



Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, Inc.

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June 9, 2008

Mr. Charles W. Wilson, Director
Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources
9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 500
Upper Marlboro, MD 20774-5358

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I find it necessary to bring a very serious situation to your attention once again. I hope that you will take action to address this situation so that it can be permanently corrected. **I would suggest that we meet on Friday, June 13, 2008 at 2:00 pm in your office.** If this is not a convenient date or time, please call and suggest an alternative date or time.

Our organization has received numerous complaints in recent weeks about Animal Control Officers who are accusing innocent citizens of violations. They are informed that the violations have been witnessed by some unidentified person. When accused of the violation, these citizens have inquired as to what statute they have violated, however, the ACO simply does not respond to the inquiry, or quotes some text that can not be found in any statute.

This does not seem to be an appropriate form of rule in the United States of America. Citizens have the right to confront their accuser, otherwise the government is free to fabricate complaints. The accused also has the right to know what law has been violated, otherwise the government is free to be arbitrary. Those who have contacted our organization have expressed the fear that Prince George's County employees may be engaging in just those practices.

In these several recent cases which have been brought to our attention, an innocent citizen has been informed by a rogue ACO that some imaginary person has filed a complaint and that they are in violation of some unspecified statute. This is an inappropriate practice and must be stopped immediately.

Incidentally, in the monthly orientation meetings of Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA, we distribute copies of the text of the Animal Control Statute and read through it as a group. Those who have attended our meeting have invariably found that the law is clear

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and that there is little room for interpretation. I do not understand the refusal on the part of Prince George's County employees to discuss the text of the Animal Control Statute, but it makes me very uneasy. It would seem that this exercise might benefit the employees of the Animal Management Division.

In my experience, problems are most effectively addressed at the lowest possible level. We have attempted to discuss this issue with Chief Taylor on several occasions, however, like the ACOs, he has refused to discuss the matter.

I would like to now extend the opportunity for you to correct this inappropriate behavior on the part of Animal Management Division employees before it escalates to a higher level.

I would like to meet with you and discuss what we, and many Prince George's County citizens perceive as misrepresentation of the law and inappropriate behavior on the part of Prince George's County employees. **I would suggest that we meet on Friday, June 13, 2008 at 2:00 pm in your office.** If this is not a convenient date or time, please call and suggest an alternative date or time.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a timely solution to this problem.

Sincerely,



Timothy W. Saffell, President
Prince Georges Feral Friends, SPCA

cc: Chief Rodney Taylor