

This matter comes before the Board of Selectmen pursuant to Mass. General Law Chapter 140, Section 137C. The Hanover Board of Selectmen is the licensing authority for the Town of Hanover, and as such it maintains the general superintendence of all Kennels, and conditions which may constitute a “nuisance” condition as defined by Massachusetts Law.

Upon report and investigation of an injury and death of a dog in the care of Briarwood Kennels located at 1154 Washington Street, the Town of Hanover took deliberate action to suspend the kennel license held by Briarwood Kennel and Dave Ricardo. This license has remained suspended pending the hearing scheduled for tonight to determine whether or not this license should be revoked. However, The Board of Selectmen will not be holding the hearing with regard to the status of the Kennel license for Briarwood Kennels located at 1154 Washington Street. The board has reached an agreement with Mr. Dave Ricardo and his legal counsel that Briarwood Kennels will remain closed and have their kennel license indefinitely suspended until such time that the criminal case for animal cruelty against Mr. Ricardo has concluded.

The Board of Selectmen have a responsibility to hold fair and just hearings and could not do so in with this hearing as Mr. Ricardo could not testify in his behalf due to the pending criminal charges. Once the criminal case is complete and regardless of the verdict, the Board of Selectmen will then hold a hearing to determine the fate of the Kennel license for Mr. Dave Ricardo of Briarwood Kennels. The administrative hearing will be scheduled with notice to the general public to determine any modification of the indefinite suspension of this license.

Additionally, this hearing was scheduled for the Board of Selectmen to determine facts under Mass. General Laws Chapter 140, Section 157 namely whether the aggressor dog in this case is a “dangerous” dog as defined by the statute, and if so, the proper disposition of this animal. With regard to this issue, Mr. Ricardo has made a personal decision, with no suggestion or undue influence from the Town of Hanover or the Board of Selectmen, to euthanize “Grizzly”, the aforementioned aggressor dog. Therefore that hearing is no longer required.

While the Board respects Mr. Ricardo's rights as a pet owner, we had made no determination as to the demeanor or fate of "Grizzly".

The Town of Hanover has received a significant volume of written comments which will be made part of the record when a hearing is held, but at this time the kennel license suspension shall continue indefinitely. The Board of Selectmen understand that this is an emotional issue for many and we want the general public to know that we take this matter very seriously and will inform the public via our website and local press outlets as to when the hearing with regard to the kennel license will be held. We thank you for taking the time to come out, and want you to know that Briarwood Kennels will not board dogs, operate a doggie daycare or breed dogs until such time that the board holds a public hearing on this matter and makes a decision on the status and future of the kennel license. By taking this action, the public safety has been protected and the public interest has been served.