

**SEMINOLE COUNTY  
ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD  
DANGEROUS DOG PUBLIC HEARING**

**July 30, 2007  
7:15 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debra Garrambone, Chairman  
Barbara Woodall  
Dr. DeHaven Batchelor  
Bill Shaffer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris LaSage, Vice Chairman  
Barbara Lewis  
Lisa Giltner

OTHERS: Mary Beth Lake, Animal Services Shelter Supervisor  
Carole Coleman, Animal Services Field Supervisor  
Ann Colby, Assistant County Attorney  
Elaine RiCharde, Clerk to the Board

The following is a non-verbatim transcript of the Seminole County Animal Control Board public hearing held July 30, 2007, at 7:15 PM, at the Animal Services Shelter Conference Room, 232 Bush Boulevard, Sanford, Florida.

I. Call to Order.

II. Roll Call.

Roll Call was taken by the Clerk. There being a quorum present, Chairman Garrambone called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM.

III. Public Hearings.

Chairman Garrambone announced the purpose of this public hearing was to consider an appeal, filed by Sally Sloan, of Animal Services finding sufficient cause to classify her dogs, "Oso" (file number FL SC DD 1700084) and "Primo" (file number FL SC DD 1700085) as dangerous dogs.

Chairman Garrambone announced Animal Services staff would present their case. The Board would next take testimony from the bite victims, and then the dog owner would give her testimony. She asked anyone present who wished to give testimony to complete a speaker's form.

Mary Beth Lake, Animal Services Shelter Supervisor, was sworn and stated her name for the record. Carole Coleman, Animal Services Field

Supervisor, was sworn and stated her name for the record. Ms. Lake and Ms. Coleman distributed copies of sworn statements and evidence received after the agenda packages were delivered. They then presented the case whereby the dogs inflicted multiple bites and a severe injury on a human being. Their presentation included a previous bite incident involving both the dogs, historical records and statements submitted by numerous persons. Ms. Lake and Ms. Coleman answered questions from the Board.

Animal Services Officer Delores Jarema was sworn and stated her name. Officer Jarema investigated the bite incident that occurred September 15, 2006. Officer Jarema answered questions from the Board. Ms. Coleman interviewed the bite victim, Mr. Robert Dollard, as part of the dangerous dog investigation. She briefed the board on her interview and answered questions.

Animal Services Officer Shari Covell was sworn and stated her name. Animal Services Officer Megan Welton was sworn and stated her name. Officers Covell and Welton initially investigated the bite incident that occurred July 10, 2007. Officers Covell and Welton answered questions from the Board.

Elizabeth Swanner was sworn and stated her name. Ms. Swanner was the victim in the bite incident that occurred July 10, 2007. Ms. Swanner described the incident and answered questions from the Board.

Richard Swanner was sworn and stated his name. Mr. Swanner is Elizabeth Swanner's father. Mr. Swanner described the incident and answered questions from the Board.

Sally Sloan was sworn and stated her name. Ms. Sloan described the bite incidents that occurred September 15, 2006, and July 10, 2007. Ms. Sloan spoke about other incidents involving the dogs as those incidents were described in sworn statements from Claire Fielding, Carolyn Nauman and Jennifer Schedivy. Ms. Sloan answered questions from the Board.

Carole Coleman was recalled to clarify questions about the fence on the Sloan property.

Chairman Garrambone asked the Board if they wanted to recall any witnesses or if they had any questions. There being none, Chairman Garrambone closed the public portion of the hearing.

Chairman Garrambone asked the Board to review the pictures of the bite wounds, which required twenty one (21) stitches. Chairman Garrambone said the multiple bites and sutures qualify under the Florida Statutes, Chapter 767.12. She said the hospital defined the bites as severe by advising there were sutures and multiple bites, and the Board's decision making, i.e. severe injury, had been taken away. Mr. Shaffer made a motion to declare the dogs dangerous due to

the severe injury and according to the statute cited by Chairman Garrambone. Ann Colby, Assistant County Attorney, addressed the Board. She said the Board and not the hospital determines for the record whether or not the Board finds severe injury according to the Statutes. Chairman Garrambone said she wanted to make the motion and cite the statute, and she wanted the Board to review the statute and see if the Board agrees with her. Ms. Colby advised the Chairman should not make the motion but the Board members should. Chairman Garrambone asked the Board to review Florida Statute 767.13(2). Second to Mr. Shaffer's motion by Chairman Garrambone. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Colby addressed the Board. She said according to the Seminole County Code, the Board must make several findings. First, the Board votes to declare a dog dangerous if the dog has met the criteria for finding the dog dangerous under the Statutes. Ms. Colby said the Board must also find for the record whether or not the injuries that were inflicted were severe injuries as defined under the Code and Statutes. She said if the dog has never been declared dangerous, by making a finding the dog is dangerous and has inflicted a severe injury then the only remedy the Board can order is euthanasia. Ms. Colby said if the Board finds the injuries were not severe, then the dog can be declared dangerous and either ordered to be euthanized or returned to the owner with conditions. Ms. Colby said if the Board orders the dog to be euthanized the order must include a date by which the dog will not be euthanized in order to give the owner an appropriate time, usually ten (10) days or greater, to file an appeal in the Circuit Court. She said the Board must also include in their order that in the event the owner does file an appeal the owner must post the cost to keep the dog at Animal Services for six (6) months.

Chairman Garrambone clarified that Mr. Shaffer's motion included a finding that the injury was severe.

Motion by Mr. Shaffer to euthanize the dogs and that the dogs shall not be euthanized before August 10, 2007. Second by Dr. Batchelor. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Dr. Batchelor to require the owner to post boarding fees for each dog for six (6) months in accordance with section 20.27 of the Seminole County Code. Second by Ms. Woodall. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjournment.

Motion by Dr. Batchelor to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM. Second by Mr. Shaffer. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Clerk to the Board