

03/25/10

Move to ACT

I bought a puppy from the Southside Animal Shelter in Indianapolis last year. We just love her; she is the sweetest animal I have ever had. She is an indoor dog that is spoiled. I want to share a story about what happened to me with Animal Control. This is a copy of what I have sent to Animal Control and the Mayors Office. You might be interested.

On Wednesday 03/24/2010, Animal Control was called concerning two loose pitbulls that live on the corner of Venoy and Brill. According to the neighbors, Animal Control has been called several times about the loose dogs, so I am sure they know where the dogs live. I have seen the dogs in the backyard laying on the patio and they were loose then.

Around 2:40 pm I was leaving my house. My father was in the backyard breaking up sticks so I told him I was leaving and put our puppy (an indoor dog) out on her rope so she could go to the bathroom. The back door of the garage was opened as well as the big garage door. I went to my car and saw an Animal Control van sitting in front of our house located at (XXXX) Hi-Vu Drive, and the woman in the van was looking at our house. I went in, closed the garage door, exited through the back door, leaving it open and walked up the side yard to my car and the puppy was following me. The Animal Control person did not say a word to me and drove up to the stop sign. As I approached the same stop sign I looked down the street and saw the van turn circling the block, so I also went around the block because I felt she was up to something.

When I pulled up to my house she had parked in front looking down the side yard at my puppy. I got out of my car parked in my driveway and she called me over. She asked if that was my dog and I replied "yes". She asked if I have a dog house and I said "no". She said it was illegal to have a dog outside without a doghouse and she was going to write me a ticket. Again, my father was in the backyard and the back garage door was opened. I asked, "You have to have a doghouse for your dog to go outside for five minutes to go to the bathroom?" She replied that I was argumentative and was now going to write me 5 tickets. I feel this is harassment. I replied "There are no doghouses in this neighborhood which is full of dogs, I've just never heard of that." She then again accused me of being argumentative and said she was going to write me 5 tickets. She asked for my license, which I gave her and called my father in the back and told him to come out front.

She asked me if the dog had been spayed, which she has been, and if the dog had tags. I said the tags were in the house and I have all her paperwork. The puppy is micro chipped in her own yard, on a 100 ft rope, with an old man outside. She told me to go get it, which I did. My father walked out to the van, and she told him I had a bad attitude and she was writing me 5 tickets. She hadn't even gotten out of the van, so what was she going to falsify?? I brought out the papers and she got out of the van and walked up to

the side of the house. She told my father it was illegal for any dog to be outside for even 5 minutes without a doghouse to which he replied he had never heard that before. She told us the ticket was for not having a doghouse and they would be back in 2 weeks and as long as the dog is not outside, there won't be a problem. She gave me a pamphlet stating it would tell us about the doghouse. She gave me a ticket and she left.

I contacted my lawyer who looked it up for me, and he says as long as the garage door is opened, we do not need a doghouse. The pamphlet she gave me did not have one sentence in it about a doghouse, which I will bring to court.

First of all, the pit bulls live on the corner of Venoy and Brill so why is she watching a puppy on a rope on Hi-Vu Drive with a 79 yr old man in the backyard? Second, why did she not approach me when I went out to my car, and snuck around the block when she thought I was gone? I thought she was going to take my puppy and say she caught one of the dogs. I think she was irritated that I came back. Third, since when is asking one question being argumentative? Fourth, how could she write me 5 tickets without even getting out of the van? She never asked if someone was out with the puppy, never walked around to see if there was a door opened. In fact, she withheld that information from us, and I wasn't allowed to speak. She did not do her job because she did not have any facts. She misrepresented the Law by only giving part of it!!

I feel this Animal Control officer is abusive with her power and dishonest as well. She was extremely rude and needed to be looking for 2 pit bulls instead of a puppy on a rope. Is she afraid of pit bulls?? Is that why she was diverting her duties on to some innocent dog owner that hasn't even so much as had a warning or traffic ticket in over 20 years? THREATENING me with 5 tickets is a flagrant abuse of her job. A job she was clearly not doing that day. She did not identify herself, so all I have is the badge number sloppily written on the ticket. Her Badge Number is 15019. The ticket number is 265457200 and the utt# is Z545720. I am outraged over her behavior and harassment!! My neighbor was watching out the window and also felt like she was going to take my puppy, and he went out and got his cat.

Sincerely,

Jane Dietz