

Adam and Natasha Chalmers  
720 Queen Street  
Neustadt, ON N0G 2M0  
December 17, 2020

Laura Johnston  
CAO  
Municipality of West Grey  
402813 Grey Road 4  
RR #2  
Durham, ON N0G 1R0

Dear Laura Johnston:

I am writing to appeal a decision made by the Animal Control Officer to place a muzzle order, served to us on December 10<sup>th</sup> 2020, on our family pet, Berkley.

On October 25<sup>th</sup> 2020, Berkley's leash came loose from my hand as we were exiting the car parked in our driveway. She barked and ran across the road towards another dog. I immediately ran after Berkley, however unfortunately Berkley had bitten the dog. After the incident, we did notice that Berkley had been favouring her one front paw. We could not see any mark on her paw, so unsure what happened. Berkley has never shown any aggression towards people or animals prior to the incident. Immediately after the incident, Berkley was playing with our neighbour's dog without any issue. She never showed aggression towards the Police Officer that responded to the call, nor did she show any aggression towards the Animal Control Officer. The officer did call us later that evening updating us with a total we owed to the other dog owners as their dog did require vet care. We immediately left the cheques in the mailbox, as Cheryl (Animal Control Officer) stated she would pick the cheque up and deliver it. We followed up Cheryl a few times and the cheque was picked up and delivered to the other dog owners on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

I spoke with Karl Schipprack on October 27<sup>th</sup> and then again November 2<sup>nd</sup> as we were seeking more clarification of what the muzzle order would entail. It was on November 2<sup>nd</sup> he asked if we had ever heard of a complaint made back in August regarding two dogs (one dark colour and one light coloured) at the corner of Queen and Barbara from a yellow brick house. There was no specifics noted other than this occurred at a yellow brick house and on our corner there are two yellow brick houses. We stated we had not, and that we have never owned two dogs and Karl said okay, and we never heard anything further.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, we came home from work around 6pm and found the muzzle order on our porch. In the muzzle order there was a comment that was included that there was a complaint

(made on October 29, 2020) that in August of 2020 two dogs left our property and attempted to attack a different small breed dog. However, someone intervened before the dark coloured dog could harm the small breed dog. In addition, it stated that they understand we are disputing the fact that we have two dogs. Berkley is registered with West Grey, and we have never owned a second dog. We would like to know the process we need to take to prove we only own one dog. Berkley has never been aggressive towards a person or dog, so we were very surprised when this incident occurred. We are very sorry this incident occurred and understand that the other dog owners were upset that their pet was harmed.

We would like the opportunity to appeal the muzzle order. We have installed a fence to help give Berkley freedom on our property. We have purchased a muzzle for Berkley and put the "beware of dog" sign up that is required. In addition, we have also hired a dog behaviouralist to perform an assessment on Berkley, the results will be provided during the hearing. If the hearing could occur in the very near future it would be appreciated.

I greatly appreciate you taking the time to read this appeal. If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My number is (519) 369-8348.

Sincerely,

Adam and Natasha Chalmers