were only going to use 10cc's at a time cause apparently no one can fuckin add!"

On 4/28/2010 I came in from checking traps around 1030 am, I was told while euthenizing a cat, the syringe I was draw pentosol out didn't matter what mattered was the 10cc syringe, so if it was not enough to euthenize the animal then set it aside it would die. But the 10cc one is the one that needed to come out right. I said "WHAT!" Tim Cook explained that to me he went and got Ryan Curtis and he explained the very same thing, he said even if you don't have a full cc of pentosol say it's a cc on the log because the 10 cc syringe mattered not what we were using to euthenize with! It was very apparent that human euthanasia was

not important that the numbers were. This was very disturbing to know we were being made to make the animals suffer because the numbers might be off!

Dispensing of Drugs

Late last year in 2009, Linda told Ronnie Ganas, Ricardo Mercado, and I we were going to dart a dog, it was a male spits that we were unable to catch in a trap. Linda called me and Ronnie into her office, she handed Ronnie two separate shots for the dart gun, I noticed three bottles of meds on her desk, one was acepromazine 50ml. one was 50ml of xylazine and the other was a tall clean bottle it was ketamine I could not see the ml number on that bottle. She told us to fill out the paper work when we were done and give it to her. That afternoon we darted the dog, one shot was fired and missed him, and the second shot hit him. I transported the dog to Dr. Richards's office on Bemiss Rd. when we returned to the shelter Ronnie completed the paper work and gave it to Linda. What I didn't understand was we darted a dog in the beginning of 2009 and I actually took Dr. Ali Thornhill with me, because Linda told us we had to do it with a Vet present. I just figured maybe the law changed. However, after we were summoned back to Linda's office about 2 months ago to dart another dog, she was in her office with a syringe and asked me how much the dog we were darting weighed, I told her I was not sure I have only seen it from a distance could be 50 to 75 pounds! She was trying to do the math for the amount of meds to use but it was coming out more then the size dart we had for the dart gun. I asked her if I could call Dr. T and she said yes.

I called Dr. T and advised him we were going to dart a dog and we needed the amount of meds to dispense, he said "what are you doing?" I said "darting a dog on Shilo Rd", he said "with what" I said "Some meds Linda had" he said "bring me everything you have meds, the tackle box, and the log!" I advised Linda and I took everything to Dr. T's. When he came in the room I handed him the meds and the dart/drug log. He looked at it and said "who signed this thing?" I looked and said "LP...Linda Patelski" He said "she can't sign this log"...and then put his hand over his mouth and said "I didn't say that" I said "OK I didn't hear that" at that time he opened the tackle box, there were used uncovered needles, syringes with meds still in them it was apparent Dr. T was not happy! He then shut it and asked me how much the dog weighed we were darting I said about 65 lbs. He dispensed in dart for us and we (Ronnie Ganas) left.

On 4/30/2010 I arrived at work about 7:30 I sat in the office while Michelle Shultz added the water to the pentosol at the front desk in a tin pan we water cats in. Two girls who were volunteering were also standing at the counter while Ryan Curtis signed them in, our office cat Miss kitty was sitting on the desk stretching her neck out to try to lick the pentosol out of the tin pan, Ryan made a comment of "the cutting cat is trying to commit suicide" she is a self mutilator and has chewed holes in her hind quarters. Michelle at that time pushed me, kitty back and continued to mix the pentosol it was chaotic with everything going on in the office, and I finally left to go check traps. Later that morning when I returned to the shelter I was informed by Michelle that Dr. T needed to see everyone who was certified to euthenize in the conference room. Myself, Eric Sharp, and Michelle were in the room. Dr. T stated he had a visit from the DEA and things were going

to change at the shelter. He told us Pat came and had several questions about the euth log and he said some of the questions he didn't have answers for but he would take responsibility for everything because he didn't know he should have been keeping a better eye on it. So we were told, if we euthenize IV put it on the Log as IV if we euthenize IC put it on the log IC. He also advised us we were on probation and if we messed up we could be fired. At that time Rose Boney came in the room and we all stayed while he explained it to Rose. Then Ryan Curtis came in also. Dr. T told him to sit down. He explained the same thing to Rose as he did us; then he said "you have to remember one thing the person checking this log probably has an 8th grade education and when they wakes up in the morning they wonders who their gonna get in trouble that day!" Ryan and Rose laughed. I looked at Eric and got up the meeting was over a mins later.

After Ashley Paulk got the position of County Chairman I felt like I after being sheriff I could talk to him, I called the administration building and left messages for him several weeks later I finally got in touch with him. When we spoke on the phone I asked him if I could talk to him as Ashley Paulk not as the county chairman, he asked me if it had to do with county business I told him yes; he said he would be glad to meet but he needed his count manager present, I said then I have nothing to say sir because I have no respect for Joe Pritchard and I was sorry for bothering him. After the threat of being fired if we go to the administration building I new I would not be able to say anything to Ashley Paulk.

Again I was stopped and had no place to go with the abuse, neglect, and deceitfulness occurring at the shelter. I love my job as an animal control officer; my job has actually caused me to seek medical attention for anxiety and depression with my family physician. I was put on Efixer and xanax for the anxiety. I would wake up three to four times a night not able to go back to sleep. This problem went on the 3 years.

I decided to talk to Pat Smith, I was told once that she and Linda Patelski were good friends and she would stick up for Linda. I decided the cards would fall where they may...I was going to do the right thing even if it cost me my job! I have meet with every local person and still not seen any results from it. And it was time for the abuse, neglect and deceitfulness to stop.

Other Occurrences

In the middle of February, 2008 Victoria (Raphael) Medina told me that Sabina Carter was discriminating against two African American men, that she (Sabina Carter) was very adamant about these two men not getting the bulldog puppy because they were black and she knew they were going to fight the dog. I told Victoria she needed to tell Linda because that's why we have home inspection so discrimination, race profiling and the safety of the animal. Victoria eventually told Linda. On Feb 28th the puppy was put back into the adoption room. I was not in the office but Victoria told me the two African American men came back hoping to see and adopt the puppy, again Sabina ran and hid the puppy in the tech room. Victoria did say Michelle told her that was not a good idea...Sabina disregarded anything told to her. On Feb 29th the puppy was hidden again from the same African American men. On March 1st the puppy was put back into the adoption room it was adopted by white people. It clearly states in the Lowndes County Handbook on page 51 section VI-2 that there was zero tolerance of any form of harassment that could lead to finding or charge of discrimination. It was evident that Linda Patalski knew she was also involved in the discrimination of these two men. When it was brought to the Lowndes County Administration office under Mickey Tillman and Suzanne Pitman it was assured they would look into the matter! I have been to the administration building and making complaints because I feel like my supervisor Linda Patalski is not doing her job. Mickey Tillman asked me how could things be better there, my answer was put someone in there that could handle the job and the employees.

Follow Up On: _____



ANIMAL SERVICES
COMPLAINT

Date: 8/13/09 Time: 3:50 Call Taker: Y4 Officer: Y4 Date: 8/13/09 Time: 4:00

COMPLAINANT	VIOLATOR
Name: <u>Hailey Brown</u>	Name: _____
Address: <u>1307 Baytree Dr.</u>	Address: _____
Phone: <u>412-2885</u>	Phone: _____
Cross Street: _____	Cross Street: _____

Complaint Code

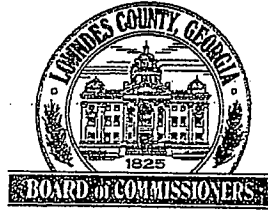
- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Bite | 6 <u>Stray</u> | V - Vicious |
| <u>2 Injured</u> | 7 Livestock Loose | R - Repeat Problem |
| 3 Wildlife | 8 Owner Involved | T - Needs Trap |
| 4 Cruelty | 9 Owner Turn In | D - Dead Animal |
| 5 Inhumane Treatment | 10 Too Many Animals | |

Explanation: Dog has been imaled w/something

Officers Report

D/O I. Shoop mix male w/an arrow
thru his upper body. dog was having
a hard time breathing. ODD officer
D. Penta observed, authorizing and also
took arrow as evidence.

[Signature]
Officers Signature



Lowndes County Animal Services
Statement of Incident - Supplemental Report

Officer Name: Susan Leavens Y4

Date: August 13 2009

Address: 1307 Baytree Dr.

Time: 350 am

On the above date I was dispatched to 1307 Baytree Dr. in reference to a dog that had been impaled. When I arrived there was a young female standing on the street she was later known to me as Hailey Brown and was the complainant in the case. She told me the dog was in the bushes and it had something stuck all the way through it. I crawled into the bushes with my loop stick, I could see something sticking completely through the dog, I slipped the loop over his head and head wagged his tail. He appeared to be stuck in the under brush. I removed him gently and to my surprise he was impaled with about a 1/2 foot arrow it entered the top part of his rib cage and exited the other side around his heart and girth area. His breathing was raspy and delayed.

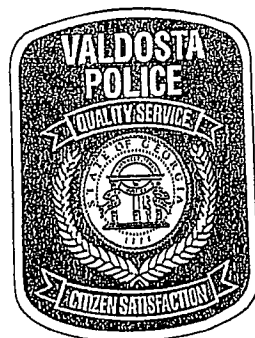
Ms. Brown told me her and her friend walked to the store on Baytree and Jerry Jones (across from Slap Daddy's) to get a drink; they seen the little dog while they were walking and he was fine; on their return trip they noticed he had been impaled and called us for assistance.

I loaded him onto my truck and transported him to Valdosta Police Department. I asked for a supervisor and one came to the truck and observed the dog I did not get his name! He told me he would have an officer meet me at the Animal Shelter. I transported the dog to Lowndes County Animal Shelter.

Officer Otto Penta assisted me with photos and the euthanizing of the dog. I then took more photos. The arrow was removed with a gloves and forceps and Officer Penta kept it for evidence and it was transported to VPD.

Case Report Number 09-09-02384
 Officer O. Davis Date 08-09-09

*Valdosta Police Department
 Mission Statement*

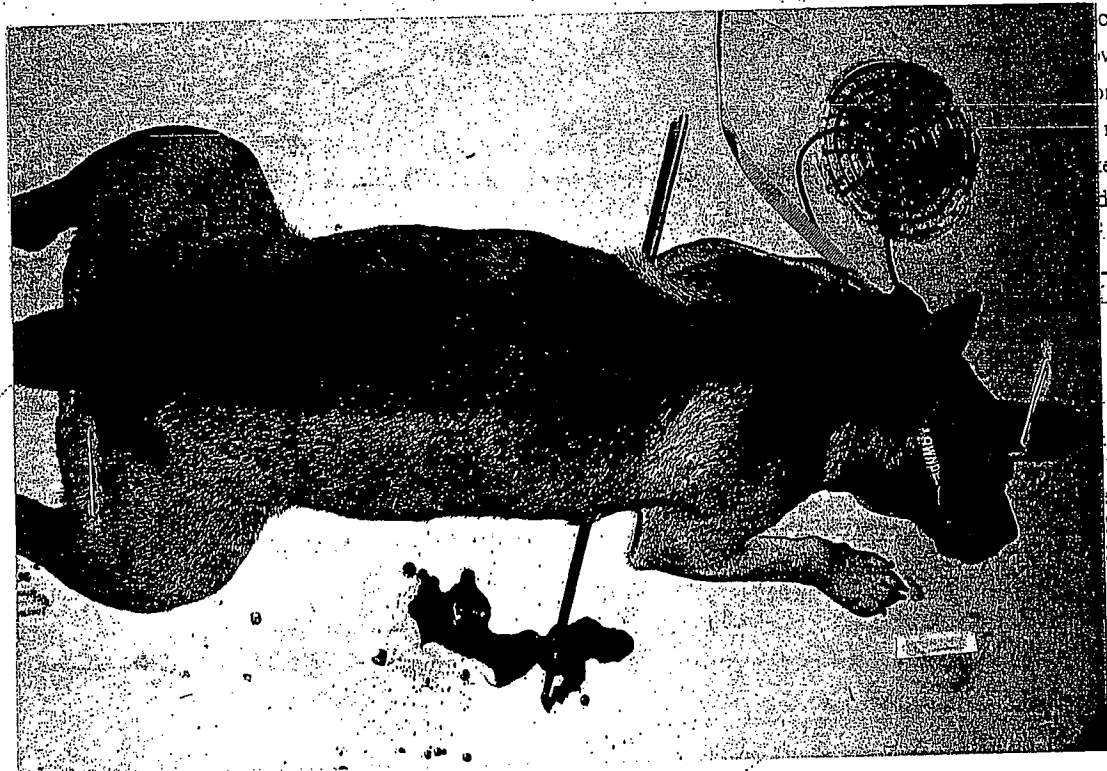


The mission of the Valdosta Police Department is to maintain social order within prescribed ethical and constitutional limits while providing professional law enforcement services to citizens and visitors of Valdosta.

Please keep this pamphlet, it contains valuable information as well as the case number your report has been assigned. Your report number is listed at the top of the page, along with the name of the officer who made your report. If you contact the police department about your incident, refer to this case number.

Contact the police department at (229) 242-2606 if you:

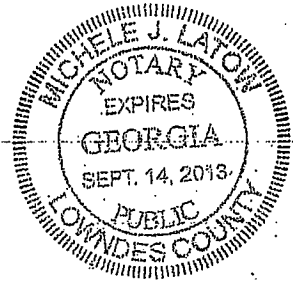
- * remember or discover new information
- property missing
- own property
- for model number of stolen item
- reported missing
- detective
- id by the suspect or a friend or
- suspect contact 911



TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
	911
	242-2606
(Invest.)	293-3145
	293-3100
	293-3109
	242-2606
delony	244-7170
disdemeanor	333-5101
Crisis Line	800-33 HAVEN
Center	245-5369
	293-3109
	293-3099

and return attached survey.

Susan Seavers



Michele J. Latow

On several events I have observed the euthanizing being falsified and redone so the amounts should be correct. This records was redone by Michelle Shultz and she was approved to do this illegal action by Linda Patiskie. They both know this a controled substance accountablity log. The euthanizing log and the bottles have a DEA number. This act of falsifying records have been seen by other Animal Control Officers and Shelter Attendants. I do not remember dates but ethanizing logs and tracking sheets and work schule and time sheets will prove the falsifying. Linda Patiskie has full knowlegde and approved this illegal actions.

Shelter Attendants and Animal Control Officers have reported cruelty to animals and abuse to Linda Patiskie. Shelter Attendant Ryan Curtis was beating and slapping on animals that he was euthanizing or drawing blood from for heartworm test. These action was wittiness on several occassions by different staff. Animal Control Officers and Shelter Attendants reported these actions of cruelty to Linda Patiskie and nothing was ever done or corrected. Linda Patiskie was informed that if Ryan continued his actions that citations would be written.

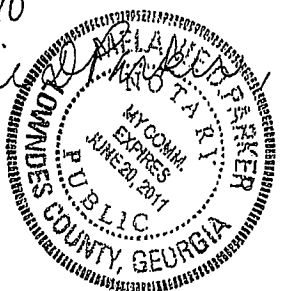
Animal Control Officer R. Mercado appeared to be upset one day and I asked him what was wrong with him and he stated that him and Shelter Attendant Jacob Fox had a an argument in the Tech Room and Jacob picked up a live dog and threw at him. He confronted Linda Patiskie about the situation. Nothing was ever done.

Animal Control Officers has been threaten to be fired for following chain of command to discuss the problems with up officials. Shelter Attendant and Animal Control Officers have been threaten by county officials in the past when they would attempt to talk about the problems at hand. They where told that if they can not get along down there they would shut the shelter down and fire everyone. Staff are afraid of get fired.

A. C. O. Ronnie A. Ganas

Animal Control Officer Ronnie A. Ganas

5-5-2010
Melanie



Notary