

# DENALI LAW GROUP

PETERSEN & PAYNE, LLC

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
ANIMAL CONTROL INVESTIGATION  
Case Number C0009369376**

Firm Name:	Denali Law Group
Firm Address:	280 North Main, Wasilla, Alaska 99654
Firm Telephone Numbers:	(907)-357-5297 (phone) (907)-357-5296 (facsimile)
Name of Contact Person:	Richard K. Payne (Alaska Bar No. 9711071)
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## 1.0 Executive Summary

**The Incident:** On April 15, 2026, numerous dead dogs were reported in the Caswell Lake area. Officials later confirmed 23 dogs<sup>1</sup> died at 49181 Silver Salmon Dr. Willow, Alaska.<sup>2</sup>

**Cause:** The dogs starved to death after being abandoned without food or water.

**Criminal Charges:** On April 21, 2026, Misty Rehder, age 35, was arrested and subsequently indicted on 24 counts of animal cruelty under AS 11.61.140(a)(2), each constituting a Class C felony.<sup>3</sup>

**Survivors:** Two dogs survived. Woody was found emaciated but recovered following emergency veterinary intervention. Birdie was located uninjured at the residence of Chad Smith, at 16390 Nichols Rd, Talkeetna. Ms. Rehder and Mr. Smith were cohabitants at the Nichols Rd address beginning sometime after Mr. Walker moved to Montana on January 9, 2026.

**Community Outrage:** Residents reported concerns about the kennel to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Animal Control as early as January 2026.

Officer Dickenson's investigative failures were not isolated. This review finds that they reflect systemic deficiencies in training, supervision, policy, and accountability within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Animal Care Division. Those deficiencies are documented in Sections 2.0, 3.0, and 7.0 of this report. Officer Dickenson was unable to assess the totality of the situation. He did not evaluate Misty Rehder's inability to perform the duties of her kennel license, care for the dogs or execute her evacuation plan. Some of the information not properly evaluated by Officer Dickenson was:

1. Ms. Rehder reported she did not have a vehicle and relied on others for transportation.
2. How would the lack of transportation impact the accessibility of water?
3. How would the lack of transportation impact the accessibility of adequate food supplies.
4. Ms. Rehder was not asked and never demonstrated she had adequate food stores.
5. Ms. Rehder was unemployed or had changing and questionable employment in different places, including Anchorage. Officer Dickenson never verified her employment claims.
6. Ms. Rehder indicated she suffered from medical issues that required her to stay in Anchorage for overnight care. The dogs were allegedly left in the care of a teenager; Officer Dickenson asked no follow-up questions and did not contact the teenager.
7. Officer Dickenson gave no weight to the complainants' considerable expertise.
8. There were multiple reports indicating that Ms. Rehder was facing eviction. The landlord's contact information was provided to Officer Dickenson and he failed to contact the landlord.

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<sup>1</sup> There was confusion in the initial report but it was later confirmed 23 dogs perished.

<sup>2</sup> On or about June 14, 2026, it was learned that, following the completion of the eviction of Misty Rehder from the property, Milos Lustig, owner of the property located at 49181 Silver Salmon Drive, Willow, Alaska, discovered an additional deceased dog inside a sleeping bag within the cabin. At the time of this report, the cause of death remains undetermined.

<sup>3</sup> Alaska Statute (AS) 11.61.140 (Cruelty to Animals) is the underlying state criminal statute, and AS 11.61.140(a)(2) — knowingly failing to provide food/water — was the basis for the felony indictment of Rehder.

The investigation was effectively limited to confirming Ms. Rehder's physical presence at the property on five occasions between January 17 and February 2, 2026.<sup>4</sup> No assessment was made of food supply, water accessibility, shelter adequacy, animal body condition, or the sustainability of the kennel's care arrangements. The people who Animal Control should have relied upon report they felt ignored and their expertise disregarded. Officer Dickenson's deficiencies are attributable to two distinct but compounding failures: inadequate training and deficient departmental policy. He lacked the tools to recognize the accumulating indicators of a welfare emergency, and the policies under which he operated did not compel him to look for them.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Between January 17, 2026, and February 2, 2026, only three 24 hour notices were left but Officer Dickenson went to the property a total of five times. Two of the visits Ms. Rehder was present.

<sup>5</sup> By no later than January 18, 2026, Animal Control had actual knowledge of the following facts: (a) Ms. Rehder had been reported by multiple credible mushing-community sources as absent from the kennel for days at a time; (b) she had no vehicle and could not execute her own evacuation plan; (c) Officer Dickenson had personally observed inadequate shelter, thin dogs, no on-site food storage, and snow-buried houses; (d) the licensee was facing eviction for unpaid rent. On these facts, the death of the dogs from starvation was foreseeable. The tools to prevent it written administrative order under MSB 24.10.110, re-inspection under 24.10.100, protective custody under 24.05.100, and citation under SOP 0042 were available under existing law and were not used.

## 2.0 Summary of Findings

1. Animal Control received no fewer than seven distinct citizen reports concerning Ms. Rehder's kennel between January 9 and April 15, 2026. *See*, Interview Summaries of Alyssa Buser; Michael Doliner; Sarah Loreff; Holly Lynn; Mark Walker; and Shantel Wiley.<sup>5</sup>
2. No Body Condition Score, palpation record, or food-inventory verification appears in the contemporaneous case file for any visit. Officer Dickenson never witnessed dogs eating or drinking on any of his visits to the property.<sup>6</sup>
3. Pursuant to SOP 0041§5.C, officers are required to collect their own photographic evidence during inspections. Officer Dickenson accepted non-timestamped photographs supplied by Misty Rehder, the subject of the investigation, as primary evidence of animal welfare, without independent corroboration.<sup>7</sup>
4. The Division's operational interpretation of "abandonment" treated third-party feeding as a tolling event — effectively restarting the statutory 24-hour presumption period each time a neighbor or volunteer provided care — thereby creating a documented disincentive to community intervention. Multiple witnesses reported being advised, or believing, that their assistance to the dogs would delay rather than support official action.<sup>8</sup>
5. Ms. Rehder, the kennel licensee, did not reside at the licensed premises, a dry cabin, and lacked a vehicle. Both facts were known or knowable to Animal Control and were incompatible with the approved evacuation plan pursuant to MSB 24.10.020(G)(1)(a) and MSB 24.10.040(B)(6).<sup>9</sup>
6. The case was administratively closed on February 2, 2026, yet Officer Dickenson continued to receive related reports through February 13, 2026; without reopening the case, escalating to a supervisor or notifying complainants of the closure.<sup>10</sup>
7. The Director had not completed all NACA modules; no completion deadlines for NACA training exist in policy.<sup>11</sup> Chief Hardwig has received the most training at Animal Control. Chief Hardwig completed module 1 in 2001; module 2 in 2004; module 3 in 2005 and module 4 in 2013.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *See*, Interview Summaries of Alyssa Buser; Michael Doliner; Sarah Loreff; Holly Lynn; Mark Walker; and Shantel Wiley.

<sup>6</sup> *See*, Interview Summary of Officer Dickenson and Officer Dickenson's Case View Report.

<sup>7</sup> *See*, Interview Summary of Officer Dickenson and Officer Dickenson's Case View Report.

<sup>8</sup> *See*, Interview Summaries of Alyssa Buser; Michael Doliner; Sarah Loreff; Holly Lynn; Shantel Wiley; Officer Dickenson and Chief Hardwig.

<sup>9</sup> *See*, Kennel License K0008841924 Evacuation Plan; *see also*, interview summary of Alyssa Buser and Holly Lynn.

<sup>10</sup> *See*, Interview Summary of Officer Dickenson; Officer Dickenson's Case View Report.

<sup>11</sup> *See*, SOP 0047 establishes training components but contains no deadline to complete the training.

<sup>12</sup> *See*, Mat-Su Borough Training Spreadsheet.

8. According to Chief Hardwig and Officer Dickenson, Animal Control maintains an unwritten, non-statutory policy of declining to act on anonymous reports. This practice directly conflicts with SOP 0041 §5.A, which does not restrict reports by anonymity, and stands in contrast to the Borough's Planning & Land Use Department, which accepts and triages anonymous complaints.<sup>13</sup>
9. Animal Control's intake system has no clear triage tier, no severity classification, and no mandatory response-time standards.<sup>14</sup>
10. Officer Dickenson did not contact the landlord (Milos Lustig) or the cohabitant (Chad Smith) despite being provided contact information.<sup>15</sup>
11. Chief Hardwig's working definition of "complaint" excluded telephone reports, contrary to the plain reading of MSB Title 24.<sup>16</sup>
12. TikTok content posted by the subject and baseless civil stalking orders initiated by Ms. Rehder and Chad Smith, created a documented chilling effect on neighbor reporting; the Division had no protocol to recognize or respond to witness intimidation.<sup>17</sup>
13. Pursuant to MSB 24.05.010, a rebuttable presumption of abandonment arises when an animal care and regulation officer receives no response within 24 hours of noticing a property. Because Ms. Rehder contacted Officer Dickenson within or soon after that period, the statutory presumption was not technically triggered. However, the presumption's non-activation does not establish that the animals were adequately cared for; it establishes only that the narrowest administrative threshold was not crossed. The totality of facts known to Officer Dickenson by January 18, 2026 — including absent vehicle tracks, multiple credible complainants, roofless doghouses in active snowfall, and Ms. Rehder's reported lack of transportation — independently established a welfare emergency requiring escalated action, regardless of whether the abandonment presumption applied.

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<sup>13</sup> See, Interview Summaries of Officer Dickenson and Chief Hardwig.

<sup>14</sup> See, Interview Summaries of Officer Dickenson and Chief Hardwig.

<sup>15</sup> See, Interview Summary of Officer Dickenson; Officer Dickenson's Case View Report.

<sup>16</sup> See, Interview Summaries of Officer Dickenson; Chief Hardwig and MSB Title 24.

<sup>17</sup> See, Interview Summary of Officer Dickenson and Officer Dickenson's Case View Report.

### 3.0 Policy and Code Matrix

#	Borough Conduct	Authority Violated	Source
1	Chief Hardwig restricted “complaint” to written entries in PetPoint; rejected anonymous reports.	Plain text of SOP 0041 §5.A: “Complaints may be received via the telephone, fax, mail, email, ‘Problem Reporter,’ walk-ins, or referrals from other agencies”.	SOP 0041
2	No body-condition scoring; no food/water inventory; no timestamped photographs at any visit.	SOP 0041 §5.C (Evidence Collection — photos, statements, physical evidence of food/water/shelter, medical records).	SOP 0041
3	No assessment of the need for protective custody.	SOP 0041 §5.B “determine if protective custody is needed under MSB 24.05.100 or MSB 24.05.080”.	SOP 0041; MSB 24.05.100
4	The officer observed inadequate shelter on January 17, 2026, three roofless doghouses in active snowfall. No citation.	SOP 0042 §§1-5; MSB 24.05.080(A)(3) (adequate shelter from inclement weather); MSB 24.05.080(C) (infraction).	SOP 0042; Title 24
5	There was no written administrative order with a statutory 30-day remedy and follow-up inspection.	MSB 24.10.110 Written Administrative Orders.	Title 24
6	No re-inspection of the kennel under the licensing authority despite welfare complaints against a licensed kennel.	MSB 24.10.100 Kennel and Cattery Inspections; MSB 24.10.040(B)(6) evacuation-plan resources.	Title 24
7	Inadequate verification of MSB 24.10.040 residency despite credible witnesses.	MSB 24.10.040 (“owner/custodian must reside in a dwelling on the property”).	Title 24

8	No review or enforcement of the evacuation plan after learning licensee had no vehicle (the plan required "Secure trailer to truck").	MSB 24.10.020(G)(1)(a); MSB 24.10.040(B)(6); MSB 24.10.020(J).	Title 24
9	Use of an unwritten "third-party feeding clock reset" doctrine that has no basis in MSB 24.05.010, MSB 24.05.080, or MSB 24.05.090.	None — doctrine has no statutory basis.	Title 24
10	Disclosure of complainants' names to the subject; no protocol to recognize witness intimidation; subsequent TikTok threats and civil restraining-order action against Ms. Lynn.	No Borough protocol exists; the investigator notes potential implication of Alaska Statute 11.56.540 (witness tampering) if disclosure was "knowing or reckless".	State criminal law / policy gap
11	No mandated completion of NACA modules; the Director never completed any NACA training; Officer Dickenson had not completed NACA Level 2 at the time of the investigation.	SOP 0047 (Training requirements; NACA I–III pathway).	SOP 0047
12	No documentation of January 20, 2026, supervisor-complainant conversation between Chief Hardwig and Ms. Lynn.	SOP 0041 §F (Documentation and Reporting — all material communications).	SOP 0041
13	Case closed Feb 2, 2026, with no notice to original complainant; complainant continued to be told to "submit a new report".	SOP 0041 §G (Case Closure and Follow-Up).	SOP 0041
14	Officer Dickenson was previously written up for failure to notate case files; corrective action required biweekly supervisor meetings yet the same failure recurred here.	Prior Formal Disciplinary Action of Joseph Dickenson dated April 7, 2026, establishes the Borough's notice of a known performance deficiency.	Personnel file

## **4.0 Summary of Internal and External Investigation Recommendations**

### **1. Necessary Amendments to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code**

- A. Amend MSB 24.05.010 define Complaint and Complainant.
- B. Amend MSB 24.05.010 clarify definition of Abandonment.
- C. Amend MSB 24.10.030 require kennel operators to notify Borough of material change.
- D. Amend MSB 24.10.040 require re-inspection of licensed kennels after a welfare report.
- E. Amend MSB 24.07.030 Mushing Facility License.

### **2. Operational Policy and SOP Reform**

- A. Adopt the four-tier triage system.
- B. Adopt a written anonymous report intake SOP.
- C. Adopt a mandatory welfare check field form.
- D. Adopt a mandatory waiver for kennel and musher operators/owners
- E. Adopt a written abandonment investigation SOP.
- F. Require continuity of kennel licensure and subsequent investigations.
- G. Require supervisor case review.
- H. Mandatory completion of all available NACA modules .
- I. Implementation of SOP 0047.
- J. Create an independent animal welfare citizen review board.
- K. Require quarterly public reporting.
- L. Amend SOP 0015 taking oral complaints
- M. Animal Control Director required to complete NACA training
- N. Establish a formal training requirement with staff veterinarian

### **3. Documentation Procedures Reform**

- A. Mandatory documentation procedures.
- B. Improved complaint tracking.
- C. Supervisor Review Requirements.
- D. Draft SOP for Proper Dissemination of Reports.

### **4. Immediate Personnel Actions**

- A. The investigator recommends that the Borough Manager considers relieving Chief Matthew Hardwig of command of Animal Control Enforcement.
- B. The investigator recommends relieving Officer Joseph Dickenson of enforcement duties with Animal Control.
- C. Appoint an Interim Chief from outside the current Division reporting line.

## 5. Specific Internal investigator Recommendations

Jason Ortiz, Planning & Land Use Deputy Director, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, was appointed internally, at the direction of Borough Manager, Mike Brown as an internal investigator. He was asked to review the Animal Care Department's handling of Case # C0009369376 and the related policies and procedures.

To assist those assessing the recommendations of this external investigation and the external investigation, conducted by Jason Ortiz, the external recommendations of Deputy Director Ortiz are provided here in Section 4.0 Summary of Recommendations Subsection 5:

### Internal Investigator Suggestions:<sup>18</sup>

- Anonymous complaints should be considered a valid component of the Division's reporting framework. Enabling anonymous reporting can encourage individuals to come forward with legitimate concerns, particularly when doing so early may help prevent more serious animal welfare issues. Investigative processes should incorporate information beyond first-party observations when appropriate. This practice is consistent with broader public safety reporting norms, including those used in code enforcement.
- Use of ballistic vests and the title "officer" can create the appearance of law enforcement authority, leading to public confusion about the role of Animal Care & Regulation personnel and creating a risk of perceived misrepresentation, as individuals may assume staff have police powers such as arrest or detention. Animal Care & Regulation personnel operate within a civil code enforcement framework, not a criminal law enforcement model, and are most effective when emphasizing education, voluntary compliance, and cooperative resolution. The goal is to ensure they are clearly recognized as animal welfare and compliance professionals, promoting interactions grounded in clarity, trust, and appropriate authority.
- It is recommended that the Chief Animal Care & Regulation Officer position be designated as exempt. The current structure, in which supervisory personnel are represented by the same bargaining unit as the employees they oversee, creates an unusual and potentially challenging reporting dynamic. Aligning this role as exempt would be consistent with most other supervisory positions within the organization and would better support clear differentiation between management and represented staff.
- Define annoyance under 24.05.010 under definitions. Nuisance" or "Annoyance" means any condition or behavior caused by an animal that

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<sup>18</sup> Aptos font was used to distinguish the internal review recommendations from the external review recommendations.

results in an actual and unreasonable interference with the use or enjoyment of property, or with the health, safety, peace, or comfort of one or more persons.

- Personnel considerations should be evaluated by appropriate leadership in coordination with Human Resources based on the findings of this review. The immediately assigned Animal Care & Regulations Officer is no longer employed with the Borough; therefore, no further action specific to that position is recommended.
- The investigation identified significant errors, lapses in judgment, and deficiencies in oversight that raise substantial concerns regarding leadership effectiveness, adherence to established protocols, and the Division's ability to consistently protect animal welfare. The severity and pattern of these issues indicate a breakdown in supervision, decision-making, and accountability overseen by the Chief Animal & Regulations Officer.
- The Director has a limited tenure in the position and has been actively working to implement standard operating procedures to strengthen departmental operations and consistency. These efforts were ongoing at the time of this incident. While certain external training benchmarks, such as NACA certification, had not yet been completed, steps had been taken to establish internal guidance and improve processes. Additionally, the Director was not directly involved in the handling of this case during its investigative phase prior to the discovery of the deceased animals. Involvement occurred after the matter escalated, at which point the focus shifted to response, coordination, and review.
- Given the Borough's geographic size, 24-hour on-call expectations, and the complexity and volume of cases handled by Animal Care & Regulations Officers, it may be beneficial to revisit current staffing levels and scheduling practices. A review could help to ensure consistent service coverage, reduce response delays, and support employee sustainability and retention.

## **5.0 Scope of Review, Methodology, Witnesses**

### **1. Scope**

Denali Law Group was retained as an independent outside investigator, for the review of the Animal Care Department's handling of Case Number C0009369376 and the related policies and procedures; to assist in determining if the matter was handled according to both Borough Code as well as internal policies and procedures.

### **2. Time Period Reviewed**

The focus of the review spans from early January 2026, approximately January 9, 2026, through April 15, 2026.

### **3. Witnesses Interviewed**

#### **Borough Personnel**

Animal Control Care and Enforcement Officer Rachel Brown  
Animal Control Care and Enforcement Officer Joseph Dickenson  
Animal Control Care and Enforcement Officer Dean Teeple  
Animal Control Care and Enforcement Director Vanessa Forbes  
Animal Control Care and Enforcement Dispatcher Shereen Evans  
Animal Control Care and Enforcement Veterinarian Doctor Joanne Stephens  
Chief Animal Control Care and Enforcement Officer Matthew Hardwig

#### **Private Citizens**

Alyssa Buser: Complainant  
Michael Doliner: Complainant  
Dacia Fletcher: Complainant  
Zsofia Kenderesi: Complainant  
Kai Leddy: Complainant  
Lovely, Cherie: Witness  
Sarah Loreff: Complainant  
Milos Lustig: Landlord of Ms. Rehder  
Holly Lynn: Complainant  
Mark Walker: Ms. Rehder's Kennel Emergency Contact and Ex-Boyfriend  
Shantel Wiley: Complainant

### **4. Site Visit**

A site visit to 49181 South Silver Salmon was conducted on April 29, 2026. In attendance was Richard K. Payne, Denali Law Group and Jason Ortiz, Planning and Land Use Deputy Director for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

There were numerous dog houses on the property in various states of disrepair. Some doghouses were wooden and others were plastic barrels. It appeared that each doghouse had a chain with a length of four to five feet long.

The cabin is a dry cabin/no running water available on site. The cabin appeared to be heated by oil and/or electricity. The cabin appeared to be less than 550-600 square feet. The cabin sits on .85 acres and was constructed in 2002.

## **6.0 Chronology**

### **1. Factual Chronology**

January 3, 2025

Misty Rehder was issued a kennel facility license (K0008841924) to operate “Walkers Wild Ride.” The license permitted up to 28 dogs at 49181 S. Silver Salmon Dr. Willow, AK (“the property”). The facility license was valid from January 3, 2025, to January 3, 2028. The facility inspection was conducted by Officer Brown. The kennel application listed Mark Walker as the Alternate/Emergency Contact. The emergency evacuation plan also lists Mark Walker as an additional contact person for the kennel. The evacuation plan specifically states:

Secure trailer to truck. Put crates (4) in back of the truck –  
Dogs to go in crates: Jelly Bean, Rampage, Noodles and Dutchie.  
Dogs that can ride free in the truck -Zoey, Ribbit and Smudge

January 9, 2026

Holly Lynn provided Mark Walker a ride to Wasilla so he could catch an Uber to the airport. He was moving to Montana. Ms. Lynn picked up Mr. Walker at 4:15 p.m. Prior to his departure he had removed his truck and dog trailer from the property.

January 12, 2026

Dacia Fletcher and Ms. Lynn contacted Animal Control. They reported that given the lack of disturbed snow at the property no one had cared for the dogs since January 9, 2026.

January 12, 2026

Alyssa Buser contacted Animal Control and left a voicemail requesting a welfare check. Officer Dickenson returns her call and tells her that Ms. Rehder had provided photographs of the dogs eating. Officer Dickenson assures her the dogs are being cared for.

January 12, 2026

Officer Dickenson contacted Mark Walker he now lived in Montana. He reports that Ms. Rehder is telling him she is living on the property.

January 13, 2026

Ms. Lynn contacts Animal Control and is told that Officer Dickenson was planning a visit to the property on Friday, January 16, 2026.

January 16, 2026

Ms. Lynn contacts Animal Control and left a message stating that no one has been to the property; she reports she did not receive a return call.

January 17, 2026

Ms. Lynn contacted Animal Control to provide an update; she again did not receive a return call.

January 17, 2026

Mrs. Buser contacts Animal Control and reports that Michael Doliner went to the property and took a video that she believed showed skinny dogs, limited straw, inadequate shelters, significant feces, no water available and no food visible. Officer Dickenson spoke with Mr. Doliner regarding his observations.

January 17, 2026

Sarah Loreff filed a complaint with Mat-Su Animal Control, the AK SPCA and the USDA.

January 17, 2026

Officer Dickenson received a call from Mark Walker requesting a welfare check on the dogs.

January 17, 2026

Officer Dickenson visited the property and made contact with Shantel Wiley and her sister who were preparing to feed and bed the dogs. Officer Dickenson explained that their intervention would reset and hinder his investigation. Based on this explanation, Ms. Wiley and her sister did not feed or bed the dogs. Officer Dickenson posted a 24-hour abandonment notice.

January 17, 2026

Ms. Wiley left a message for Officer Dickenson requesting a follow-up regarding her complaint.

January 17, 2026

Officer Dickenson reported that Ms. Rehder contacted him and stated her intent to downsize the kennel and move out of state. She further, explains her health issues and lack of transportation.

January 18, 2026

Officer Dickenson reported that he called Shantell Wiley with an update.

January 18, 2026

Holly Lynn contacts Animal Control. She is told that the animals were not seized. Officer Dickenson indicates that he is going to the property the following day.

January 18, 2026

Officer Dickenson contacted Mrs. Buser. Mrs. Buser reported that he said she was correct and that there was no dog food, straw, proper shelter for three of the dogs, or water for the dogs. Mrs. Buser further reports Officer Dickenson also told her that the water was not an issue because there was "snow on the ground, so the dogs could eat the snow."

During this conversation, Mrs. Buser reports that she urged him to take the matter seriously, because Mark Walker had told her, and others, that Ms. Rehder could not take care for the dogs.

Mrs. Buser provided Officer Dickenson the background and credentials of Holly Lynn, who works for Dallas Seavey, Shantel Wiley, who works for Rick Casillo, a three-time Iditarod finisher and her own background working with the Buser Kennel.

Mrs. Buser reported that Ms. Rehder was not living on the property but instead was living with Chad Smith in Talkeetna. Officer Dickenson told her that he could not prove Ms. Rehder did not live on the property and did not commit to contact Mr. Smith.

Mrs. Buser further reported that they discussed the requirement for a kennel to have an evacuation plan. She stated that with no vehicle, Ms. Rehder had no means of complying with the evacuation plan.

Mrs. Buser asked whether Officer Dickenson had physically examined the dogs to assess their weight or walked around the yard to look at all the dogs. He told her that he did not touch the dogs and did not go on the property. He stated that he was not legally allowed to enter the yard.

Mrs. Buser indicated that Officer Dickenson referred to the case as "rumors or girl drama." The conversation ended with Officer Dickenson assuring Mrs. Buser that Ms. Rehder was able care for the dogs. Mrs. Buser subsequently sent Officer Dickinson the video taken by Mr. Doliner.

January 19, 2026

Holly Lynn contacted Officer Dickenson about the status of the case. Officer Dickenson reports that Ms. Rehder had provided three photographs of fresh straw/bedding.

January 20, 2026

Officer Dickenson reported that Ms. Rehder provided five photographs of straw and bedding.

January 20, 2026

Holly Lynn contacted Animal Control requesting an update.

January 20, 2026

Holly Lynn receives a call from Chief Hardwig. Ms. Lynn reports that Chief Hardwig stated that he was going to investigate the complaints and assured her the matter would be handled.

January 23, 2026

Holly Lynn called Animal Control requesting an update. She was told that Ms. Rehder was complying with Officer Dickenson's instructions and requests.

January 23, 2026

Officer Dickenson reports that Ms. Rehder left a message asking for confirmation that he had received the photographs.

January 23, 2026

Officer Dickenson traveled to the property to follow up on the condition of the dog houses and bedding. No one was present. He left a 24-hr door tag and took photographs from the porch.

January 25, 2026

Officer Dickenson received a voicemail from Ms. Rehder stating that she had broken her phone and called as soon as she replaced her phone.

January 25, 2026

Officer Dickenson traveled to the property and contacted Ms. Rehder. Her phone log confirmed her attempts to contact him.

January 26, 2026

Holly Lynn contacted Animal Control and left a message.

January 27, 2026

Holly Lynn contacted Animal Control and left a message.

January 27, 2026

Sarah Loreff files her second complaint with Animal Control, the Alaska SPCA and the USDA.

January 28, 2026

Working with Milos Lustig, owner of 49181 S. Silver Salmon Dr., Ms. Lynn posted an eviction notice on the property.

January 28, 2026

Holly Lynn contacted Animal Control and left a message.

January 30, 2026

Holly Lynn contacted Animal Control and left a message.

January 31, 2026

Officer Dickenson traveled to the property. Ms. Rehder was not present. He posted a 24-hr door tag. He took 13 photographs from the porch.

February 1, 2026

Ms. Rehder called Officer Dickenson. She stated she had been calling since 8:30 a.m. and had been working in Anchorage. She had not returned to the property until 9:00 p.m.

They discussed the downsizing/rehoming of the dogs and whether she was moving back to Oregon mid-month. She said, Mr. Walker was returning to Alaska and would take over the kennel. She also stated that she had a volunteer to assist her for school credit.

Officer Dickenson asked when she would be available for another visit to confirm that the dog boxes had been dug out. He said that yesterday the snowpack had become higher than the openings of some of the dog houses. They agreed to meet at 3:00 p.m. on February 2, 2026. Officer Dickenson told her that this would hopefully be the last visit.

February 1, 2026

Officer Dickenson called Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker stated that he was not moving back to take over the kennel and that there had been no such discussion with Ms. Rehder.

February 1, 2026

Officer Dickenson contacted Ms. Lynn. She informed him of the pending eviction. He requested copies of the eviction paperwork. Ms. Lynn agreed to email copies the following day.

February 1, 2026

Officer Dickenson called Mrs. Buser. Mrs. Buser reports that he told her he had been checking on the dogs and that Ms. Rehder was taking care of the dogs.

She further reports that he said that three separate abandonment notices were posted on her door and that she had contacted him within a satisfactory period each time.

He committed to continuing to follow up and continue to leave abandonment notices. Mrs. Buser reported that he told her that “everyone needed to stop calling and going by the property and checking because it was impeding his investigation.” He told Mrs. Buser that “dealing with everyone calling was taking up time that could be used to work on the case.” Mrs. Buser reports she was told that the dogs’ needs were being met.

Mrs. Buser stated that she begged him to continue checking on the dogs and not let them starve. She stated, he promised he would “continue to check on the dogs” and told her that “she needed to let him do his job.”

February 2, 2026

Ms. Lynn emailed Officer Dickenson with photographs of the eviction paperwork.

February 2, 2026

Officer Dickenson went to the property and met Ms. Rehder. He checked bedding and snow buildup. He found that the straw was adequate and she was in the process of digging out the dog houses. Officer Dickenson stated that there were no houses that presented any concerns.

Officer Dickenson stated that there was an issue with dog feces on the property. Ms. Rehder stated that she was picking up the feces every other day due to her job in Anchorage.

Officer Dickenson asked what her feeding plan was and she stated that she had reduced feeding from three times daily to twice daily. Officer Dickenson told Ms. Rehder that he saw five dogs that were thinner than the others and advised her to increase their feedings.

Ms. Rehder said she had signed a new lease and had plans to rehome additional dogs.

Officer Dickenson informed Ms. Rehder that he would be closing the case and did so on February 2, 2026; he did not inform the complainants that the case had been closed.

February 12, 2026

Holly Lynn contacted Animal Control and left a message.

February 13, 2026

Holly Lynn contacted Officer Dickenson regarding the status of the case. She indicated that she had a text from Ms. Rehder dated December 5, 2025. The text was allegedly sent by Ms. Rehder and states she is living with Chad Smith. Ms. Lynn also reported that there were others who wished to provide information but were afraid of retaliation and therefore wished to be anonymous.

Officer Dickenson found the text from December 5, 2025 to be stale and informed Ms. Lynn that Animal Control would not accept anonymous reports.

April 15, 2026

Michael Doliner discovered multiple dead dogs at the property while conducting a welfare check.

## **2. Mat-Su Borough Voice Mail Chronological Summary**

Presented below is a summary of the phone messages that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough could confirm were left with Animal Control in reference to this case. These are not transcriptions and are simple summaries of the messages that were left. They were provided after a search of the known phone numbers of Ms. Rehder, complainants and witnesses. There could be more messages left by unknown numbers or by unknown witnesses/complainants.

January 12, 2026, at 10:00 am from Holly Lynn

Called about animal neglect; gave the address, said there are dogs all around the house, and that there is new snowfall with no tracks. Wanted a callback.

January 12, 2026, at 12:05 from Alyssa Buser

Calling the abandoned sled dog kennel that has been without anybody for 2 days, wanted to report Misty Rehder, and said they have not had food or water. Wanted a response and a callback because she is very concerned about the dogs.

January 12, 2026, at 1:01 pm from Misty Rehder

Misty Rehder called and left a voicemail stating that she is 90% sure that the person who turned her in is trying to get a restraining order against her and requested a call back.

January 17, 2026, at 10:24 am from Holly Lynn

Said she left a message yesterday and explained that nobody has been out at the property through all the storms, and the dogs are not being fed or taken care of. They hope there will be some action soon and wanted a callback.

January 17, 2026, at 1:03 pm from Alyssa Buser

Hi, this is Alyssa Buser, and I'm calling you back. I called you earlier in the week about Misty Rehders dogs, and you had said that you were going to do a welfare check on them yesterday, and other mushers drove by yesterday, and I have text messages from them stating that no one has been to the kennel in multiple days. So, you did not stop by yesterday to do the welfare check. Then another musher drove by today, and there are dogs without dog houses, and there are skinny dogs, and nobody has been in the driveway, and you can tell because it snowed. So, there are starving dogs, and they might have been fed only once in an entire week. I am asking you to please do your job and please go check on these dogs. You have an entire group of mushers who tell you that you have a group of dogs actively being starved. Please do your job, go check on them, and please call me back.

January 17, 2026, at 5:05 pm – Shantel Wiley

Called to give her name and number and wanted to give information and an update. Requested a call back.

January 18, 2026, at 9:53 am from Holly Lynn

Calling for Officer Dickenson to check on the animals. Wanted to know the status and wanted a callback.

January 22, 2026, at 2:39 pm – Misty Rehder

Wanted to let Ofc Dickenson know that she has rehomed 3 out of 5 dogs that they spoke about. She said she knows that she got a text saying that her photos were received but she wanted a verbal confirmation. Said she wanted to provide her hours for her new nanny position that she accepted.

January 25, 2026, at 11:52 am – Misty Rehder

Just got a new phone and said she has tried to call a few different times and wanted a callback.

January 26, 2026, at 10:40 am from Alyssa Buser

Said was up in Bethel at the K300 Dog race and had poor cell service. She wanted a callback to get an update.

January 26, 2026, at 3:06 pm from Holly Lynn

She wanted an update on the kennel situation. Asked for a callback.

January 27, 2026, at 8:52 am from Holly Lynn

Calling to get an update on the status after the site visit. Called and left a message the day before and wanted a callback because she is concerned about the dogs.

January 28, 2026, at 9:37 am from Holly Lynn

Called to check on the dogs and then got caught off, and the voicemail goes blank.

January 28, 2026, at 11:34 am – Mark Walker

Said he is the caretaker for Misty Rehder's dogs, asked about their status, and requested a callback.

January 28, 2026, at 4:41 pm – Misty Rehder

Wanted to give Ofc Dickenson an update regarding her stalking and court appearances. Wanted a callback.

February 09, 2026, at 3:10 pm – Misty Rehder

Ms. Rehder said that she is concerned because a blonde woman named Officer Kelly with animal control, not in uniform or in a Borough car, did not have a business card. She is spooked and has not missed any door tags, and "I am always home at night". She wanted to know how to report this weird interaction and wanted a callback.

February 12, 2026, at 8:06 am from Holly Lynn

Message for Ofc. Dickenson about Misty Rehder, said she has information to verify that the owner is not living there, and wanted to provide it.

April 14, 2026, at 8:57 pm from Holly Lynn

Called very upset, explaining that there are dead dogs and nobody took her seriously, and she had warned the Borough about this for months.

## **7.0 Citizen and Public Employee Interview Summaries**

### **1. Private Citizens' Interviews**

#### **Buser, Alyssa:**

On January 12, 2026, Alyssa Buser contacted Animal Control for the first time. She left a voicemail asking for an animal welfare check at 49181 South Silver Salmon Willow, Alaska.

Mrs. Buser received a return call from Animal Control Officer Joseph Dickenson. She alleges that Officer Dickenson told Misty Rehder her name, and that Mrs. Buser and Holly Lynn were concerned.

Officer Dickenson also told Mrs. Buser that he did not need to go to the property to do a check because Ms. Rehder texted him photos or videos of her feeding the dogs. He assured her that Ms. Rehder was taking care of the dogs and that everything was fine.

On January 17, 2026, Mrs. Buser confirmed that no one had visited 49181 South Silver Salmon for several days. Mrs. Buser asked Michael Doliner to pass by the property. Michael Doliner took a video stating that some dogs were skinny and others appeared to be fine. There was no straw, no food, no water, dog feces was evident, and some dogs had no shelter.

Mrs. Buser called Animal Control and reported what Mr. Doliner had reported. According to Mrs. Buser, Officer Dickenson was again dismissive. Officer Dickenson asked to speak to Mr. Doliner. After speaking to Mr. Doliner, Officer Dickenson agreed to do a welfare check.

On January 18, 2026, Officer Dickenson called Alyssa Buser to give her an update. Officer Dickenson told Mrs. Buser that Ms. Lynn and Mrs. Buser were correct; there was no dog food, straw, proper houses, or water for the dogs. Officer Dickenson also told Mrs. Buser that the water was not an issue because there was snow on the ground so the dogs could eat the snow.

Mrs. Buser's phone records demonstrate it was a fifteen minute conversation. During that conversation, she reports that she urged him to take this seriously, that Misty Rehder's ex-partner Mark Walker had told multiple people, Mrs. Buser included, that Misty Rehder could not take care of the dogs.

Mrs. Buser shared the credentials of at least three of the people who had called in to express their concern. While Mrs. Buser does not claim to be a famous dog musher herself, her father-in-law is very well known in Alaska and educated both Mrs. Buser and her husband on dog care. Mrs. Buser also operates a touring kennel and holds herself to the highest standards of dog care.

She also informed Officer Dickenson that the complainant, Holly Lynn, works for Dallas Seavey. Dallas has the record for the most Iditarod wins and has an even bigger touring kennel than the Busers. Seavey's kennel and Ms. Lynn understand what good dog care looks like.

Mrs. Buser also told Officer Dickenson that the complainant, Shantel Wiley, works for Rick Casillo, a three-time Iditarod finisher. They also provide tours at their kennel, so they are held to high standards. Mrs. Buser asserted that these three women/complainants understand what it takes to care for dogs and what provisions should be on the property to properly care for them, especially in the middle of winter.

Mrs. Buser also talked to him about how Misty Rehder was not living on the property but was living with Chad Smith in Talkeetna.

Mrs. Buser reports that Officer Dickenson told her that Ms. Rehder did not have a vehicle and that Ms. Rehder worked in Wasilla. Mrs. Buser asked Officer Dickenson how Ms. Rehder could get to her job in Wasilla if she did not have a vehicle.

Officer Dickenson also told Mrs. Buser that he believed Ms. Rehder lived on the property and not with Chad Smith. Officer Dickenson also refused to go to Chad Smith's home to investigate if Ms. Rehder did in fact live there. Mrs. Buser stated that she believed he referred to it as rumors or girl drama.

Mrs. Buser stated that she discussed with Officer Dickenson that part of a kennel license is having an evacuation plan in case of an emergency. Which means you must have a way to get the dogs off the property. With no vehicle, Ms. Rehder had no way of getting the dogs off the property.

Mrs. Buser reports that she sent Officer Dickenson the video that was shot by Michael. Mrs. Buser further questioned if Officer Dickenson had put his hands on the dogs to see what their weight was like, or if he had even walked around to look at all the dogs. Officer Dickenson told her he did not touch the dogs, nor did he go and look at all of them.

Mrs. Buser reports that Officer Dickenson told her that she could not feed the dogs because it would reset his investigation because he would not be able to prove that Ms. Rehder was not feeding the dogs. She further reported that Officer Dickenson told her that no one should go on the property again like Michael Doliner had done because they were putting footprints down and then he could not prove Ms. Rehder had abandoned the dogs.

Officer Dickenson told Mrs. Buser he was giving Ms. Rehder a few days to get straw, dog houses, and dog food, and then he would go back to the property to make sure that she was following up with the changes he told her to make.

February 1, 2026, Officer Dickenson returned Mrs. Buser's call. Her phone records demonstrate the conversation lasted ten minutes. Officer Dickenson told Mrs. Buser that he had been continuing to check up on the dogs and that Ms. Rehder was in fact taking care of

the dogs. He said that he had left three separate abandonment notices on her door; of the three only one time did she fail to call him back within 24 hours. Officer Dickenson told Mrs. Buser he felt sorry for Ms. Rehder, and that she had some big things coming up in the future.

Mrs. Buser reported that she told Officer Dickenson that multiple people had reached out, and the August Fund was willing to take the dogs and that the landlord was evicting Ms. Rehder.

Mrs. Buser recalls that Officer Dickenson also told her he knew she was not living on property and was living with Chad Smith, but he did not yet have any way to prove it. But he would continue to follow up and leave 24-hour abandonment notices.

Mrs. Buser further reports that Officer Dickenson told her, “[w]e all needed to stop calling and going by the property and checking because it was impeding his investigation.” Officer Dickenson told her that “dealing with everyone calling was taking up time that he could be working on this.” Officer Dickenson assured Mrs. Buser that all the dogs’ other needs were being met. Mrs. Buser clearly remembers the conversation ending with her “begging him to continue checking on the dogs and not letting them starve.” According to Mrs. Buser, Officer Dickenson promised her he would “continue to go and check on the dogs and not let them starve and that she just needed to let him do his job.”

On April 14, 2026, after community reports that there was a lone dog at the property, Mrs. Buser asked Michael Doliner to drive by and check. Mike Doliner went on to the property and saved Woody and took a video of all the deceased dogs.

Mrs. Buser called animal control and the troopers to report what they had let happen. Animal Control and the Alaska State Troopers did not show up at the property until the afternoon the next day.

**Fletcher, Dacia:**

Ms. Fletcher is the kennel manager for six-time Iditarod Champion Dallas Seavey. On January 12, 2026, Ms. Fletcher drove Holly Lynn to 49181 South Silver Salmon.

Ms. Fletcher reports that there had been heavy fresh snowfall. She stated that you could not see the dogs, but you could hear them. Ms. Fletcher reported that there were no tire tracks or footprints at the property. No sign of anyone working in the dog yard. She stated that given her experience this was very unusual, “[i]f you have a dog yard, you are constantly in the dog yard.”

Ms. Fletcher was present when Ms. Lynn called the Alaska State Troopers. Ms. Fletcher then reported that the Troopers told Ms. Lynn to call animal control. Ms. Fletcher was present when Ms. Lynn left a message for animal control. Ms. Fletcher further stated that Ms. Lynn told her that she had received a return call from animal control later that day and that she was told an officer would go to the property to investigate.

**Kenderesi, Zsofia:**

Ms. Kenderesi is also a dog handler for Dallas Seavey. She reports that in early February 2026, she made a report to Animal Control regarding her concerns. She was able to speak to a person but did not recall a name. She told the Animal Control Representative that she was aware that there is a kennel in the Caswell Lakes area where the owner left the state in January.

From her personal experience and observations, she reported that, “there had been no activity around the kennel that would demonstrate the dogs were being cared for.” The Animal Control Representative told her they had received messages about this kennel, and they would be looking into it.

She stated that she wished to be a voice for the dogs. She thought her report to Animal Control would be all that would be necessary to protect the dogs.

**Leddy, Kai:**

Ms. Leddy is a musher in Talkeetna. She reported that she called animal control on or about February 9-12, 2026. She stated that she reported to animal control that she had driven by 49181 South Silver Salmon. She indicated that it had snowed recently but there were no tracks at all on the property. She stated she could hear dogs, but it appeared no one was there or had been there over the last few days.

**Loreff, Sarah:**

Ms. Loreff was a coworker of Misty Rehder, from the Fall of 2023 until she relocated to Juneau in the spring of 2025 with Mark Walker. Ms. Loreff reported that during her association with Ms. Rehder she recognized a disturbing pattern of dishonesty and concerning behavior. Ms. Loreff also worked with her fiancé Chad Smith from 2019 to March 2026.

The winter of 2024, Ms. Rehder had told Ms. Loreff that the church across the street from her house had made complaints to animal control about the noise from the two dozen dogs they had on their property. Ms. Rehder further stated these complaints prompted her to apply for a kennel license because as she said, “animal control would remove all dogs but the legal limit of four if she and Mr. Walker did not have a license to operate a kennel.” Ms. Rehder received her kennel license in January 2025.

Ms. Loreff reported that after Ms. Rehder’s affair with Chad Smith was revealed, on or about January 12, 2026, Mr. Walker moved to Montana. Ms. Loreff stated that out of concern for the dogs, it was decided that someone would go check on the dogs.

Ms. Loreff further reports that during this time; it snowed multiple feet and there were no tracks in and out of the snow leading to the dog yard. No one had gone to check on the dogs, feed them, or dig them out of the snow since Mr. Walker had left the state.

Ms. Loreff reported that it was at this time that the first contact with animal control was made by Ms. Lynn. Ms. Loreff was aware that animal control had called both Ms. Rehder and Mr. Walker. Ms. Loreff was also aware that Ms. Rehder had reported to Animal Control that she did not have a vehicle.

Ms. Loreff indicated that she was aware that on January 17, 2026, an Animal Control Officer had visited the property. Ms. Loreff also stated that she was aware that Animal Control found no food on the property, no tracks in the snow, inadequate bedding, multiple dogs buried in snow, and inadequate housing (no roofs) for some of the dogs. She was further aware that at this time, the Animal Control Officer left a 24-hour removal notice.

Ms. Loreff reported that on January 17, 2026, using the online portal, she filed her own complaint with Animal Control. Ms. Loreff also filed online reports with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Alaska Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (AK SPCA).

Ms. Loreff further indicated that she was aware that on January 18, 2026, Ms. Rehder had called Animal Control and told Officer Dickenson she had been living at the property but did not own a car. Ms. Loreff understood that Officer Dickenson gave her a list of things that needed to be fixed, including proof of food on the property, and said they would be returning later in the week to check.

Ms. Loreff stated that on January 21, 2026, Ms. Rehder posted a video on TikTok with a disturbing audio promising violent retribution. It was at this time that Ms. Loreff learned that Officer Dickenson, or someone with Animal Control, had given Ms. Rehder the names of those who made reports.

January 26, 2026, Ms. Rehder posted a video on TikTok with audio from the show Yellowstone and the context was violent retribution and a scene about keeping people off property; with the caption “Don’t you get tired of worrying about me all the time?;)” and description of “#ifykyk” which means “if you know you know.”

Ms. Loreff stated that on or about January 27, 2026, Milos Lustig, Ms. Rehder’s landlord, had reached out to Ms. Lynn needing help posting an eviction warning on the property. Ms. Loreff reports that Ms. Rehder owed both rent and utilities for the last several months. Ms. Loreff stated that she had learned that Ms. Rehder had until February 5, 2026, to pay \$2200 in unpaid rent and fees or Mr. Lustig would start the eviction process.

Ms. Loreff reported that she was aware that Ms. Lynn posted the eviction warning on January 28, 2026, and based on snowfall and lack of footprints, Ms. Lynn determined the dogs had not been cared for in at least a couple of days. Ms. Lynn also found a loose and unconfined dog wandering around the property.

It was at this time for the safety of the unconfined dog, Ms. Loreff filed her second animal control complaint as well as complaints to Alaska SPCA and USDA via online portals.

On February 1, 2026, Mr. Lustig went out to 49181 South Silver Salmon and confirmed that there were still many dogs on the property and that there was a notice from animal control on the doorknob.

Ms. Loreff reports that on February 9, 2026, Mr. Lustig took Ms. Rehder's payment for past due rent and utilities and canceled the eviction notice.

Ms. Loreff further reports that she was aware that on or about February 18, 2026, Mr. Smith took Ms. Lynn to court requesting a restraining order. Mr. Smith asserted that Ms. Lynn was stalking and harassing him. The Court denied the restraining order.

April 15, 2026, Ms. Lynn called Ms. Loreff and said all the dogs were found dead.

### **Lovely, Cherie**

Ms. Lovely was contacted after a private citizen suggested she be interviewed. She was interviewed by phone on May 29, 2026.

Ms. Lovely stated that she works for Dallas Seavey Sled Dog Tours. She and her husband live approximately one mile from the property on 49181 South Silver Salmon. Their route to work takes them by the property.

Ms. Lovely reported she called Animal Control in late February and left a voicemail. She voiced concerns that no one was caring for the dogs, noting that she saw no footsteps in the snow and no vehicle movement. She also stated she could hear dogs barking.

She further reported calling Animal Control again in early March 2026, leaving another voicemail with the same concerns as in February. It did not appear anyone was caring for the dogs.

Ms. Lovely said had contact with an Animal Control Officer in mid-March. She stated the officer was male but did not recall his name. She and her husband had stopped their vehicle at the property where an Animal Control Officer was present. The officer asked why they were at the property. They were told not to go onto the property or feed the dogs, as the dogs were being rehomed and there was an active investigation.

Ms. Lovely also reported that by late March, they no longer heard dog noises when passing the property and had assumed the dogs had been rehomed.

### **Lynn, Holly:**

Ms. Lynn is a handler at Dallas Seavey's kennel, running tours and helping run/train dogs for Iditarod 2024.

On March 23, 2024, Ms. Lynn reports that Chad Smith had told her that Ms. Rehder and Mark Walker had broken up and that Ms. Rehder was living in a second cabin on the property because she needed to help Mr. Walker take care of the kennel/dogs.

During the Winter of 2023-Spring of 2024, Ms. Lynn reports that she became work friends with Mr. Walker at Dallas Seavey's kennel.

On April 20, 2025, Ms. Lynn learned that Mr. Smith and Ms. Rehder were having an affair

On December 18, 2025 – Mr. Walker posts that he and Ms. Rehder are looking for a place to rent in Montana, which, Ms. Lynn asserts, quickly spreads in the small community and confirms everyone's suspicions that Ms. Rehder has been dating both men without their knowledge.

On December 21, 2025, Ms. Lynn texts Mark Walker and Chad Smith concerning their relationship with Misty Rehder. Ms. Lynn went to Mr. Smith's house to tell him that Ms. Rehder was still actively in a relationship with Mark Walker and that Mr. Walker knew about the affair.

In December 2025, Mr. Walker tells Ms. Lynn that Ms. Rehder left him with the dogs to go hiking with family in Oregon. Ms. Lynn explained to Mr. Walker that Ms. Rehder has once again lied to him and she left him with all the dogs so she could go on vacation in Patagonia with Mr. Smith and his daughter.

On January 9, 2026, 10:00 a.m., Mr. Walker texts Ms. Lynn asking for a ride to Wasilla.

On January 9, 2026, 4:15 p.m., Ms. Lynn picked up Mr. Walker from his cabin in Caswell. Ms. Lynn drove Mr. Walker to Wasilla to catch an Uber to the airport.

On January 12, 2026, 7:16 a.m., Ms. Lynn reports that she messaged Alyssa Buser about concerns for Ms. Rehder's and Mr. Walker's dogs.

On January 12, 2026, 7:27a.m., Ms. Lynn also stated that she texted Mr. Walker to check on him and the dogs.

On January 12, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Dacia Fletcher (kennel manager for Dallas Seavey) and Ms. Lynn drove by the property at 49181 South Silver Salmon. They observed fresh snow, with no signs of tire tracks or foot traffic, no sign that anyone had been on the property for days to care for the dogs. Ms. Fletcher and Ms. Lynn notified Animal Control while they were at the property.

On January 9th-12th, 2026 Ms. Lynn reports that K2 employees stated that Ms. Rehder and Mr. Smith showed up at K2 on Monday, Jan 12, 2026, discussing their exhaustion from returning from Patagonia and having to spend the weekend doing snow removal at Mr. Smith's.

Ms. Lynn asserts that based on the information she had as of the morning of January 12, 2026, no one had visited the kennel since Friday, January 9, 2026, at 4:15 p.m.

On January 12, 2026, Ms. Lynn states that she learned from Alyssa Buser that Animal Control Officer Dickenson was giving Ms. Rehder the names of the complainants who were “harassing” her. Ms. Lynn also learned from Mr. Walker on or about the same period, that Ms. Rehder was not employed.

On January 12, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that in her conversations with Officer Dickenson, she expressed concern that he was telling Misty Rehder the names of the individuals who were calling for welfare checks on the dogs. Officer Dickenson stated it was public information. Ms. Lynn further reports, that she explained that on the website, it states to make an anonymous report to contact animal control at 907-761-7501. So anonymous reports could in fact be made.

On January 13, 2026, Ms. Lynn called dispatch to check on the status of a site visit. She reports she did not get to talk to Officer Dickenson, but dispatch told her he was scheduled to go out there on Friday.

On January 14, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that Alyssa Buser confirmed that Matt Randal went by Ms. Rehder’s house and someone had been out there. There were both tire tracks and foot traffic in the driveway and what looked like dog buckets on the porch.

On January 16, 2026, Ms. Lynn further reports, that Alyssa Buser stated that Mr. Randal went by Ms. Rehder’s cabin. Mr. Randal reported that there was no evidence of anyone being there for a few days.

On January 16, 2026, 3:25 p.m. Ms. Lynn reports that she called Animal Control dispatch to report the lack of any activity at 49181 South Silver Salmon. Ms. Lynn reports that she did not receive a call back from Officer Dickenson.

On January 17, 2026, 1:22 p.m., Ms. Lynn stated that she called Animal Control again and left another message. She further reported that at 4:09 p.m., Officer Dickenson returned her call and stated that a 24-hour notice was left on Ms. Rehder’s door.

On January 18, 2026, 10:54 a.m. Ms. Lynn stated that she called Animal Control again and left another message; at 1:15 p.m. Ms. Lynn received a call back from Officer Dickenson. He told her that they did not take the dogs and did not issue any citations. Officer Dickenson stated he’s going back to the property on January 19, 2026. He informed Ms. Lynn that Ms. Rehder had a list of things she needed to fix. He also told Ms. Lynn that Ms. Rehder had to get fresh straw, food and secure houses for all the dogs. Ms. Lynn stated that she expressed her concern about Ms. Rehder’s ability to care for the dogs with no income and no vehicle. Ms. Lynn asked if they would please ask her for some kind of employment verification to show she had some kind of income to support the dogs. Ms. Lynn also reports she continued to ask Officer Dickenson to call Mr. Smith, to verify Ms. Rehder’s residence.

On January 19, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that she called Animal Control to report that she is aware that Ms. Rehder is not working, not living at the property and is not feeding the dogs. Ms. Lynn stated that she felt that Officer Dickenson had misplaced sympathy for Ms. Rehder.

On January 19, 2026, Ms. Lynn reported that she drafted “a call to action email” to mushers/friends in the community.

Friends, I am so sorry for reaching out to ask for your involvement, but this situation is getting drawn out longer than it needs to and dogs are suffering because of it. I am reaching out to let you know a growing concern for a kennel in the area. Misty Rehder and Mark Walker’s kennel Walkers Wild Ride. Long story short. I told Mark on Dec 21 that Misty had been cheating on him with my ex, Chad Smith. Mark moved out on Jan 9 and moved home to Montana, leaving Misty with the kennel and telling both me and the Buser’s his concerns about the welfare of the dogs. Dacia and I went to check on the dogs on Dec 12 and discovered that no one had been on the property since mark left. (Feet of Fresh snow that weekend made it very easy to see that the dogs had not been checked on) We called animal control. A few days later, I reached out to Alyssa to learn that she too was watching and growing more concerned by the day....also making calls, having other mushers check in and... It has become a nightmare. This young lady is purposefully neglecting these animals. She’s showing up every time a complaint is made against her just to stage “care”. All the while the dogs are losing weight and being consistently neglected. I don’t know the other mushers Alyssa has helping us, you would have to ask her. But what I know is this...this young lady is not a good human being. Until Alyssa got involved I was having a hard time getting anyone to help because Misty and Chad are accusing me of “stalking” them....going so far as calling 911 and reporting me (I have the phone records from that call and it’s actually quite amusing when the officer finally hung up on them) I dated that man two years ago...and until I found out about Misty’s behavior with both men, I did not have any connection to her or concerns about my ex. I did what I thought was the right thing to do. I told both men that they were sharing the same woman. But yes, since I found out about her activities and especially the neglect of these dogs....I am absolutely keeping a close eye on both of them until these dogs are out of her care. I hope you know me well enough to know that I will do anything to help those who can not help themselves. And right now there are 28 dogs, chained to posts (some even without shelter) that are not being given a chance to survive. They are slowly being starved to death because of a young woman’s choice to turn her back on her responsibility. Misty alone

holds the kennel license. I don't have much to say about mark abandoning the dogs, but from what I've learned about Misty...I don't think he had much choice. It seems she's been emotionally and mentally abusing that man for years. All of this can be confirmed with Alyssa. What am I asking of you... Be aware. If you want to pass by the cabin, take pictures (DO NOT walk on the property...it will interfere with the investigation) and make reports! Call animal control, go online and submit pictures. The more of us that do this, the more it helps us bring this to an end quicker...to reduce the number of days these dogs suffer. And by all means.... If you see either of them...let them know that the community of mushers are coming for her dogs. And they are not welcome in our community. I'm doing my best to be an "adult" and go through proper channels to save these dogs....but believe me, I'm praying praying praying for the good Lord to give me the strength not to do anything that will land me in jail. I've never been to jail...I don't think I would do well behind bars.

Information : Location of dogs: 49181 S Silver Salmon

Misty Rehder (406) 641-\_\_\_\_\_

Chad Smith (907) 841-\_\_\_\_\_

No one is living on the property where the kennel is located (despite what Misty is telling animal control). She is residing with Chad Smith at \_\_\_\_\_ Rd Talkeetna, AK. 99676

On January 20, 2026, at 1:07 p.m., Ms. Lynn reported that she called Animal Control dispatch, there was no answer, so she hung up and immediately called dispatch again and she left a voicemail.

On January 20, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that she received a call from Chief Animal Control Officer, Matt Hardwig, concerning Ms. Lynn's multiple online animal control complaints and phone calls about the lack of care for the dogs. Chief Hardwig stated that he was going to investigate the complaints and assured her that it would be dealt with.

On January 23, 2026, 12:03 p.m., Ms. Lynn reports having not heard anything from Officer Dickenson or Chief Hardwig. She called Animal Control Dispatch asking for an update. Ms. Lynn reports she was given the "run around again." She states she was told, "Ms. Rehder is complying, she is feeding the dogs"... "she is living there." Ms. Lynn asked what proof was provided by Ms. Rehder. Ms. Lynn reports she was told "[Ms. Rehder] has sent pictures of her feeding the dogs."

January 26, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that she called dispatch again, no answer and she left a voicemail at 4:00 p.m.

On January 27, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that she called dispatch. She left a voicemail at 9:50 a.m.

On January 27, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that she researched the ownership of 49181 South Silver Salmon. Ms. Lynn indicated that she had lost hope in Animal Control and she was optimistic she might get help from the property owner. Milos Lustig, the owner of the property, returned her call and informed Ms. Lynn that Ms. Rehder was months behind on rent and he was preparing the paperwork to evict her. Mr. Lustig asked if Ms. Lynn could post the eviction notice. Ms. Lynn believed that if she helped expedite the eviction it would force Ms. Rehder to surrender the dogs.

On January 28, 2026, 9:45 a.m. Ms. Lynn reported that she posted the eviction notice at 49181 South Silver Salmon. At the time Ms. Lynn posted the eviction notice there was a loose dog on the porch. Ms. Lynn only had authorization to be on the porch, she did not go into the dog yard. Ms. Lynn then reports she called Animal Control dispatch leaving a voicemail that she wished to speak to Officer Dickenson about Ms. Rehder's eviction from 49181 South Silver Salmon and the loose dog.

On January 30, 2026, at 1:21 p.m., Ms. Lynn reports she called Animal Control dispatch. She said she left another voicemail and requested an update about whether the dogs would be picked up due to the pending eviction.

On January 30, 2026, Ms. Lynn also reports that she received a text from Mr. Lustig that no correspondence received from Ms. Rehder.

On February 1, 2026, Ms. Lynn reported Mr. Lustig visited the property and reported the cabin had lots of dogs around it, but it was dark, and he couldn't really see them. He also stated to Ms. Lynn that there was an animal control notice on the doorknob at that time. He also verified that the eviction notice Ms. Lynn had left on January 28, 2026, was gone.

On February 1, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that she received a return call from Officer Dickenson. She informed Officer Dickenson about the pending eviction. Officer Dickenson asked Ms. Lynn to email him the eviction paperwork. Ms. Lynn again stated that she asked Officer Dickenson to ask Ms. Rehder about proof of employment and proof that she can support the dogs.

On February 2, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that she emailed the eviction information to Officer Dickenson that she had posted on the cabin on January 28, 2026.

On February 5, 2026, Ms. Lynn reported that Mr. Lustig texted her to let her know the "eviction paperwork was submitted to the District Court and there was still no communication from Ms. Rehder."

On February 7, 2026, Ms. Lynn reported that an Alaska State Trooper delivered a restraining order Chad Smith had filed against Ms. Lynn.

On February 8, 2026, Ms. Lynn became aware that the Court had accepted the paperwork Mr. Lustig had filed for eviction.

On February 9, 2026, Ms. Lynn learned that Ms. Rehder paid Mr. Lustig \$2,161.46 for the back rent/utilities. Ms. Lynn stated that she learned from Mr. Lustig that it was paid in cash in small bills.

On February 12, 2026, at 8:36 a.m., Ms. Lynn reports she called Animal Control dispatch; there was no answer. At 9:03 a.m., Ms. Lynn reports that she called Animal Control dispatch again and left a voicemail message. She wished to provide proof that Ms. Rehder was not living on the property. A friend sent a screenshot of a message Ms. Rehder sent to her back in December that stated that she was living at the Y with Chad Smith.<sup>19</sup> Ms. Lynn also stated that she wanted Officer Dickenson to ask for employment verification.

On February 13, 2026, at 3:15 p.m., Ms. Lynn reports that she called Animal Control dispatch. She told Officer Dickenson that she finally had proof that Ms. Rehder was not living at the cabin. He told her that the information was not enough to do anything with and that other parties/witnesses needed to submit their findings and information directly to Animal Control. Ms. Lynn explained to Officer Dickenson that Ms. Rehder's posts and actions were preventing others from coming forward for fear of retaliation. Almost everyone knew Ms. Lynn was embroiled in a civil restraining suite and did not want to get personally involved.

At that time Officer Dickenson explained to Ms. Lynn that without any new "hard evidence" she "needed to stop calling and let them do their job."

Ms. Lynn reported that she learned sometime after February 13, 2026, that the case had in fact closed on February 2, 2026. According to Ms. Lynn Officer Dickenson never told her the case had been closed.

On February 18, 2026, in the harassment/stalking case filed by Chad Smith, the District Court Judge denied the long-term protective order.

After the civil court hearing and the phone conversation with Officer Dickenson Ms. Lynn stated that she had all but given up getting help from Animal Control and focused her attention on the eviction process with Mr. Lustig. Given that Ms. Rehder was in arrears again with her rent, Ms. Lynn felt that with an eviction, Ms. Rehder would either be forced to move the dogs to Chad Smith's where hopefully they would be fed on a regular basis or surrender the dogs.

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<sup>19</sup> December 5, 2025, Ms. Rehder texts someone identified as "Sam" that she's "living with Chad at the Y and that she's going to Patagonia with Chad, returning on January 9, 2026." This information was sent to Ms. Lynn on February 11, 2026. Ms. Lynn believed this was "proof" that Ms. Rehder wasn't living at the cabin. Ms. Lynn reports that according to Officer Dickenson, this text and not having vehicle to get between the "Y" and the 49181 South Silver Salmon is insufficient proof of abandonment because this information was "too outdated to use as proof." Ms. Lynn asserts that Officer Dickenson did not attempt to verify if Ms. Rehder was living with Mr. Smith near the "Y". According to Ms. Lynn, she asked Officer Dickenson on several occasions to please contact Chad Smith to verify where Ms. Rehder lived. To her knowledge, Officer Dickenson never contacted Chad Smith and never went to Chad Smith's residence.

On February 24, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that Mr. Lustig texted her and explained that Ms. Rehder was late again on the rent, and he was likely to resume the eviction process that Sunday. Ms. Lynn volunteered to post the eviction notice.

On March 1, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that Mr. Lustig emailed the paperwork for the eviction. Ms. Lynn told Mr. Lustig that if Ms. Rehder was on the property when she went out to post the notice, she would not go onto the property. At this time, Ms. Lynn reported that she had never met or spoken with Ms. Rehder but believed it would be best to avoid a confrontation.

On March 3, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that she received the eviction paperwork from Mr. Lustig.

On March 12, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that she texted Mr. Lustig to get an update. He said no one was home, just the dogs all around. There was a car parked there but nobody opened the door.

On March 19, 2026, Ms. Lynn reported that she texted Mr. Lustig for an update. Mr. Lustig states he's got the eviction paperwork ready to go.

On March 26, 2026, Ms. Lynn reported that she checked in with Mr. Lustig on the status of the eviction. He had been out of town, so he was going to check with his wife.

On March 29, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that Mr. Lustig told her that Ms. Rehder had paid the back rent at the last minute. He stated he was driving up the coming weekend to check on the property and the pups and would keep Ms. Lynn posted.

On April 2, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that Mr. Lustig visited the property. He told her that from the porch he reported he could only see one dog.

On April 5, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that she contacted Mr. Lustig to see if he had made it up to the cabin. Mr. Lustig stated he went up to the cabin on that Thursday evening to put up another eviction notice (the rent Ms. Rehder paid was for March; she was already late for April). No one was there.

Mr. Lustig told Ms. Lynn there was only one dog at the back; the rest were gone. At this point Ms. Lynn reports she was hopeful that Ms. Rehder had been busy adopting the dogs out. Ms. Lynn specifically stated that she asked Mr. Lustig if the dogs were there when he was at the property on March 12, 2026, when he put up the eviction notice. He said, "[y]es all the dogs that were there previously."

On April 12, 2026, Ms. Lynn stated that Mr. Lustig told her that he had stopped by the cabin. He told her that it was the same as before, all dogs but one were gone. Ms. Lynn reported that she texted Alyssa Buser asking if she had any idea why she would leave one dog on the property? Did she abandon it? Mrs. Buser said she would send someone to check on the dog.

On April 14, 2026, Ms. Lynn reported that Alyssa Buser told her that she had asked a friend to go by the property but did not know what had happened.

On April 15, 2026, Ms. Lynn reports that Alyssa Buser called her that morning, around 9:30 a.m., and it was discovered that the dogs were dead.

## **2. Mat-Su Borough Employee Interviews**

### **Animal Control Care and Enforcement Officer Rachel Brown**

Officer Brown was interviewed on May 20, 2026. The interview was conducted at the Matanuska Susitna Borough Administrative Office in downtown Palmer. The interview was recorded. Officer Brown was cooperative throughout the interview. Officer Brown was accompanied by a union representative.

Officer Brown did agree with Chief Hardwig and Officer Dickenson that the definition of complaint is a “physical entry” of information into the Animal Control system. However, in Officer Brown’s interview she parted from Chief Hardwig and Officer Dickenson in that she stated that she would accept anonymous complaints.

Officer Brown stated there was no formal documented triage system that she was aware of, but she articulated the same understanding of triage protocols at Animal Control as Officer Dickenson.

Officer Brown stated that the on-line training with NACA did not have a defined timeframe for completion. She described that Chief Hardwig created an on-line portal that was active for a year. She was instructed to do the training as she had time or as her schedule allowed.

Officer Brown also stated that there is an informal field training officer protocol. She could not recite any details of how long she was in field training or who was involved in her training in any detail.

Officer Brown also stated that she was the officer who approved the kennel license for Walkers Wild Ride. Officer Brown indicated that during the licensure process no questions were asked about whether Ms. Rehder owned the necessary supportive equipment to run the kennel or to execute the evacuation plan. Specifically, there was no inquiry into whether Ms. Rehder owned the truck and trailer that were necessary to implement the evacuation plan. Officer Brown, in her approval of the license, appeared to rely on Ms. Rehder and Mr. Walker “acting as a team.”

### **Animal Control Care and Enforcement Officer Joseph Dickenson**

Officer Dickenson was interviewed over two days; May 5, 2026, and May 6, 2026. The interview was conducted at the Matanuska Susitna Borough Administrative Office in downtown Palmer. The interview was recorded. Officer Dickenson was cooperative throughout the interview. Officer Dickenson was accompanied by two union representatives.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> During the interview Officer Dickenson relied heavily on his case report. He had a poor recollection of most of the events without first referencing his report.

Officer Dickenson reported that he had been an Animal Control Officer for approximately three and a half years. Next to Chief Hardwig, Officer Dickenson stated that he is the most senior Animal Control Officer on staff.

Officer Dickenson reported that he has only received training through the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA). The NACA training Officer Dickenson received was on-line. He believed there were four training modules, and Officer Dickenson completed two of those during his tenure.

Officer Dickenson further reported that there was no other training required or necessarily supplied by Animal Control, but that he was registered to access on-line training. Officer Dickenson described the training as being “registered by the Chief.” He also stated that he believed the NACA training was to be completed in the “first or second year.” He did describe doing some additional online courses but could not provide specifics during his interview. Officer Dickenson also indicated that he was not aware of any SOP that dictated when training needed to be done or which training was required.

Officer Dickenson explained that he is assigned approximately 500 cases per year across the Mat-Su Borough; which is the size of West Virginia. Officer Dickenson explained he works four days a week on ten-hour shifts. There is a total of four Animal Control Officers; Officer Teeples, Officer Brown, and Officer Waland, excluding Chief Hardwig.

The case load is assigned by random chance. Whoever is available to take an incoming case or call is expected to take the case. Officer Dickenson described case assignment as picking a case out of the “in-box” and returning the complainant’s message. He did not describe any expectations or procedures for how the timing of this process is expected to work. It appears the expectation is that if you have time, that person is expected to take the matter.

When asked what materials, policies, or procedural manuals he had to guide him in the investigation of a case Officer Dickenson responded, “Title 24.” When asked again if there was anything else to assist him or give him guidance, he responded again, “Title 24.” Officer Dickenson agreed that Title 24 is not a “how to” or “training device” and if he had a question, he would only be able to go to the “Chief.”

When questioned about Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Officer Dickenson said, he could not recall if he ever received any of the SOPs via email or in any other way. He further could not recall if he ever discussed SOPs for animal care with anyone. He also stated that he did not recall having any conversation about new SOPs with Chief Hardwig. When pressed Officer Dickenson reaffirmed he had no recollection of going over SOPs individually or as a group while working at Animal Control.

When discussing investigations and what training or guidance the Animal Control Officers had from the Borough or the supervisors, Officer Dickenson said, “[w]e don’t have any guidance, we don’t have any dismissing factors such as that.”

Officer Dickenson further agreed that he learned the job by doing the job and with the on-line training. There was no in-house training or expectations from the Chief. Officer Dickenson did say he could reach out to the Chief about individual cases and was required to contact the Chief on any seizures.

Officer Dickenson further stated that there is no specific guidance or instruction as to when to go to remote locations for investigations. He indicated that even with limited staffing, the officers are supposed to address the cases as they come in and give no special attention to remote over more metropolitan cases.

When discussing policies, procedures or directions given on the seizure of many animals, Officer Dickenson stated that the direction given was that officers do not have the authority to seize and must go through the Chief. If the Chief is unavailable, then it would be at the discretion of the Director.

He was able to confirm that he was the primary case officer in case number C0009369376. He was not "assigned" by anyone; he was just the officer who responded to the complainant's voicemail.

The initial complainant was Holly R. Lynn. Officer Dickenson reported that Ms. Lynn left a voicemail on January 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., and he returned her call at 11:00 a.m. Upon speaking with Ms. Lynn, he learned that she had driven Mark Walker from 49181 S Silver Salmon to Wasilla, where he caught an Uber to the airport in Anchorage. Officer Dickenson then learned that Mr. Walker had flown to Montana.

Officer Dickenson further reported that Ms. Lynn told him that Mr. Walker had told her Misty Rehder would be arriving at the property on that same Friday, and she would be providing care for the dogs. Officer Dickenson stated that Ms. Lynn told him that she had driven past the property today and there were no vehicle tracks in the snow; and the only foot tracks were her foot tracks from three days prior.

Officer Dickenson stated that he responded by asking Ms. Lynn to submit a report to Problem Reporter" so he could have her statement. Ms. Lynn told him that she had photographic evidence. Officer Dickenson then provided Ms. Lynn with the animal control enforcement email. According to Officer Dickenson, Ms. Lynn then submitted four photos of the driveway of 49181 S Silver Salmon, and one video where dogs could be heard barking.

Officer Dickenson stated that on January 12, 2026, at 11:14 a.m., he called Mark Walker in Montana. Officer Dickenson told Mr. Walker about Ms. Lynn's allegations. Officer Dickenson asked him about the kennel, and he stated that Ms. Rehder has been in contact with him via text since he left the state and she has been telling him that she is on the property and maintaining the dogs. According to Officer Dickenson's Case View Report, the conversation with Mr. Walker lasted two minutes; the call started at 11:14 a.m., and he had already contacted Ms. Rehder at 11:16 a.m.

After speaking with Mr. Walker, Officer Dickenson called Ms. Rehder at 11:16 a.m. Officer Dickenson stated that he informed Ms. Rehder that Animal Control had received a complaint of her not being on the property and not providing care for her dogs. Ms. Rehder stated that she has been on the property since her boyfriend left on January 9, 2026, and has been feeding them every day. Ms. Rehder stated that she was currently in Wasilla picking up dog food and would be heading back out to the property. Officer Dickenson asked Ms. Rehder to send pictures of her feeding the dogs when she fed them this evening. She stated that she would. Ms. Rehder texted seven photographs to the dispatch phone on the evening of January 12, 2026.

Officer Dickenson stated that he did not visit the property on January 12, 2026. He did indicate that he did review Ms. Rehder's kennel license on January 12, 2026, and was aware she was allowed to have 28 dogs on the property. Officer Dickenson stated that he did not look at the emergency evacuation plan nor did he review anything else in the kennel license packet.

Officer Dickenson reports that on January 17, 2026, "after having had established contact with the kennel owner and receiving evidence of care from her for the dogs on the date of the complaint, he chose not to drive out to the location at that time."

When asked about why he considered the photographs sufficient evidence to forgo the visit, Officer Dickenson did acknowledge the photographs were not time-stamped and only showed a small portion of the kennel population, but he considered the immediate issues addressed.

Officer Dickenson acknowledged that he received two missed calls from Ms. Lynn and Alyssa Buser on January 17, 2026. Officer Dickenson stated that he had not called Ms. Lynn, Mr. Walker, or Ms. Rehder since January 12, 2026, and it was Ms. Lynn who reinitiated contact with Officer Dickenson on January 17, 2026, and left a voicemail wanting to get a follow-up on the status of this complaint.

At this point in the interview, Officer Dickenson was asked about how he weighs the credibility of complainants, witnesses, and the subjects of the complaints. Officer Dickenson said "he relies on the evidence of what he is seeing." Officer Dickenson also said that he did not give the complainants, who were very experienced in mushing and entrenched in the mushing community here in Alaska, any more or less credibility than any other person when investigating this case. In fact, Officer Dickenson went further with his explanation of why he did not give Mrs. Buser (or anyone else from the mushing community) any additional weight when he said,

I have to take my complainants' and address the complaint that the [indecipherable word] has given. At this point in time, I merely have a phone call from a complainant, I hadn't even spoken to her yet. I know the name, but it does not correlate to add weight or credence. I have a complaint of someone not living on the property and that is where we are at.

On January 17, 2026, at approximately 1:09 p.m., Officer Dickenson stated he returned Ms. Lynn's call, who told him she had again been by the property on South Silver Salmon and had not seen evidence of anyone being on the property.

On January 17, 2026, at approximately 1:13 p.m., Officer Dickenson stated that he returned the call to Mrs. Buser. He reported that Mrs. Buser told him that she had a video from a friend being on the property today, and the video showed that the dogs had not been cared for, for some time.

Officer Dickenson stated he asked for the person's contact information who shot the video, and Mrs. Buser put Mike Doliner on the phone. According to Officer Dickenson, Mr. Doliner stated that he had been on the property and had taken a video of the dogs and their kennels. Officer Dickenson asked when he had been on site, and Mr. Doliner stated forty minutes prior and that the dogs had not been cared for.

On January 17, 2026, at 1:31 p.m., Officer Dickenson also received a call from Mr. Walker requesting a welfare check on his ex-girlfriend/Ms. Rehder's property. Officer Dickenson asked what had changed from the previous conversation when Mr. Walker stated that he was in daily contact with Ms. Rehder and she had been caring for the dogs. Mr. Walker told Officer Dickenson that he was still being told by Ms. Rehder that she was on the property caring for the dogs, but he'd been called by several people telling him that she had been lying to him.

On January 17, 2026, at 3:35 p.m., Officer Dickenson arrived at 49181 S Silver Salmon for his first site visit to the property. Officer Dickenson reported that upon his arrival, two ladies exited a truck parked in front of the property. Shantel Wiley introduced herself and said she was there to care for the dogs. Ms. Wiley and her sister (who was not identified by name at the time of the first site visit) told Officer Dickenson they were there to straw and feed the dogs. Officer Dickenson stated that Ms. Wiley was told by dispatch to wait for the Animal Control Officer to arrive before feeding the dogs.

Officer Dickenson stated that he walked up the driveway and knocked on the door; he heard more than one dog barking. No one appeared to be in the residence. Officer Dickenson said that Ms. Wiley followed him onto the property while Ms. Wiley's sister began to prepare food for the dogs. He further said the sisters had three meat totes on the tailgate at that time.

Officer Dickenson said he informed Ms. Wiley that he could not give her permission to enter the property. He said Ms. Wiley told him that she did not care, "let them call the cops, she only cared about the dogs." Officer Dickenson stated that he proceeded to walk around the cabin to check on the dogs. He stated that the dogs appeared to be of adequate weight and were active. He did say that three dog houses were without a roof, and it was snowing at the time of the visit. He concluded by saying he did not observe any immediate medical concerns.

Officer Dickenson said he was there to investigate an abandonment issue. The food and the straw they were preparing would be "proof of care that the dogs were receiving, and it would offset my investigation on the owner of the dogs having abandoned them."

When asked if Officer Dickenson would repeat that instruction in a future situation, he said, "So from my abandonment investigation I have to prove those dogs are not being cared for in a twenty four-hour period." Officer Dickenson was clear with Ms. Wiley that any assistance given to the dogs would "reset his abandonment investigation."

Upon being pressed, Officer Dickenson stood firmly by this position. If Ms. Wiley and her sister provided care, they would be “interfering with the investigation, that care was not being provided” by Ms. Rehder and it would “reset any evidence that the owner is not providing care to the animals.” Officer Dickenson did admit he did not know how long the dogs had been without food or water and this aide may have been needed. Officer Dickenson also stated that he would have seized the dogs if Ms. Rehder had not responded to the 24-hour notice. Officer Dickenson consistently maintained the position that if the dogs had received care from a good Samaritan, then he would have to reset the 24-hour abandonment clock.

In response to a question posed by the union representative, Officer Dickenson stated his “intent was completely focused on proof of residency on the property and abandonment by Ms. Rehder.”

On January 17, 2026, Officer Dickenson stated that he posted a 24-hour notice door tag and left the property at 3:55 p.m.

On January 17, 2026, at 6:06 p.m., Ms. Rehder called Officer Dickenson. Officer Dickenson informed her that he had received more complaints about her not being on the property and not caring for the dogs. Ms. Rehder stated that she lives on the property and works as a nanny off the property.

Ms. Rehder reported that she “does not have a car,” and that is why there were no vehicle tracks in the driveway. She stated she was “relying on friends to give her rides.” Ms. Rehder also stated that she had just returned from the hospital in Anchorage where she had been diagnosed with COVID-19. Ms. Rehder asked if he planned to return to her property, to please inform her so she can be wearing the appropriate medical attire.

Officer Dickenson inquired about the three dogs without proper shelter. Ms. Rehder stated that the dogs (Oscar, Pigpen and Birdie) were only tied out during the day, when she is off the property, she then brings them into the cabin every night. Officer Dickenson informed her that the dogs had to have some sort of shelter to keep them out of the elements during the day. Officer Dickenson told her that it was snowing on January 17, 2026, and the three dogs had no means of getting out of the weather. Ms. Rehder committed to repairing the shelters.

Ms. Rehder stated that she had hired a handler to live on the property as she was expecting to stay in the hospital in Anchorage for an overnight each week for non-related COVID treatment. During his May 6, 2026 interview, Officer Dickenson confirmed that he did not verify who this person was going to be nor did he request contact information for the caretaker.

Ms. Rehder also informed Officer Dickenson that she planned to downsize her kennel and rehome her dogs as she expected to be moving to Idaho in mid-February.

Officer Dickenson confirmed that Ms. Rehder would be at her property on January 19, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. (after her medical appointment). Officer Dickenson told Ms. Rehder that he would be at the property to inspect the fixed dog houses and the status of the other dogs.

At Officer Dickenson's May 6, 2026 interview, in reference to this conversation with Ms. Rehder, Officer Dickenson stated that he was at the property for an abandonment issue and did not have the "mindset of a kennel inspection." When asked about the differences between a welfare check and a kennel inspection, Officer Dickenson conceded you are looking at the same things in both investigations.

On January 18, 2026, Officer Dickenson called Holly Lynn, Alyssa Buser, and Shantel Wiley and updated them on his contact with Ms. Rehder. At his May 6, 2026, interview, Officer Dickenson could not recall the details about these phone calls.

On January 19, 2026, Officer Dickenson indicated that he received three photos showing fresh straw in dog houses. These photos were submitted by Ms. Rehder to dispatch.

On January 20, 2026, Officer Dickenson stated that he received five additional photos from Ms. Rehders which showed doghouses with straw. During Officer Dickenson's interview on May 6, 2026, he stated that he recalled that Ms. Rehder never repaired the damaged doghouses; instead, she relocated those dogs into adequate shelters.

Officer Dickenson stated that on January 20, 2026, Sarah Loreff provided a statement through Problem Reporter. Ms. Loreff reported that on January 9, 2026, the co-owner off the kennel departed the state, leaving Ms. Rehder in charge of 28 dogs. Ms. Loreff reported that she was a coworker of Chad Smith. She reported that Chad Smith was Ms. Rehder's current boyfriend and that Ms. Rehder has been living with him since October 2025. Ms. Loreff stated that Mr. Smith had confirmed that Ms. Rehder has not been on the property to take care of the animals. Ms. Loreff provided Mr. Smith's phone number.

On May 6, 2026, Officer Dickenson said he never contacted Mr. Smith during his investigation. Officer Dickenson further stated in his May 6, 2026, interview that he did not recall ever being aware of Ms. Loreff's January 20, 2026, report.

On January 23, 2026, Officer Dickenson had a voicemail from Misty Rehder, which was left on January 22, 2026, at 2:39 p.m. Ms. Rehder wished to confirm that Officer Dickenson had received the photographs that she had provided; she also wanted to provide the hours of her new job. Officer Dickenson did not have any recollection of what job she had obtained or her hours.

Also on January 23, 2026, at approximately 11:03 a.m., Officer Dickenson received a call from Holly Lynn. Ms. Lynn stated that she had called the owner of 49181 S Silver Salmon, Milos Lustig. Mr. Lustig indicated that Ms. Rehder was being served with eviction paperwork. Ms. Lynn also provided Mr. Lustig's phone number.

When Officer Dickenson was questioned on May 6, 2026, as to whether he had contacted Mr. Lustig. Officer Dickenson indicated that he did not contact Mr. Lustig. Officer Dickenson stated that he believed the eviction of Ms. Rehder was civil in nature and not relevant to his investigation. Ms. Lynn asked what she could do until the troopers took action to evict her. Officer Dickenson told Ms. Lynn, in his opinion, there were no abandonment concerns at this time.

On January 23, 2026, Officer Dickenson returned to 49181 S Silver Salmon for a second visit to the property. The purpose of the second visit was to “visually confirm the dogs without proper shelters had been relocated to adequate doghouses and to verify sufficient bedding/straw.” Upon arrival, he noted several tire tracks in the driveway and what appeared to be recent footprints in the snow from the driveway to the area where the dogs were restrained. Officer Dickenson further reported that from the vantage point of the porch, he saw fresh straw of adequate quantities in the visible doghouses. Ms. Rehder was not present at the cabin. Officer Dickenson left a second 24hr door tag and took eight photos from the porch.

On January 25, 2026, at approximately 11:52 a.m. Officer Dickenson received a voicemail from Ms. Rehder stating that she had broken her phone and had tried to call as soon as she had it replaced.

On January 25, 2026, at approximately 2:05 p.m., Officer Dickenson returned to 49181 S Silver Salmon for his third visit to the property. Officer Dickenson said his reason for the visit was to conduct an “unannounced visit in an attempt to locate the owner on the property.” Officer Dickenson did contact Ms. Rehder and confirmed her attempts to contact him on January 24, 2026, through her phone-log history. They further discussed the photos previously received of the dogs eating kibble from the ground. Ms. Rehder stated that she had “dropped the handful of kibble to get the dogs to stand still for the pictures.” Officer Dickenson was given a tour of the property; he did not see any doghouses that caused him concern.

On January 28, 2026, Sarah Loreff lodged a second complaint to animal control. Officer Dickenson stated he was again not aware of this complaint. He also stated he was not aware that Ms. Loreff filed complaints with the Alaska SPCA and the USDA.

On January 31, 2026, at approximately 11:37 a.m., Officer Dickenson returned to 49181 S Silver Salmon and Ms. Rehder was not present. Officer Dickenson posted another 24hr door tag. Officer Dickenson took 13 photographs from the porch and left the property.

On February 1, 2026, at approximately 1:46 p.m., Officer Dickenson received a call back from Ms. Rehder. Ms. Rehder stated that she had tried calling at 8:30 a.m. but had not left a voicemail. Ms. Rehder stated that she had been in Anchorage cleaning houses and had not returned until 9:00 p.m.

Officer Dickenson asked Ms. Rehder how the downsizing/rehoming was going and if she was still moving to Oregon. Ms. Rehder said that she talked with “Mark Walker about returning to Alaska to take over the kennel after she left.”

Officer Dickenson further inquired if she had hired a kennel hand. Ms. Rehder replied that “Miles” was a volunteer for school credit. Ms. Rehder reported that Miles and his mom were her fall back if she had to stay in Anchorage overnight for medical reasons. When Officer Dickenson was questioned about “Miles and his mom” he stated at his May 6, 2026, interview that he did not ask for contact information for “Miles” or his mother and never had contact with them.

Officer Dickenson asked for another visit to confirm that the dog boxes have been dug. He informed Ms. Rehder that yesterday the snowpack had become higher than the openings on some of the doghouses. Ms. Rehder stated that she had a medical appointment tomorrow and she should be home around 3:00 p.m. on February 2, 2026. Officer Dickenson told her he would be there at that time. Officer Dickenson told Ms. Rehder that “he hoped this would be the last visit.”

On February 1, 2026, at approximately 4:06 p.m., Officer Dickenson called Mark Walker. Mr. Walker stated that “he was not moving back up to take over the kennel and that he had been in daily contact with Ms. Rehder.” Specifically, Officer Dickenson stated as to “moving back to care for the dogs”, that Mr. Walker reported that “we never had that conversation.” Mr. Walker reported that Ms. Rehder has been telling him that she is always on the property and the dogs are being well cared for, but he has mutual friends calling him as well telling him the opposite.

On February 1, 2026, at approximately 4:18 p.m., Officer Dickenson called Alyssa Buser to follow up with a few missed calls. He asked for the name of the man he spoke with who provided the video. Mrs. Buser provided the name of Mike Doliner and his contact number. Mrs. Buser stated that she has not been out to the property recently to check but she has been hearing from others that Ms. Rehder is not staying on the property and is only coming out every couple of days. Officer Dickenson told Mrs. Buser that he had an appointment with Ms. Rehder to follow up with the care being provided for the dogs.

On February 1, 2026, at approximately 4:37 p.m., Officer Dickenson called Ms. Lynn and informed her that the abandonment and care issues had been addressed. Ms. Lynn asked if living on the property was a requirement per the kennel license. Officer Dickenson confirmed that it was a requirement. Officer Dickenson stated that he had not been able to prove that Ms. Rehder was not living on the property.

On February 2, 2026, at approximately 2:55 p.m., Officer Dickenson arrived at 49181 S Silver Salmon and met with Ms. Rehder. Officer Dickenson checked the conditions of the doghouses for straw and snow build up. He found the straw was adequate and Ms. Rehder was in the process of digging out the fronts of the houses. Officer Dickenson reported there were no houses that presented any concerns at the time of his February 2, 2026, inspection.

Officer Dickenson did state there was an issue about the amount of feces present. Ms. Rehder stated that she was picking up the feces every other day due to her job in Anchorage. Officer Dickenson inquired what her feeding plan was, and she stated that she had reduced from three times daily feedings to two times daily. Officer Dickenson instructed Ms. Rehder to adjust her feeding as he noted five dogs were visibly thinner than the others. Ms. Rehder stated that “those dogs were used for skijoring, so they are harder to keep weight on.” Officer Dickenson advised her to bump their food quantity back up and she agreed. Officer Dickenson stated that he did not physically touch the dogs and did not complete a body scale assessment of any of the dogs at that time.

Officer Dickenson told Ms. Rehder that he had spoken to Mark Walker to verify when he would be returning to take over the kennel, and he stated that “he had no idea what I was talking about.”

Ms. Rehder stated that she had read too much into the conversation with Mark and realized that she had misunderstood. Ms. Rehder claimed that she has rehomed three dogs and has three more being rehomed in the next couple of days.

Ms. Rehder also claimed that she had signed a new six-month lease and would be on the property for that time. She also stated that she would rehome dogs as she could. Officer Dickenson stated that at no time did he contact the landlord, Mr. Lustig, to verify the new lease.

Officer Dickenson advised Ms. Rehder on February 2, 2026, that he would be closing the case.

On February 13, 2026, at approximately 2:16 p.m., Officer Dickenson made his final entry to his case report. The final entry states that Holly Lynn called and stated that she had received a screenshot of a text message from a friend that was allegedly from Ms. Rehder stating that she had not been living on her property and she was living with her boyfriend Chad Smith.

Officer Dickenson upon learning the text was from December, determined it was hearsay, stale and that he could not act based on it.

Ms. Lynn stated that she had multiple friends calling her telling her that Ms. Rehder is away from the property for two days at a time. Officer Dickenson told Ms. Lynn that these friends needed to submit a report online. Ms. Lynn explained that they were all scared because Ms. Rehder was sending death threats over social media and filing restraining orders based on stalking. The friends were all scared and wanted to stay anonymous.

Officer Dickenson said to Ms. Lynn that they could not remain anonymous. Officer Dickenson stated, "I reiterated to her that for the borough to take enforcement action we needed a physical witness to come to court to provide testimony for the infraction that citations were issued for."

In conclusion Officer Dickenson stated, "that up until now, I did not have proof of Misty living off of property and every issue that was brought up with her had been addressed, so this case was closed and any new complaints or issues would need a new report online."

#### **Final Session May 6, 2026, Interview of Officer Dickenson**

Officer Dickenson was asked if the number of complainants caused him to pause when he closed the case? He stated that he was not impacted by the number of complainants or their status as respected members of the mushing community.

Officer Dickenson was not "overtly concerned" about Ms. Rehder reporting that she did not have a vehicle because she was receiving transportation from friends.

Officer Dickenson did not recall if he had asked if Ms. Rehder had heating oil or wood supplies to heat the cabin.

Officer Dickenson did not recall if he had ever counted the dogs. He did concede it was not in his notes.

Officer Dickenson acknowledged that he did not palpate all the dogs to assess their body score. He did state he palpated eight dogs on one occasion. The claim that he did palpate eight dogs and made a health assessment is not noted anywhere in his report.

Officer Dickenson acknowledged he never physically saw the dogs eating and never confirmed adequate food stores on the property.

Officer Dickenson confirmed he did not know how dog feces were disposed of, whether it was on the property or if it was removed from the property.

Officer Dickenson confirmed he never contacted Chad Smith to confirm Ms. Rehder's residence. Officer Dickenson stated Ms. Rehder was contacting him within the timeframe of the 24-hour notices posted and therefore he saw no need to contact Mr. Smith.

Officer Dickenson acknowledged that he did not verify Ms. Rehder's employment, nor did he ask for specifics about where she was employed.

Officer Dickenson also confirmed he never saw any equipment, including sleds, that would be used to train or exercise sled dogs on the property.

Officer Dickenson stated that he did not conduct the kennel inspection for Ms. Rehder, but he did look at the front page of her kennel license application as part of the investigation. The front page of the license application included Mark Walker as her alternate or emergency contact. Officer Dickenson did not look at the emergency license plan but acknowledged being familiar with the plans themselves. Officer Dickenson further stated that the kennel license and the accompanying emergency evacuation plan were not part of why he was investigating this case. He was specifically approaching the case only for abandonment and the lack of three shelters.

Officer Dickenson acknowledged that there was a possibility he told Shantel Wiley, Holly Lynn and Alyssa Buser that if they went on the property to feed and care for the dogs it would jeopardize his investigation.

Officer Dickenson insisted that he never told anyone (specifically Ms. Lynn and Mrs. Buser) to stop contacting animal control, stop filing reports, to back off, I have it under control or to just let him do his job.

When asked why he closed this case on February 2, 2026, Officer Dickenson stated,

The intent of the complaint, the investigation had been completed to provide evidence of the dog owner being on the property... I could not prove she was off property or not residing on the property. And for the nature of that complaint, the abandonment concern was no longer and all the other infractions the doghouses the straw had been addressed. If you have anything else submit a further complaint. This case is closed at this time.

When asked what mistakes were made in this case, if any, Officer Dickenson stated, “[t]hat nothing jumps out to me, nothing comes to my head.” When asked if the policies and procedures at Animal Control were adequate in this case, Officer Dickenson said, “[w]ithin the scope of the investigation I believe they were adequate.”

### **Animal Control Care and Enforcement Officer Dean Teeple**

Officer Teeple was interviewed on May 5, 2026. The interview was conducted at the Matanuska Susitna Administrative Office in downtown Palmer. The interview was recorded. Officer Teeple was cooperative throughout the interview. Officer Teeple was accompanied by a union representative.

Officer Teeple reported that he has been an Animal Control Officer for approximately three years. Officer Teeple stated that he has received training through the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA); of the NACA training modules Officer Teeple has completed module one through three. Officer Teeple further reported that there was no in-house training offered or supplied by Animal Control.

As training was discussed further, Officer Teeple did indicate there were quarterly full staff meetings where things like notation to files are addressed.

Officer Teeple was open about the lack of staffing and the geographic footprint that their office is required to cover.

Officer Teeple did state that officers do not get involved in other officers’ cases. They will take notes and put them into the case file. In the case of an extended vacation the Chief will designate the division of labor for the absence of the officer.

Officer Teeple did express that he believed that the Animal Control Officers are limited in what they can do. He expressed that they are limited to what Title 24 says they can do. He also stated that they cannot go off hearsay. He also expressed that given the dictates of Title 24 and the size of the caseload, their hands do feel bound on what they can do.

Officer Teeple’s involvement with this case was limited to the assistance he provided Officer Dickenson and the Alaska State Troopers to process the scene and collect the deceased dogs.

### **Animal Control Care and Enforcement Director Vanessa Forbes**

Director Vanessa Forbes was interviewed on May 12, 2026. The interview was conducted at the Matanuska Susitna Animal Control and Enforcement Center 9470 E. Chanlyut Circle, Palmer, Alaska. The interview was recorded. Director Forbes was cooperative throughout the interview.

Director Forbes reported that she has been the Animal Control Care and Enforcement Director for approximately two years. Director Forbes stated that she has not taken any of the training through the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA).

Director Forbes does not have a comprehensive training plan for her Animal Control Officers or staff. Director Forbes has no mandated timeline for when the on-line NACA training modules are to be completed. When questioned as to which Officers had completed the NACA training Director Forbes was unable to identify which Officers had completed which NACA training modules.

Director Forbes indicated that there was no other training available other than on-line training through NACA and peer mentoring by the other Animal Control Officers.

Director Forbes had no meaningful involvement with this case prior to April 15, 2026.

### **Animal Control Care and Enforcement Dispatcher Shereen Evans**

Dispatcher Shereen Evans was interviewed on May 5, 2026. The interview was conducted at the Matanuska Susitna Administrative Office in downtown Palmer. The interview was recorded. Dispatcher Evans was cooperative throughout the interview. Dispatcher Evans was accompanied by a union representative.

Dispatcher Evans did indicate there were quarterly full staff meetings where things like notation to files may be discussed and possibly review of noteworthy cases. Dispatcher Evans did not describe these meetings as training but more of a staff meeting.

Dispatcher Evans had no meaningful involvement with this case.

### **Animal Control Care and Enforcement Veterinarian Doctor Joanne Stephens**

Doctor Joanne Stephens, Animal Control and Enforcement Staff Veterinarian, was interviewed on May 12, 2026. The interview was conducted at the Matanuska Susitna Animal Control and Enforcement Center 9470 E. Chanlyut Circle, Palmer, Alaska. The interview was recorded. Dr. Stephens was cooperative throughout the interview. Dr. Stephens has been the staff veterinarian since December 2023. She has been a practicing veterinarian since 2013.

Dr. Stephens reported there were 23 deceased dogs. Dr. Stephens, with the assistance of two other veterinarians, conducted necropsies on all the dogs.

At the time of the interview Dr. Stephens was still in the process of drafting many of the necropsy reports. She did indicate that she was going to send a portion of the reports to Adam Stern, University of Florida, Veterinarian Pathologist, for consultation. She also intended to send several of the dogs' femurs to Dr. Stern for a bone marrow analysis.

Dr. Stephens was able to state that all the dogs were emaciated. The dogs were in a starved body condition, and each necropsy had the same findings of an absence of fat in places that are the last reservoirs of fat. She further stated that many of the dogs' stomachs had feces and straw. Several had ulcers or erosions in the stomach lining. The majority of the dogs were flaccid.

Dr. Stephens was asked about how long it would take for a dog to die without food or water. Dr. Stephens explained that to stay warm in winter temperatures, dogs have a higher caloric need. She also stressed the need for and availability of water. She also opined that if Ms. Rehder was periodically feeding the dogs, that would be a factor. In the end, Dr. Stephens was unable to provide much guidance on how long it took for these dogs to die; days to months was her final position.

Dr. Stephens stressed that palpating the dogs is critical in assessing an animal's health. Fluffy full coats can disguise starvation. Palpation is necessary to locate bony protrusions and assess subcutaneous fat. Palpation also assesses muscle atrophy. Dr. Stephens stated that palpation would have been necessary to assess emaciation in this case because all but one of the dogs had intact coats and were a breed with fluffy/husky-type coats.

Dr. Stephens stated that she has not done formal training of the Animal Control Officers to educate them on how to conduct a proper assessment of animals using proper palpation techniques. She did state she does informally pull staff, including officers, aside when she is looking at an animal for a vet check. She has used a lot of those moments to educate the staff and officers.

Dr. Stephens did report that she was aware that two dogs were found in a shed; one was placed in a bag. Dr. Stephens was also aware that Ms. Rehder had admitted to bagging one of the dogs and putting it in the shed. Dr. Stephens opined that Ms. Rehder was likely going to the property while the dogs starved because one of the dogs was found with a stomach full of kibble. It was her belief that the dog, due to its state of emaciation, died due to metabolic derangement and glucose shock from the feeding/re-feeding syndrome.

Woody, the lone surviving dog on the property, was scored a one out of nine on the body conditioning scale. She estimated Woody had lost half his body weight; he weighed approximately 32 pounds, and a dog of his size and breed should weigh between 60 and 65 pounds. His blood work was consistent with dehydration and starvation. Dr. Stephens stated that "[Woody] was ravenous and the only thing on his mind was to find food." He was placed on a slow re-feeding plan and he recovered well. Woody was transferred to Fairbanks to take him out of the public eye and take him out of the controversy.

### **Chief Animal Control Care and Enforcement Officer Matthew Hardwig**

Chief Matthew Hardwig was interviewed on May 5, 2026. The interview was conducted at the Matanuska Susitna Administrative Office in downtown Palmer. The interview was recorded. Chief Hardwig was cooperative throughout the interview. Chief Hardwig was accompanied by a union representative in person and another union representative appeared on Zoom with audio and without video.

Chief Hardwig reported that he had reviewed Officer Dickenson's case notes in preparation for his interview. He added that he had also reviewed Officer Dickenson's case notes in January and February while the case was pending.

Chief Hardwig stated that sometime after January 12, 2026, he spoke to Holly Lynn. Chief Hardwig made no notes of what was discussed. According to Chief Hardwig's memory, there appeared to be "a lot of drama wrapped around whatever was happening."

When asked if Officer Dickenson told him that Ms. Rehder did not have a vehicle, Chief Hardwig acknowledged that Officer Dickenson had told him that she did not have a vehicle. When asked if he knew that Ms. Rehder's evacuation plan required a truck and dog trailer to evacuate the property, Chief Hardwig responded that "it has not been tested that if an evacuation plan has become unworkable whether the Borough can revoke a kennel license." Chief Hardwig then recalled that Officer Dickenson had told him that she was possibly rehoming dogs and moving; Chief Hardwig concluded by saying "[m]y thought would have been maybe this kennel was going away."

Chief Hardwig also discussed Officer Dickenson's previous write-up for failure to put notes in his case files.<sup>21</sup> Chief Hardwig explained that there was a corrective action required where Officer Dickenson was going to be required to meet with Chief Hardwig every two weeks to review his case files. However, when confronted with his failure to make notes in this case file, regarding his January 20, 2026, conversation with Ms. Lynn, Chief Hardwig said, "Depends on the case. Depends on the context of the conversation. I don't write a note for every person I talk to in Pet Point, considering I talk to 20-30 people a day I wouldn't have that time but if it were directly involving my investigation of a case I would."

When asked if it was standard procedure in an abandonment or emaciated animal case to examine the dogs with hands on palpation and give the animal a body score. Chief Hardwig indicated it was typical to conduct a hands-on examination. Chief Hardwig believed that Officer Dickenson had told him that he had examined eight of the dogs on one occasion, but he could not recall when that occurred.

Chief Hardwig also took the position that there were only two complaints received in this case. Chief Hardwig drew a distinction between complaints that were filed in "our system" versus complaints made by citizens that contact Animal Control and give an oral report. The definition of complaint and complainant was revisited during Chief Hardwig's interview a second time *sua sponte* by the union representative. The union representative took issue with considering an oral reporter or an anonymous reporter as a complainant or as having given a valid complaint.<sup>22</sup> In the end, Chief Hardwig's maintained his position that there were only two complaints lodged in this matter; one by Ms. Lynn and the other by Ms. Wiley.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>Chief Hardwig admission there was already a prior write-up of Dickenson for failure to notate case files, with a corrective requirement to meet with the Chief every two weeks. Is highly probative of (a) notice to the Borough of a known performance problem, and (b) Chief Hardwig's failure to supervise.

<sup>22</sup> It is important to note that MSB 24.05.010 does not define complaint or complainant.

<sup>23</sup> Chief Hardwig's position that there were only two "complaints" is contradicted by the plain text of SOP 41, which expressly states: "Complaints may be received via telephone, fax, mail, email, Problem Reporter, walk-ins, or referral from other agencies."

When asked if the credibility of the complainants and the number of different complainants could have been an indicator of the seriousness of the matter or validity of the matter; Chief Hardwig stated the complaint was that “she was not taking care of the dogs” and given she responded to the door tags and we had no concerns over the body scores of the dogs; “how many more times do we go out there before we are harassing her?”

When asked about the quarterly meetings, Chief Hardwig indicated that the quarterly meetings are all staff and not only the enforcement team. He clarified there were no formal group training sessions; guidance and instruction would be given day to day and case by case to individual officers.

Standard Operating Procedures were revised in January and February. Chief Hardwig did not know how the SOPs were distributed. He was unsure if they were distributed by email or handed out to the Officers. Chief Hardwig did state the officers were told to review the SOPs but were not required to sign the SOPs. Chief Hardwig did agree that there was no way to ensure the SOPs were received or reviewed.

As for training, Chief Hardwig indicated that the officers were to complete National Animal Care Association (NACA) training One and Two. These are on-line courses. To the best of Chief Hardwig’s knowledge, at the time of his interview, Officer Dickenson had not completed his NACA training. Chief Hardwig was uncertain if Officer Dickenson had completed NACA Level One, but he did state that Officer Dickenson was on a timeline to get the training done by May 2026.

When asked if this case had fallen through the cracks, Chief Hardwig said, “No”. When asked if he believed this matter was handled correctly, Chief Hardwig stated, “it was handled best of our authority, I believe.”

## 8.0 Detailed Findings

### 1. Necessary Amendments to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Code

#### A. Amend MSB 24.05.010 Definitions to add a definition of “Complaint” and “Complainant”

The definitions contained in MSB 24.05.010 should expressly include telephonic, written, electronic, and anonymous reports in accord with SOP 41 (“Complaints may be received via the telephone, fax, mail, email, “Problem Reporter,” walk-ins, or referrals from other agencies.”).

The utility of using anonymous reports to investigate animal welfare complaints has a few practical principles. Several worth highlighting would be:

- **Protects reporters from retaliation.** Neighbors, tenants, employees, or family members may fear conflict, harassment, eviction, or threats if their identity becomes known.
- **Encourages reporting of abuse or neglect.** People are more likely to report suspected cruelty, hoarding, abandonment, unsafe conditions, or dangerous animals if they can stay anonymous.
- **Helps agencies identify patterns.** Multiple anonymous complaints about the same property or owner can help investigators prioritize cases.
- **Supports public safety.** Anonymous tips can alert authorities to aggressive animals, illegal breeding, neglect, or zoonotic disease risks before situations worsen.
- **Provides leads, not proof.** An anonymous complaint alone is not enough for enforcement action. Officers still typically need independent observations, evidence, witness statements, or legal grounds for inspections or seizures. However, an anonymous complaint can be used as a starting point for investigations, not automatic evidence of wrongdoing.

The need for this amendment is due to Chief Hardwig's policy, of whom he defined as a complainant and what constitutes a valid complaint. Chief Hardwig insisted in his interview that there were only two “complaints” and therefore two complainants in this case. This position is contradicted by the plain text of SOP 0041, which expressly states: “Complaints may be received via telephone, fax, mail, email, Problem Reporter, walk-ins, or referrals from other agencies.”

#### B. Amend MSB 24.05.010 Definitions to Amend the Definition of Abandon an Animal

A consideration to be considered is whether MSB 24.05.010 should be amended to define abandonment specifically as leaving an animal unattended beyond a certain number of hours without care rather than “for an extended period of time.” An “extended period of time” is subjective and created debate as to what constitutes an “extended period of time.” During inclement weather there could be a heightened standard compared to more temperate conditions.

**C. Amend MSB 24.10.030 Licensing; Updating Information**

MSB 24.10.030 Licensing; Updating Information, should be amended to require every kennel or cattery operator to update and provide the borough with current license information regarding the items set forth in MSB 24.10.020 and MSB 24.10.040. The licensee should be required to update the information with the Borough within 72 hours.

Currently, MSB 24.10.030 does not require a kennel or cattery operation to inform the Borough if the owner can no longer satisfy the terms of their license; including the terms of the evacuation plan. MSB 24.10.030 only requires a kennel or cattery owner update the Borough as to the limited requirements of MSB 24.10.020(B).

**D. Amendments to MSB 24.10.040 Kennel and Cattery Requirements**

Require automatic re-inspection of any licensed kennel that is the subject of a welfare check. The inspection should be with the original officer who issued the license and should be completed within five business days.

Limit the number of dogs or cats that can be housed in a kennel facility. This could be a graduated system. Allowing fewer animals in the first year and gradually increasing the number of animals allowed over time.

**E. Amendments to MSB 24.07.030 Mushing Facility License**

Require automatic re-inspection of any licensed mushing facility that is the subject of a welfare check, within five business days.

**2. Operational Policy and SOP Reform**

**A. Adopt the Four-Tier Triage System**

Pursuant to SOP 0041 dispatch Personnel are to receive and triage complaints using the “established priority system.” In interviewing the Director, Chief, Animal Control Officer and Dispatcher there was no clear sense of what was the “established priority system.” SOP 0041 states that dispatch assigns a priority level based on the “Response Priority SOP (Immediate, ASAP, Within 24 Hours, Low Priority)”. However, according to Director Forbes, “The priority-specific SOP is still in progress as we continue coordinating with enforcement.”

The use of a canonized and formal tiered triage system would be beneficial in prioritizing cases and the use of resources. After reviewing other Animal Control Agencies across the country, a four-tier system seems most common.

The highest ranking case would be “Emergency” cases. These cases would be cases that have an immediate threat to animal life, human safety, or active criminal conduct. Requires immediate or very rapid response.

The second tier would be classified as “Serious Welfare” cases. These cases are cases with significant welfare concerns that are serious but not immediately life-threatening.

The third tier would be “Routine” cases. These cases are standard animal control matters with limited immediate risk.

The final tier would be “Information Only” matters. These calls require no field response or only informational assistance.

Along with the 4-tier system there should be response-time standards or guidelines.

**B. Adopt a Written Anonymous Report Intake SOP.**

In conjunction with adding the definitions of “complaint” and “complainant” to MSB 24.05.010, the Borough should adopt a written anonymous report intake SOP modeled on Planning and Land Use’s existing protocol. The advantage of anonymous reporting is highlighted above in Section 7.1.A.

**C. Adopt a Mandatory Welfare Check Field Form**

The Borough should adopt a mandatory Welfare Check Field Form. The Welfare Check Field Form should include body condition scoring using the 1-9 scale; a food/water inventory; photograph requirements (with timestamp) and recite the contact attempts to corroborate the complainants. The Welfare Check Field Form should be uploaded to the case file before the case can be closed.

**D. Adopt a Mandatory Waiver for Kennel and Musher Operators/Owners**

The Borough should amend the kennel/cattery and musher license applications to require cooperation with kennel or musher welfare investigations.

To enjoy the privilege of having a kennel and musher license, the licensee should be required to agree to certain concessions. If there is a welfare complaint the owner agrees to fully cooperate with the investigation. This cooperation would require the kennel or musher licensee to allow Animal Control Officers to enter the kennel area upon 24-hour advance notice to conduct an inspection. This permission would not extend to entering the residence or any other building on the property. The inspection would be limited to the kennel or mushing facility during reasonable hours.

This type of change will of course invite legal debate and should be reviewed by the Borough’s legal team, but it is believed that consensus can be found in a “twenty-four hour notice to the licensee” that Animal Control Officers will be inspecting the kennel.

### **E. Adopt a Written Abandonment and Welfare Investigation SOP**

Adopt a written abandonment and welfare investigation SOP that expressly rejects the “third-party feeding clock reset investigation strategy” of Officer Dickenson and supported by Chief Hardwig.

The SOP should instruct that third-party feeding, or care can be an aggravating indicator of owner non-care. There should also be clear investigatory parameters for abandonment cases outlined in the SOP.

Abandonment should be seen not as simply the “owner is absent.” Officers should generally try to establish that the owner intentionally or recklessly failed to provide necessary food, water, shelter, medical care, or arrangements for care at the kennel.

A solid abandonment investigation is usually evidence-heavy because prosecutors often need proof not just that the animal was alone, but that the responsible person knowingly failed to provide care.<sup>24</sup>

### **F. Require continuity of Kennel Licensure and Investigation**

Animal Control should, whenever operationally feasible, assign continuity of officer involvement between kennel licensure inspections and any subsequent animal welfare investigations involving the same kennel.

To support investigative consistency and informed decision-making, the same primary officer who conducts a kennel licensure inspection should, when practicable, be assigned to respond to and/or participate in any follow-up complaints or welfare investigations at that kennel.

Where continuity of assignment is not possible due to staffing limitations, leave, or emergency response demands the assigned officer shall receive a comprehensive case transfer briefing.

### **G. Require Supervisor Case Review**

Requiring bi-monthly or quarterly supervisory case review is a reliable accountability and quality-control measure, particularly for cruelty investigations, dangerous dog matters, kennel compliance, or complex welfare cases.

The key benefit is that it creates structured oversight before problems develop into missed follow-up, delayed enforcement, incomplete investigations, or unsupported case closures.

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<sup>24</sup> It is important to note that during an abandonment investigation an Animal Control Office should still be concerned with MSB 24.05.080 (Humane Animal Care) and MSB 24.05.090(I) (negligent failure to provide adequate food/water/shelter), neither of which contain a “24-hour” or “clock-reset” element.

Abandonment under MSB 24.05.010 is just one of several theories; humane-care failure under MSB 24.05.080 and cruelty by neglect under MSB 24.05.090(I) are standalone continuing violations that do not “reset” because a good Samaritan provides food and bedding.

## **H. Mandatory Completion of All Available NACA Modules**

Mandatory completion of all available NACA modules within six months of hire for officers, and within 12 months for the Director and Chief. Existing personnel: 90 days from policy adoption.

## **I. SOP 0047 Needs Implementation and Solid Administrative Support**

SOP 0047 contains training protocols but does not provide much guidance as to how those protocols should be met. The Director, in conjunction with the Chief Animal Control Officer, must establish the protocols to meet the dictates of SOP 0047.<sup>25</sup>

In this case by January 17, 2026, a properly trained Officer would have (a) issued a MSB 24.10.110 written administrative order, (b) ordered a re-inspection under SOP 0045 / MSB 24.10.100, (c) contacted Chad Smith and Milos Lustig as fact witnesses on residency, (d) palpated and body-scored every dog, (e) photographed food/water inventory, (f) referred to the Chief for protective-custody consideration under MSB 24.05.100, (g) issued at minimum an infraction citation under MSB 24.05.080. None of this required new authority. This course of action was already available in the existing code provisions and SOPs.

SOP 0047 applies, in part, to classroom and field training. SOP 47 establishes a formal Field Training Officer requirement for new hires but provides insufficient guidance on how to accomplish an FTO program.

Before an Animal Control Officer is released to work independently, the agency should require documented demonstration of competence — not just completion of a minimum number of training hours. A structured Field Training and Evaluation Program should establish measurable benchmarks showing the officer can safely, legally, and professionally perform the job. Key competency benchmarks should include Officer safety and scene management, animal handling skills, knowledge of laws and ordinances, investigative ability, report writing/documentation, professionalism/public interaction, case management/prioritization and courtroom readiness.

An officer should only be released from field training after demonstrating consistent competence, sound judgment, safe practices, and the ability to independently handle routine animal control duties.

## **J. Create an Independent Animal Welfare Citizen Review Board**

Create an independent Animal Welfare Citizen Review Board (at least five members, appointed by the Borough Assembly) with authority to review closed cases on petition. This board or panel should be composed of a broad spectrum of the Borough community. This board could be composed of some of the same individuals the Borough has selected for the Title 24 re-write committee.

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<sup>25</sup> SOP 0047 has an effective date of **January 27, 2026** — fifteen days after the initial complaint was filed on January 12, 2026. Therefore, the training SOP was created, or at least formally adopted, in the middle of this investigation.

### **K. Require quarterly public reporting**

Require quarterly public reporting on intake volume, triage tier distribution, response times and case outcomes. Quarterly public reporting is generally considered a strong best practice for an Animal Control agency, particularly when the agency is attempting to improve accountability, consistency, public trust, and operational efficiency. Transparent reporting helps demonstrate whether the agency is:

- Prioritizing cases appropriately
- Responding to urgent welfare issues in a timely manner
- Using resources effectively
- Applying enforcement consistently
- Meeting community expectations

It also gives supervisors, elected officials, and the public objective data to identify trends, staffing needs, policy gaps, or operational failures before they become major problems.

### **L. Draft Report: Taking Training SOP or Amend SOP 0015 Taking Oral/Telephone Complaints**

SOP 0015 applies to all Mat-Su Borough Animal Care & Regulation staff involved in listening to and responding to front desk voicemails. It includes guidance on personnel responsibilities, day-specific assignments, and documentation requirements. It does not address the need for guidance and training on how to take complaints or to triage them. It also does not address Animal Control Officers and their need for training and guidance on taking complaints.

This case highlights the need for training and specific instruction on receiving and documenting calls from the public. The current administration has adopted a narrow view/policy of what constitutes a complaint. To better serve the public and maintain better documentation for all cases there should be specific training on what constitutes a complaint and how to document the same.

In this matter, many of the citizens interviewed reported that they did not receive return calls or timely return calls. There are also gaps in the citizen reports and what they believe they reported, and what reports were documented. Training improvements include:

1. An emphasis that citizen reports should be documented based on the information relayed by the caller, even when the allegation has not yet been verified;
2. Instructions on proper voicemail handling procedures (timeliness, return call documentation requirements, procedures when callers cannot be reached, and requirements for documenting incomplete or anonymous reports);
3. Training on the importance of accurate recordkeeping and how incomplete documentation can negatively impact investigations,

4. Supervisory review training to ensure supervisors periodically audit voicemail logs, complaint reports, and response timelines for consistency and compliance with policy.

The implementation of consistent intake training and documentation standards would likely improve accountability, reduce gaps in reporting, improve continuity between staff members, and enhance public confidence in the animal care and regulation process.

#### **M. Animal Control Director Receive NACA Training and Attend Future Trainings with Animal Control Officers**

According to Officer Dickenson, to seize an animal, he must obtain permission from the Chief Animal Control Officer; if the Chief Animal Control Officer is unavailable, permission must be sought from the Director. Currently, the Animal Control Director has not completed the necessary training to assist in guiding the Animal Control Officers in seizure decisions or investigations. Clearly, Director Forbes wears many hats as the Director of Animal Control, but she is unable to be effective as an enforcement supervisor if she lacks the basic on-line training of her officers.

#### **N. Establish A Formal Training Requirement with the Staff Veterinarian**

Dr. Stephens stated that she has not done formal training of the Animal Control Officers to educate them on how to conduct a proper assessment of animals using proper palpation techniques. This appears to be a great oversight and a lack of opportunity to utilize the expertise of the Staff Veterinarian. It is recommended to institute quarterly staff training led by the Staff Veterinarian. These quarterly in-house training opportunities could be used to not only educate the Officers with hands-on palpation techniques and body scoring but the Staff Veterinarian could also educate the Officers with other necessary assessment skills that could be utilized in their future investigations.

### **3. Documentation Procedures Reform**

#### **A. Mandatory Documentation Procedures**

Mandatory documentation procedures should be adopted for all staff, Animal Control Officers, Chief Animal Control Officer and Director. In this case, Officer Dickenson and Chief Hardwig both discussed failures to document the record with meaningful events and communications.

#### **B. Improved Complaint Tracking**

The Animal Control Officers have a four-ten schedule. The Officers also have limited staffing. Because of these limiting factors, it is inevitable that cases that require more in-depth and prolonged investigations can lack Officer intervention or action for several days.

Animal Control should have specific case designations and protocols to identify sensitive cases or cases that may need close monitoring. One such protocol could be a team enforcement approach, where officers have a partner who shares sensitive cases or high-risk cases. This would allow the officers to share information, and cases would have a lower likelihood of slipping through the cracks due to days off or scheduled leave. The officer teams would not be allowed to take leave or be on the same four-ten schedule in order to ensure one team member was always on shift.

### **C. Supervisor Review Requirements**

An Animal Control Supervisor or Chief should play an active, structured, and documented role in the review of Officer cases and overall caseload management. The supervisor's role is not just administrative oversight it is critical for legal compliance, public trust, officer development, risk management, and animal welfare outcomes.

The Chief Animal Control Officers role should be further defined through SOPs and Title 24. For example, during investigations, the Chief should be reviewing and prioritizing cases; monitoring officer caseloads and investigative progress; identifying missed investigative steps or follow-up needs; providing guidance on complex or high-risk cases; and ensuring proper communication and follow-up with involved parties.

Specifically, before closing a large or complex case, the Chief Animal Control Officer should review the complete case file; ensure all investigative steps and follow-up were completed; confirm enforcement actions are supported by facts and law; ensure the case disposition is reasonable and properly documented and approve closure of the case when appropriate.

### **D. Draft SOP for Proper Dissemination of Reports**

There should be clear procedures ensuring that reports, complaints, and significant information received while an assigned officer is off duty, on scheduled days off, or on leave are promptly reviewed, documented, and reassigned when appropriate. Failure to properly disseminate information can result in delayed responses, missed welfare concerns, inconsistent investigations, and gaps in accountability.

#### **4. Immediate Personnel Actions Recommended by External Investigation**

This was not a resource problem; it was a competence and supervision problem.

##### **A. Chief Matthew Hardwig**

The investigator recommends that the Borough Manager relieve Chief Matthew Hardwig of command of Animal Control Enforcement.

##### **B. Officer Joseph Dickenson**

The investigator recommends relieving Officer Joseph Dickenson of enforcement duties with Animal Control.

##### **C. Appointment of Interim Chief**

Appoint an Interim Chief from outside the current department reporting line.

## **9.0 Appendix**

### **1. Photographs**

Presented herewith as Appendices 1.

### **2. Maps**

Presented herewith as Appendices 2.

### **3. Weather Data**

Presented herewith as Appendices 3.

### **4. Mat-Su Animal Care and Regulation Schedule**

Presented herewith as Appendices 4.

### **5. Mat-Su Animal Control Officer Training Record Summary**

Presented herewith as Appendices 5.

### **6. Case View Report Case Number C0009369376**

Presented herewith as Appendices 6.

### **7. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Kennel Registration Application**

Presented herewith as Appendices 7.

### **8. Walker's Wild Ride Evacuation Plan**

Presented herewith as Appendices 8.

### **9. Alaska SPCA Report**

Presented herewith as Appendices 9.

## 10. Specific Terms Used in Report Defined

<b>Report's Reference</b>	<b>More Specific Citation</b>
“adequate shelter”	MSB 24.05.080(A)(3)
“protective custody”	MSB 24.05.100
“abandonment”	MSB 24.05.010
“kennel”	MSB 24.05.010
“owner/custodian must reside”	MSB 24.10.040
“evacuation plan”	MSB 24.10.030 / MSB 24.10.040(B)(6)
“kennel inspection”	MSB 24.10.100
“written administrative order”	MSB 24.10.110
“humane animal care”	MSB 24.05.080

## 11. Relevant Borough Code Provisions

### MSB 24.05.010 Definitions

For the purposes of this title, the following definitions of terms used shall apply in all cases, unless otherwise stated:

- “Kennel” means any premises used for breeding, buying, selling, keeping, or boarding five or more dogs over the age of six months, whether for profit or not.

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- “Mushing facility” means a facility in the borough where sled dogs are housed and maintained, which has been duly licensed by the borough as a mushing facility under MSB [24.07.040](#).

### MSB 24.05.080 Humane Animal Care

(A) Humane animal care includes, but is not limited to, providing:

- (1) sufficient wholesome and nutritious food daily which will keep the animal in healthy physical condition;
- (2) sufficient daily quantities of fresh water which meet the hydration requirements for the animal;
- (3) adequate shelter and freedom of movement which provides adequate air, ventilation, and space which prevents the animal from being exposed to inclement or adverse weather conditions, overheating from sunlight, unsanitary conditions, and dirty, wet, and uncomfortable conditions which may endanger the health or welfare of the animal; and

(4) veterinary care when needed to treat the animal for sickness, disease, injury, or to prevent suffering of the animal.

(B) No owner shall fail to provide humane animal care or place an animal in a situation where the animal's life, safety, or health is endangered.

(1) A rebuttable presumption of a violation shall exist where the animal is separated from basic needs such as food, water, shelter, or necessary medical attention or is placed in a situation where the animal's life, safety, and health are endangered and the regulation office receives no response in 24 hours after providing notice to the owner of the situation or posting notice at the property where the animal is located.

(C) Failure to provide humane care to animals is an infraction.

#### **MSB 24.07.010**

It is the intent of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to promote sled dog racing and historical uses of sled dogs for mushing including freighting and recreation, while setting high standards for the care of sled dogs and for mushing facilities.

#### **MSB 24.07.030**

(A) A person who qualifies for the issuance of a mushing facility license per subsection (D) of this section may either seek a kennel license under MSB [24.10.020](#), or a mushing facility license under this chapter.

(B) A person who does not have a current mushing facility license under this chapter is subject to the licensing requirements of MSB [24.10.010](#) and [24.10.020](#), regardless of the type of dogs being kept.

(C) A person who owns or operates a mushing facility properly licensed under this chapter is not required to obtain a kennel license and is not subject to the kennel licensing requirements contained in MSB [24.10.010](#) and [24.10.020](#), except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(D) To apply for a mushing facility license a person must show proof to the chief animal care and regulation officer that the person:

(1) owned or operated a kennel for a cumulative total of at least three years prior to the time of application under the kennel registration requirements of MSB [24.10.020](#) or a similar ordinance or statute in another jurisdiction; and

(2) has at least a three-year history of mushing for travel, freighting, or racing, whether recreationally or professionally.

(E) MSB [24.10.070](#) does not apply to the licensing of mushing facilities.

- (F) The mushing facility license fee shall be set by assembly resolution.
- (G) The term of the mushing facility license shall be three years from the date of approval.
- (H) The mushing license application filed with the borough must contain all of the information specified in MSB [24.10.020\(B\)](#), and shall be updated and made current at least once per year during the license period.
- (I) The mushing facility license shall be issued to authorize the following facility sizes:
  - (1) five to 29 sled dogs; or
  - (2) 30 to 59 sled dogs; or
  - (3) 60 to 89 sled dogs; or
  - (4) greater than 90 sled dogs.
- (J) The chief animal care and regulation officer may deny or revoke a mushing facility license for good cause, including but not limited to:
  - (1) failure to demonstrate compliance with the mushing facility standards of care stated in this chapter for the number of dogs authorized under the mushing facility license or the number of dogs present at the facility, whichever is greater; or
  - (2) a conviction of the owner or operator for cruelty to animals in violation of MSB [24.05.090](#) or AS [11.61.140](#) or similar statute; or
  - (3) a conviction of the owner or operator for failure to provide humane care in violation of MSB [24.05.080](#) or similar statute; or
  - (4) two or more non-concurrent violations of any provision of this title.
- (K) Relicensing shall be required if any of the following occur:
  - (1) the mushing facility's real property owner or the mushing facility licensee changes at any time; or
  - (2) the mushing facility's location changes; or
  - (3) a cumulative total of more than 30 sled dogs are added to the mushing facility after issuance of the mushing facility license.
- (L) The owner of a mushing facility may appeal the denial or revocation of a mushing facility license or a related administrative order to the animal care and regulation board pursuant to

MSB [24.30.020](#). Deference shall be granted to the chief animal care and regulation officer's decision if the decision is supported by substantial evidence in the record.

#### **MSB 24.07.040 Mushing Facilities**

(A) The mushing facility shall comply with the inspection requirements set forth in MSB [24.10.100](#).

(B) *Mushing facility standards of care.*

(1) The owner and operator of a mushing facility shall ensure that the standards of care stated in subsection (B)(2) of this section are met.

(2) The mushing facility shall maintain standards of care that meet or exceed those stated in MSB [24.10.040](#)(B), as well as the following standards modeled from Mush with PRIDE's kennel certification checklist:

(a) *Water.* All dogs must be provided with adequate amounts of clean water every day.

(b) *Shelter.* All dogs must have full access to a shelter adequate for the conditions (protection from wind/rain/snow/direct sun).

(c) *Diet.* All dogs must be offered a diet which is complete and wholesome and provided in amounts adequate to maintain normal body condition for the environmental conditions and amount of exercise. All dogs should be adequately fed and watered at least once a day, except as dictated by veterinary treatment or medical necessity under professionally accepted practices.

(d) *Restraint.* All dogs must be confined in a manner that is safe and free of hazard, e.g., no sharp metal, protruding nails, or debris.

(i) If tethered, the tethers or chains are of a sufficient length to allow freedom of movement and adequate exercise.

(ii) If kept in runs, they are constructed of chain-link or wire fencing that is secure and all openings are small enough to prevent entrapment injury to limbs or head.

(e) *Feces.* Stools are removed daily from the kennel area and are disposed of in a sanitary and legal manner.

(f) *Estrus.* If intact female dogs are kept on the premises, a confinement method is available which can safely house them under conditions within the guidelines and prevent unplanned breeding.

(g) *Routine transportation.* Adequate containers are used for the transportation and confinement of dogs during travel. These containers must provide sufficient space for each dog to turn about freely and make normal postural adjustments. Where appropriate, the dog's movement may be restricted when freedom of movement would constitute a danger to the dog, handlers, or other animals or persons.

(h) *Vaccinations.* All dogs kept at the mushing facility must have current vaccinations as required under this title.

(i) *Recordkeeping.* Records must be maintained for all dogs kept at the mushing facility including vaccinations, deworming, and medical history.

(j) *Whelping.* If breeding takes place on site, a suitable whelping pen and house are available.

(k) *Emergency evacuation.* A means of safe transport and an emergency evacuation plan are in place to move dogs to safety in a timely manner in an emergency.

(l) *Food.* Food ingredients are stored in such a manner as to prevent contamination. There shall be an adequate amount of food stored on premises to feed the number of dogs present at any given time for a period of at least one week.

(3) All persons providing care for sled dogs at a licensed facility, including, but not limited to, mushing licensees, their employees, and their agents, shall comply with the requirements of MSB [24.05.080](#) and [24.05.090](#), as well as all other applicable requirements of this title.

(4) The provisions of MSB [24.10.110](#) shall apply to mushing facilities, and the standards of care that shall be applied are those outlined in this section, subsection (B)(2) of this section, as well as those in MSB [24.10.040](#)(B).

(C) *Tethering and restraint.*

(1) Tethering as defined in this chapter is an acceptable form of restraint and is authorized for use at mushing facilities.

(2) The following methods of restraint may also be used in mushing facilities: chain-link pens, corrals, holding buildings, and fenced open areas.

MSB 24.10.020 Licensing; Kennels and Catteries

(A) *License required.* In addition to the requirements of MSB [24.10.010](#)(C), no person shall own or operate a kennel or cattery or own five or more dogs or cats over the age of six months without licensing as a kennel or cattery operator for each location of a kennel or cattery. This section does not apply to the registration of sled dogs if there is a current mushing facility license

as per MSB [24.07](#) in place for the facility at issue. A separate kennel or cattery license is required for each species type of five or more animals over the age of six months. Dual licensing shall be made available to persons owning both a kennel and a cattery. Only one licensing fee will be required if applying for both licenses simultaneously.

(B) *License application.*

(1) The application for a kennel or cattery license shall state the name and address of the owner, the name and address of the operator, the kennel or cattery name, and the physical location of the kennel or cattery. A complete list of the dogs or cats by rabies certificate numbers shall be provided. Rabies certificates must be current for the application to be considered complete and prior to review. Said list shall be maintained by the owner with current information and must be immediately made available upon request by an animal care and regulation officer.

(2) A kennel or cattery license application shall not be processed by the borough within 12 months of the denial of a kennel or cattery license for the same kennel or cattery.

(C) *[Repealed by Ord. 15-002, § 2 (part), 2015]*

(D) *[Repealed by Ord. 15-002, § 2 (part), 2015]*

(E) *[Repealed by Ord. 15-002, § 2 (part), 2015]*

(F) *[Repealed by Ord. 15-002, § 2 (part), 2015]*

(G) *Issuance.* Determinations regarding issuance of kennel or cattery licenses are made by the chief animal care and regulation officer.

(1) A kennel or cattery license may be issued only upon the chief animal care and regulation officer finding the following:

(a) the owner has provided an emergency evacuation plan which addresses the safe and orderly evacuation of the animals in the event of a natural disaster including, but not limited to, fire or flood; and

(b) that the owner has demonstrated that the owner will provide for the animals in a sanitary, safe, and humane manner in compliance with the requirements of this title, particularly MSB [24.10.040](#); and

(c) that the owner has paid all required fees.

(2) In making the determinations required by subsection (G)(1) of this section, the chief animal care and regulation officer may consider any relevant factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) prior convictions for cruelty to animals or failure to provide humane animal care in any jurisdiction at any time; and
- (b) prior violations of this title within the past five years; and
- (c) unpaid fees under this title, or unpaid fines for violations of this title.

(H) *Relicensing.* If there are any changes in ownership or location of the kennel or cattery, the kennel or cattery shall be relicensed.

(I) *Expiration of kennel and cattery licenses.* Licenses shall be valid for a period of three years.

(J) *Revocation.* The chief animal care and regulation officer may immediately revoke the license of a kennel or cattery for good cause including, but not limited to:

(1) a conviction of the owner for cruelty to animals in violation of MSB [24.05.090](#) or AS [11.61.140](#); or

(2) a conviction of failure to provide humane animal care in violation of MSB [24.05.080](#); or

(3) evidence that the owner is failing to provide for the animals in a sanitary, safe, and humane manner in violation of the requirements of this title.

(K) The owner of a kennel or cattery facility may appeal the denial or revocation of a kennel or cattery license or a related administrative order to the animal care and regulation board pursuant to MSB [24.30.020](#). Deference shall be granted to the chief animal care and regulation officer's decision if the decision is supported by substantial evidence in the record.

### **MSB 24.10.030 Licensing; Updating Information**

It is the responsibility of every kennel or cattery operator to update and provide the borough with current license information regarding the items set forth in MSB [24.10.020](#)(B). Violation of this provision is an infraction.

### **MSB 24.10.040 Kennel and Cattery Requirements**

(A) No kennel or cattery shall be maintained or operated in a manner which is an annoyance.

(B) All kennel or cattery facilities shall meet the following requirements:

(1) shelter which provides adequate air and ventilation and which shall prevent the dogs or cats from being exposed to inclement or adverse weather conditions, overheating from sunlight, unsanitary conditions, or wet and uncomfortable conditions which may endanger the health or welfare of the dog or cat; and

(2) the dogs or cats shall be physically restrained or confined within the premises of the kennel or cattery; and

(3) the premises shall be free from parasites, waste, filth, or other elements in amounts which would endanger the health or welfare of the dogs or cats; and

(4) sufficient amounts of wholesome and nutritious food and fresh water shall be provided to keep the dogs or cats in healthy physical condition; and

(5) the kennel or cattery shall be operated upon property or contiguous parcels currently occupied by the owner or custodian, and must include a dwelling in which the owner or custodian resides while the animals are retained on the property. There shall be a rebuttable presumption that the property is unoccupied in violation of borough code if there is no such dwelling present, or where there is a dwelling, when, after the property is posted as described below, the owner or custodian fails to contact the borough within 24 hours of the property being posted. Posting shall be done in two reasonably conspicuous locations, one of which shall be at the main entrance of the dwelling located on the property. The notice shall include the date and time of the posting, phone number and person to be contacted, and state that contact shall be made within 24 hours of the notice having been posted; and

(6) adequate equipment and resources shall be available to implement the emergency evacuation plans set forth in MSB [24.10.020](#)(G)(1) in a timely and effective manner. The plan shall be kept current, and updated as necessary. The updated plans shall be submitted to the borough, and shall also be posted at the kennel or cattery in a prominent visible location.

(C) Violation of subsection (B) of this section is an infraction.

#### **MSB 24.10.100 Kennel and Cattery Inspections**

(A) The chief animal care and regulation officer may inspect a kennel or cattery that has applied for a license under MSB [24.10.020](#), or may set forth rules in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough “Animal Care and Regulation Policies and Procedures” manual to ensure compliance with MSB [24.10.040](#), prior to the issuance of a kennel or cattery license. Any inspection performed under this section shall require the owner be given reasonable notice prior to the inspection time and date.

(B) It is within the discretion of the chief animal care and regulation officer to order the inspection of any existing kennel or cattery with reasonable notice to the owner.

#### **MSB 24.10.110**

(A) If, upon the inspection of a kennel or cattery, the kennel or cattery does not meet the requirements of MSB [24.10.040](#), the chief animal care and regulation officer may issue a written administrative order to the kennel or cattery owner setting forth the conditions the kennel or cattery owner shall meet in order to be in conformance with MSB [24.10.040](#).

(B) The kennel or cattery owner shall be granted a reasonable length of time of no more than 30 calendar days within which to remedy any deficiencies found.

(C) If, upon a second inspection after the time granted in the written administrative order, the kennel or cattery is still in violation, the chief animal care and regulation officer may revoke any license.

(D) Each day a kennel or cattery owner operates the kennel or cattery without a license constitutes a separate violation for operating a kennel or cattery without license.

(E) Violation of the written administrative order under this provision is an infraction.

(F) Notwithstanding subsections (B) and (C) of this section, the chief animal care and regulation officer may immediately order the closing of a kennel or cattery and the impoundment of all animals if conditions of the kennel or cattery pose an imminent risk to the health and safety of the animals or to the public.

## **12. Relevant Animal Control SOPs**

SOP 001 through SOP 0058 were reviewed. The following SOPs are relevant to this investigation.

SOP 0015: This SOP applies to all Mat-Su Borough Animal Care & Regulation (AC&R) staff involved in listening to and responding to front desk voicemails. It includes guidance on personnel responsibilities, day-specific assignments, and documentation requirements.

SOP 0041: This SOP applies to all Animal Care and Regulation Officers (ACRO), dispatch personnel, supervisors, and staff involved in: • Receiving and triaging complaints • Conducting field investigations • Documenting findings • Taking enforcement action under MSB Title 24 • Coordinating with law enforcement, emergency services, and other agencies.

SOP 0041 section, 5.B (Initial Investigation) requires the officer to "assess whether protective custody is needed under MSB 24.05.100 or 24.05.080." Officer Dickenson never even considered protective custody under 24.05.100 despite five thin dogs, snow-covered houses, and an absent owner.

SOP 0041 section, 5.C (Evidence Collection) requires "photographs, statements, physical evidence (food/water/shelter), medical records." Officer Dickenson admitted: no body scoring, no food inventory, no water inventory, no palpation of all dogs, no employment verification, no contact with the cohabitant Chad Smith, no contact with the landlord Milos Lustig, and reliance on subject-supplied, non-timestamped photos. Each of these are separate evidence-collection failures pursuant to SOP 0041

SOP 0042: This SOP applies to all Animal Care & Regulation Officers (ACROs) responsible for enforcing MSB animal ordinances, including but not limited to restraint, humane animal care, cruelty, and nuisance regulations.

SOP 0042 (Citations) once Officer Dickenson observed the broken doghouses on Jan 17, 2026, (snowing, dogs exposed, no shelter), he had probable cause under MSB 24.05.080(A)(3) (adequate shelter from inclement weather). SOP 0042 says a citation must be issued when “confirmed through direct observation ... physical or photographic evidence.” Officer Dickenson issued no citation. That is a violation of SOP 0042.

SOP 0043: This procedure applies to all Animal Care & Regulation Officers and shelter staff responsible for responding to deceased animal reports and managing their intake and disposition.

SOP 0044: The purpose of this SOP is to establish the process by which MSB AC&R Enforcement Officers are dispatched for emergency calls by the MATCOM Dispatch Center.

SOP 0045: This SOP applies to all Animal Care and Regulation personnel engaged in processing applications, performing inspections, documenting compliance, and enforcing licensing requirements for Mushing Facilities.

SOP 0046: This SOP covers: Using the Animal Care Dashboard to monitor reports and trends; Entering ACR case data via ACR Report Manager; Saving attached images for case files; Exporting ACR Statement Forms (Word/PDF) and filing them; Status usage notes and service desk escalation.

SOP 0047: This SOP applies to all ACROs within Matanuska-Susitna Borough Animal Care & Regulation. It covers: • New-hire onboarding • Classroom and field training • Continuing education • Performance evaluation and certification

### **13. Partial Summary of Records Reviewed**

The records reviewed by Denali Law Group were:

American Heart Association, Heartsaver CPR AED, Joseph Dickenson. [HR 14] Animal Care and Regulation Animal Care Problem Reporter: Citations Standard Operating Procedure 0001; This policy applies to all Animal Care & Regulation staff involved in animal euthanasia outcome decisions.

Animal Care and Regulation Animal Care Problem Reporter: Citations Standard Operating Procedure 0007; This SOP applies to all Mat-Su Borough Animal Care & Regulation (MSBACR) staff who identify a microchip during the intake or handling of an animal. It outlines staff responsibilities for microchip lookup, owner notification, and proper documentation.

Animal Care and Regulation Animal Care Problem Reporter: Citations Standard Operating Procedure 0014; This procedure applies to all Animal Care & Regulation staff who are assigned to processing intakes according to their job descriptions.

Animal Care and Regulation Animal Care Problem Reporter: Citations Standard Operating Procedure 0023; This procedure applies to all Animal Care & Regulation staff who are assigned to processing owner surrenders per their job descriptions

Animal Care and Regulation Animal Care Problem Reporter: Citations Standard Operating Procedure 0041; This SOP applies to all Animal Care and Regulation Officers (ACRO), dispatch personnel, supervisors, and staff involved in: • Receiving and triaging complaints • Conducting field investigations • Documenting findings • Taking enforcement action under MSB Title 24 • Coordinating with law enforcement, emergency services, and other agencies

Animal Care and Regulation Animal Care Problem Reporter: Citations Standard Operating Procedure 0042; This SOP applies to all Animal Care & Regulation Officers (ACROs) responsible for enforcing MSB animal ordinances, including but not limited to restraint, humane animal care, cruelty, and nuisance regulations.

Animal Control Chief Mathew Hardwig Personnel File

Animal Control Officer Joseph Dickenson Case View Report spanning January 12, 2026 through February 13, 2026 (printed April 20, 2026 4:42 p.m.)

Animal Control Log, Entries by Joseph Dickenson, six entries, January 9, 2026, January 10, 2026, January 12, 2026, January 18, 2026, January 28, 2026, and January 28, 2026

Animal Welfare in Poultry Investigations, Joseph Dickenson, dated December 13, 2023 [HR 37].

Body Condition Scoring for Common Animal Species, Joseph Dickenson dated December 18, 2024 [HR 32]

Chronological Summary of Events, provided by Holly R. Lynn, spanning March 23, 2024 – April 15, 2026 (including various texts and photographs)

Chronological Summary of Events, provided by Sarah A. Loreff, spanning Winter 2024 – April 23, 2026 (including various texts and photographs)

Colorado State University, Div. of Continuing Education, Certificate of Completion, Essential Animal Services Training Academy Module B, Joseph Dickenson, January 23-27, 2023 [HR 39-40]

Complaint Emails in Chronological Order

Email exchange between Joseph Dickenson and Matthew Hardwig, March 19, 2026 through March 25, 2026 [HR 05-07]

Employment Eligibility Verification, Department of Homeland Security for Joseph Dickenson, dated November 4, 2022. [HR 25-26]

Equine Investigations: Enhance Your Case, Joseph Dickenson, November 1, 2023 [HR 38]

FEMA AWR 328 All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disasters dated October 11, 2023 [HR 36]

FEMA Cert. of Achievement, Joseph Dickenson, ICS for Single Resources and Initial Actions Incident ICS 200, dated December 12, 2016 [HR 42]

FEMA Cert. of Achievement, Joseph Dickenson, Intro. To Incident Command System (ICS100) for Law Enforcement, dated December 12, 2016. [HR 41]

FEMA MGT 448 All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agriculture, and Food Related Disasters dated October 11, 2024 [HR 35]

FEMA Cert. of Achievement, Joseph Dickenson, National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Introduction, dated December 12, 2016 [HR 43]

FEMA Cert. of Achievement, Joseph Dickenson, National Response Framework, an Introduction, dated December 12, 2016 [HR 44]

Misty Rehder's/ Walkers Wild Ride Evacuation Plan, possibly drafted on November 26, 2024

Misty Rehder's Mat-Su Borough Kennel Inspection Report dated January 3, 2025.

Misty Rehder's Mat-Su Borough Kennel/Cattery Receipt for Kennel Fee dated January 3, 2025.

Misty Rehder's Mat-Su Borough Kennel/Cattery Registration Application dated November 26, 2024.

Misty Rehder's Mat-Su Borough Kennel Canine Registration list.

Misty Rehder's Mat-Su Borough Kennel/Cattery Emergency Evacuation Plan dated November 26, 2024.

Mat-Su Borough Care and Regulation Schedule

Mat-Su Borough Confidentiality of Information Acknowledgement, Joseph Dickenson, dated, November 3, 2022. [HR 20-21]

Mat-Su Borough Course in Ice Rescue, Joe Dickenson, dated April 11, 2025 [HR 31]

Mat-Su Borough Employee Administrative Leave Status, Joseph Dickenson dated April 23, 2026 [HR 03]

Mat-Su Borough Employee Information/Emergency Contact Form redacted, Joseph Dickenson, dated November 3, 2022 [HR 54]

Mat-Su Borough Employee Orientation Checklist, Joseph Dickenson, dated November 7, 2022 [HR 27-30]

Mat-Su Borough Employee Status Change, Joseph Dickenson dated April 23, 2026 [HR 01]

Mat-Su Borough Employment Application, dated November 4, 2022 [HR 70-84]

Mat-Su Borough Letter of Temporary Reassignment and Administrative Leave dated April 22, 2026. [HR 02; 04]

Mat-Su Borough Letter Contingent Offer of Employment, dated November 3, 2022 [HR 89-90]

Mat-Su Borough Letter, redacted Personal Identifiable Information (PII) Breach, dated February 9, 2024 [HR 45-47; 48-50; 51-53]

Mat-Su Borough Outside Employment and Disclosure Form, dated November 3, 2022. [HR 22-24]

Mat-Su Borough Performance Evaluation, Joseph Dickenson, evaluation period November 7, 2023 – November 7, 2024 [HR 60-64]

Mat-Su Borough Performance Evaluation, Joseph Dickenson, evaluation period November 7, 2024 – May 8, 2025 [HR 65-69]

Mat-Su Borough Performance Evaluation, Joseph Dickenson, evaluation period November 11, 2024 – June 30, 2024 [HR 55-59]

Mat-Su Borough Performance Evaluation, Joseph Dickenson, evaluation period July 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025 [HR 92-97]

Mat-Su Borough Personnel Action Form, Joseph Dickenson, dated November 3, 2022 [HR 88]

Mat-Su Borough Step Increase, Joseph Dickenson, effective date July 1, 2024 [HR 86-87]

Mat-Su Borough Step Increase, Joseph Dickenson, effective date June 30, 2025 [HR 91]

Mat-Su Borough Structure Adjustment, Joseph Dickenson, effective date June 19, 2023 [HR 85]

Mat-Su Borough (MSB) Title 24 Animal Care and Regulation

Mat-Su Borough Memorandum, Formal Disciplinary Action of Joseph Dickenson, dated April 7, 2026 from Matthew Hardwig Chief Animal Control and Regulation Officer [HR 08-09]

Mat-Su Borough Memorandum, Notice of Investigation, dated March 19, 2026 [HR 10-13]

Mat-Su Borough Receipt 28758177, Kennel License fee of \$75.00, January 3, 2025.

Mat-Su Borough Scheduled Work Hours and Alternate Work Week Option Form, Joseph Dickenson, dated, November 14, 2022 [HR 15-19]

National Animal Care and Control Association Training Certificate to Joseph Dickenson, dated May 30 and 31, 2024 [HR 33]

Partial Synopsis of Voicemails left at Animal Control from January 12, 2026 to April 14, 2026

PetTech, CPR and First Aid, Joseph Dickenson, dated May 29, 2024 [HR 34]  
Phone Records of Holly R. Lynn, December 26, 2025 - February 25, 2026

Phone Records of Shantel Wiley, January 2026 – March 2026

Phone Records of Susitna Sled Dog, provided by Alysa Buser, January 7, 2026 – February 6, 2026

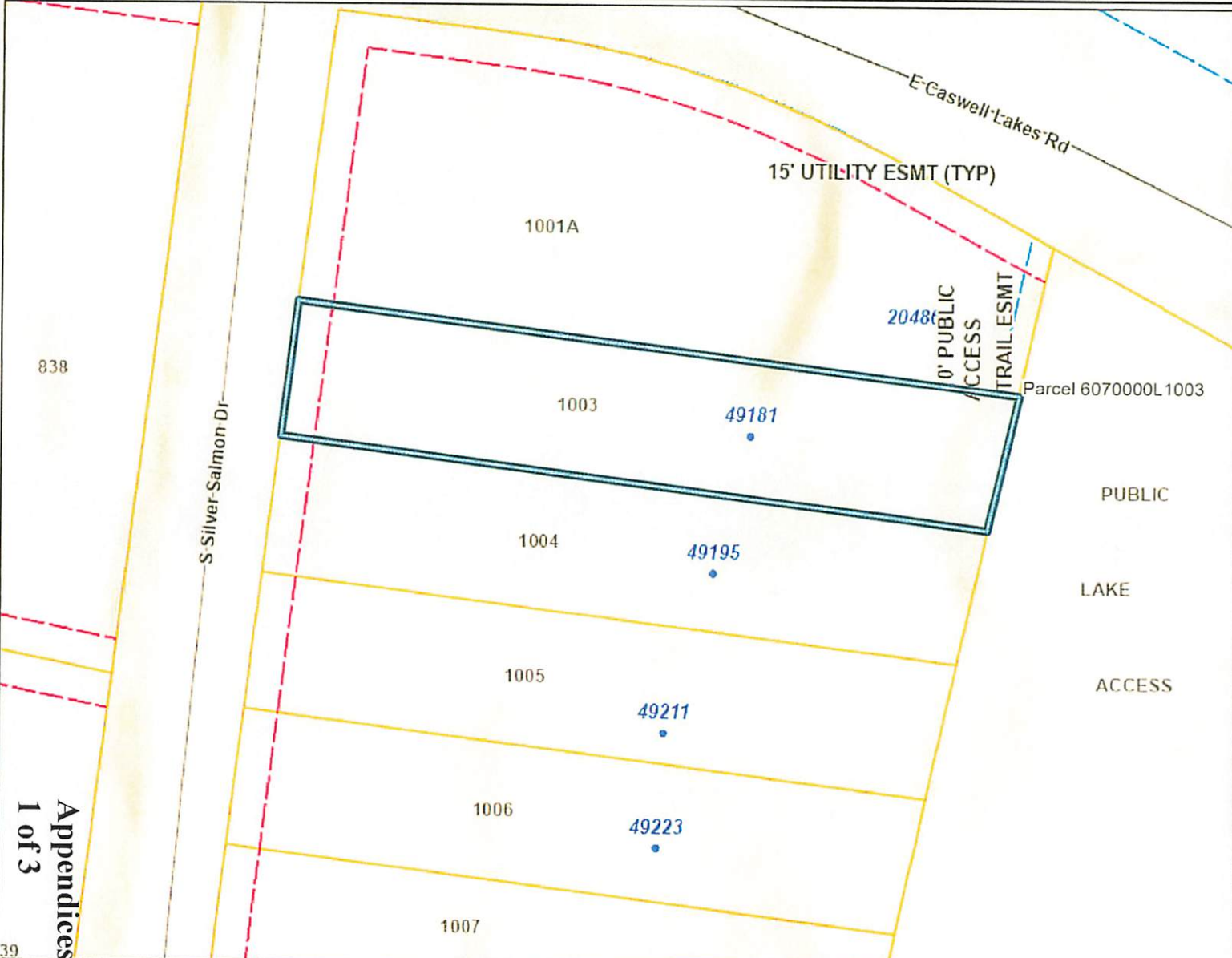
Private Citizen Provided Records. There were a number of phone records and other narrative logs provided by private citizens. In an effort to protect their anonymity those records will not be provided but the relevant portions have been summarized herein.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS) 0001 – 0058

State of Alaska, Felony Complaint, *State of Alaska vs. Rehder, Misty Springs*, 3PA-26-00648CR



# Parcel Map



### Legend

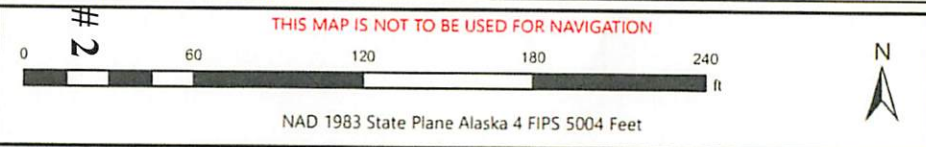
- Medium Road
- Minor Road
- Mat-Su Borough Boundary
- Address Numbers
- Parcels
- Lot and Block Numbers
- ROW and Easements

Layer

- ROW Easement
- Easement
- Lakes and Rivers
- Section Lines

World Hillshade

- World\_Hillshade
- Focused Polygons
- Focused Polygons





This map is solely for informational purposes. The Borough makes no express or implied warranties with respect to the character, function, or capabilities of the map or the suitability of the map for any particular purpose beyond those originally intended by the Borough. For information regarding the full disclaimer and policies related to acceptable uses of this map, please contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough GIS Division at 907-861-7858.

### Notes

Generated on 20.05.2026 (dd/mm/yyyy)


Appendices  
# 2  
1 of 3

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File Edit View Add Tools Help



 49181 S Silver Salmon Willow AK 9



Silver Salmon Dr

49181



Appendices # 2  
2 of 3



**Isitna Valley High (967)**  
**aska SNOTEL Site - 360 ft**  
**Reporting Frequency: Daily; Date Range: 2026-01-12 to 2026-02-06**

of: Wed May 20 11:11:38 GMT-08:00 2026)  
 Provisional data, subject to revision\*\*

Date	Snow Water Equivalent (In) Start of Day Values	Median Snow Water Equivalent (1991-2020) (In) Start of Day Values	Snow Water Equivalent % of Median (1991-2020)	Snow Depth (In) Start of Day Values	Precipitation Accumulation (In) Start of Day Values	Median Precipitation Accumulation (1991-2020) (In) Start of Day Values	Precipitation Accumulation % of Median (1991-2020)	Air Temperature Maximum (degF)	Air Temperature Minimum (degF)	Air Temperature Average (degF)
2026-02-06	4.9	6.1	80	24	9.6	9.4	102	34.0	9.0	20
2026-02-05	4.9	6.1	80	25	9.6	9.2	104	33.0	21.0	26
2026-02-04	4.9	6.1	80	25	9.6	9.2	104	37.0	21.0	28
2026-02-03	4.9	6.1	80	26	9.6	9.1	105	26.0	11.0	21
2026-02-02	4.9	6.1	80	26	9.6	9.0	107	29.0	9.0	18
2026-02-01	4.9	6.1	80	27	9.6	8.9	108	18.0	-1.0	8
2026-01-31	4.9	6.0	82	27	9.6	8.9	108	28.0	9.0	21
2026-01-30	4.9	5.9	83	28	9.6	8.8	109	31.0	18.0	25
2026-01-29	4.9	5.9	83	29	9.6	8.8	109	31.0	18.0	24
2026-01-28	4.9	5.8	84	31	9.6	8.7	110	26.0	4.0	13
2026-01-27	4.2	5.8	72	20	8.9	8.7	102	15.0	10.0	12
2026-01-26	4.2	5.8	72	20	8.9	8.6	103	16.0	4.0	11
2026-01-25	4.2	5.7	74	19	8.9	8.4	106	18.0	-4.0	4
2026-01-24	4.2	5.6	75	19	8.9	8.4	106	16.0	-2.0	4
2026-01-23	4.2	5.6	75	19	8.9	8.2	109	17.0	2.0	6
2026-01-22	4.2	5.4	78	19	8.9	8.2	109	17.0	3.0	7
2026-01-21	4.2	5.4	78	20	8.9	8.2	109	20.0	2.0	9
2026-01-20	4.2	5.2	81	20	8.9	8.1	110	19.0	5.0	13
2026-01-19	4.2	5.2	81	20	8.9	8.0	111	24.0	8.0	14
2026-01-18	4.2	5.2	81	21	8.9	8.0	111	35.0	24.0	29
2026-01-17	3.9	5.2	75	21	8.8	8.0	110	25.0	14.0	19
2026-01-16	3.8	5.2	73	24	7.1	8.0	89	34.0	17.0	30
2026-01-15	2.8	5.2	54	24	6.4	7.8	82	33.0	19.0	27
2026-01-14	2.6	5.0	52	24	6.2	7.6	82	21.0	5.0	15
2026-01-13	2.5	5.0	50	25	6.2	7.6	82	5.0	-13.0	-2
2026-01-12	2.5	5.0	50	28	6.2	7.6	82	7.0	-15.0	-1

# Mat-Su Animal Care & Regulation Schedule

Apr-26

	30-Mar	31-Mar	1	2	3	4	5
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	Hardwig	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm
Dickenson	Seward's	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF
Teepie	Day	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF
Brown	Holiday	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm
Watland	CLOSED	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Hardwig	Hardwig	Dickenson	Teepie	Teepie	Watland	Watland

	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm
Dickenson	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF
Teepie	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
Brown	TRAINING	TRAINING	TRAINING	TRAINING	TRAINING	TRAINING	TRAINING
Watland	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Hardwig	Dickenson	Dickenson	Teepie	Teepie	Watland	Watland

	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	AACA Conf	AACA Conf	AACA Conf
Dickenson	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF
Teepie	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF
Brown	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm
Watland	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Hardwig	Dickenson	Dickenson	Teepie	Teepie	Watland	Watland

	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	8am-7pm	LEAVE	LEAVE	LEAVE	OFF	OFF	OFF
Dickenson	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	Out of Office	OFF	OFF	OFF
Teepie	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF
Brown	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm
Watland	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Dickenson	Dickenson	Teepie	Teepie	Teepie	Watland	Watland

	27	28	29	30	1-May	2-May	3-May
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF
Dickenson	Out of Office	Out of Office	Out of Office	Out of Office	Out of Office	Out of Office	Out of Office
Teepie	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
Brown	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF
Watland	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Teepie	Hardwig	Hardwig	Watland	Watland	Watland	Teepie

Switch over for On-Call is 0800hrs.

Updated 4-27-2026

- AC-1 Matt Hardwig
- AC-2 Joe Dickenson
- AC-3 Andrew Watland
- AC-4 Dean Teepie
- AC-5 Rachel Brown



Yellow: Shelter closed to the Public

# Mat-Su Animal Care & Regulation Schedule

May-26

	27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1	2	3
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF
Dickenson	Out of Office			Out of Office			
Teeple	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
Brown	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF
Watland	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Teeple	Hardwig	Hardwig	Watland	Watland	Watland	Teeple

	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF
Dickenson	Out of Office			Out of Office			
Teeple	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
Brown	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF
Watland	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Teeple	Hardwig	Hardwig	Watland	Watland	Watland	Teeple

	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
Dickenson	Out of Office						
Teeple	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF
Brown	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm
Watland	8am-7pm	OFF	8am-7pm	LEAVE	LEAVE	OFF	OFF
ON CALL	Teeple	Teeple	Hardwig	Hardwig	Hardwig	Hardwig	Teeple

	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF
Teeple	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
Brown	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF
Watland	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Teeple	Hardwig	Hardwig	Watland	Watland	Watland	Teeple

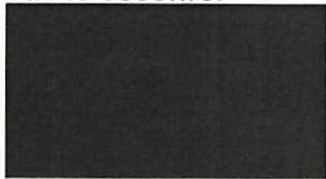
  

	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Hardwig	Hardwig	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF
Teeple	Memoial	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
Brown	Day	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	OFF	OFF
Watland	Borough Holiday	OFF	OFF	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm	8am-7pm
ON CALL	Hardwig	Hardwig	Hardwig	Watland	Watland	Teeple	Teeple

Switch over for On-Call is 0800hrs.

Updated 5-14-2026

- AC-1 Matt Hardwig;
- AC-2
- AC-3 Andrew Watland
- AC-4 Dean Teeple
- AC-5 Rachel Brown



Yellow: Shelter closed to the Public

	Hardwig	Dickenson	Teeple	Brown	Evans	Watland	
<b>FEMA</b>							
ICS 100	8/11/2006	12/12/2016	6/30/2023	7/19/2023	11/22/2022	5/10/2018	
ICS 200	8/12/2006	12/12/2016	7/20/2023	7/20/2023	11/22/2022	4/3/2011	
ICS 300	4/26/2023					2/9/2012	
ICS 400	5/9/2023					7/21/2015	
ICS 700	8/12/2006	12/12/2016	7/1/2023	7/19/2023	11/22/2022	10/17/2010	
ICS 800	8/11/2006	12/12/2016	7/20/2023	7/20/2023	11/23/2022	4/3/2011	
<b>N.A.C.A.</b>							
NACA 1 (25-40 hours)	2/23/2001	5/6/2026	6/6/2025	8/29/2025		12/24/2025	
NACA 2 (27-40 hours)	5/7/2004		6/7/2025	10/5/2025		12/29/2025	
NACA 3 (various trainings)	8/12/2005						
Chem. Cap.	8/12/2005						
Euth. By injection	8/12/2005						
OCT	8/12/2005						
Dispatch Essentials (5.5 hours)					5/15/2025		
NACA 4 (40 Hours)	5/13/2013	No longer offered or available					
<b>Code 3 Assoc.</b>							
NACHO Mod A (40 hours)				11/9/2018			
NACHO Mod B (40 Hours)		1/27/2023					
BCS for Common Animals (2hrs.)	12/18/2024	12/18/2024	12/18/2024	12/18/2024			
EAST Mod B ((40 hours)		Jan-23					
CIA Level II (40 hours)	5/9/2014						
EIA 1 (48 hours)	6/17/2006		8/24/2024				
EIA 2 (48 hours)	6/2/2007		8/23/2025				
Equine: Enh case		11/1/2023	11/1/2023	11/1/2023			
Cert. Equine Invesitgator	6/2/2007		8/23/2025				
BULL (livestock training) (16 hours)	May-14						
Poultry Inv. (2 hours)		12/13/2023		12/13/2023			
Animal Fire & Resuce (4 hours)			7/26/2025				
Fear Fear (5 credits)	11/16/2020	12/18/2022	6/30/2023	7/15/2023	12/10/2022	12/18/2025	
Euth. By injection (+16 hours)	Apr-09	5/18/2023	10/26/2023	10/26/2023	10/10/2025		
OCAT	9/12/2002		7/24/2002				
1998-2000 DPS Ins							
Pepper Gel (MSB)	3/27/2025	3/27/2025	Instructor	3/27/2025	3/27/2025	1/15/2026	
CPR/BLS	7/21/2025 (WR)	10/6/2025	9/22/2025	10/6/2025	9/22/2025	2/14/2026	
Ice Rescue (MSB)	4/11/2025	4/11/2025	12/21/2023	4/11/2025	4/11/2025		
Safe-Capture (Chemical Capture) (16 hours)	2/20/2003 2/23/2006						
Veбал Judo (16 hours)	May-10						
HSUS Conference	4/2/2003						
CEVO - 5 (Emergency vehicle Oper.) (4 hours)	WRT Summer'25		3/11/2026	3/9/2026		3/11/2026	
Alaska Animal Control Conf. Annual Training (10 credits)	2023-2026	2024	2024	2019, 2025	2025		
DUS various defensive tacts.				2018-2019			

Paid for on their own  
 Not yet comp. attended or expired

Case View Report



Matanuska Susitna Borough  
Animal Care & Regulation

Matanuska Susitna Borough Animal Care & Regulation  
9470 East Chanlyut Circle  
Palmer, Alaska 99645 USA  
animal.care@matsugov.us  
https://animalcare.matsugov.us/  
Tel.: 907-746-5500

Printed: 04/20/2026 16:41 By: MHardwig

Case Details

Case #: C0009369376  
Reference #: 2026  
Status: Closed

Case Date/Time: 01/12/2026 12:00 Reported:  
Jurisdiction: Caswell Lakes  
Additional Info: Holly Lynn called to inform of a welfare concern at 49181 S Silver Salmon, stating that she is worried that no one has cared for 28 dogs since 01/09/2026.

Category: Investigation  
Type: Investigation  
Subtype: Welfare  
Officer: Joseph Dickenson  
Review Date:

49181 S Silver Salmon, Wasilla, 99623, Alaska, United States  
Location Type: Single Family Dwelling  
Directions:  
Result: By: Date/Time:  
Result Comments:

Created By: JDickenson  
Created: 01/12/2026 12:09  
Last Updated By: JDickenson  
Updated: 02/13/2026 17:27

Animal Info: Dogs  
Person Info: Holly Lynn [REDACTED]

Case Persons

Person #: P0046221038 | Alyssa Buser  
P0046221038

Alyssa Buser, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MATANUSKA SUSITNA, AK - Home Primary Role:Complainant Secondary Role:  
Animal Owner: No , Person Reporting:Yes ,Property Owner:No

Person #: P0046641077 | Mark Walker  
P0046641077

Mark Walker, [REDACTED] 49181 S Silver Salmon  
99688, Caswell Lakes, AK - Home Primary Role:Suspect Secondary Role:  
Animal Owner: No , Person Reporting:No ,Property Owner:No

Person #: P0046751510 | Misty Rehder  
P0046751510

Misty Rehder, [REDACTED] 49181 S Silver Salmon Dr  
Willow, 99688, Caswell Lakes, MATANUSKA SUSITNA, AK - Home Primary Role:Suspect Secondary  
Role:  
Animal Owner: No , Person Reporting:No ,Property Owner:No

Person #: P0048555637 | Shantel Wiley  
P0048555637

Shantel Wiley, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Home Primary Role:Complainant Secondary Role:  
Animal Owner: No , Person Reporting:Yes ,Property Owner:No

Person #: P0048924369 | Holly Lynn  
P0048924369

Holly Lynn, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MATANUSKA SUSITNA, AK - Home Primary Role:Complainant Secondary  
Role: Witness  
Animal Owner: No , Person Reporting:Yes ,Property Owner:No

Person #: P0049074894 | Milos Lustig  
P0049074894

Milos Lustig, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Home Primary Role:Witness Secondary Role:  
Animal Owner: No , Person Reporting:No ,Property Owner:Yes

Person #: P0049531221 | Mike Unk  
P0049531221

Mike Unk, [REDACTED] Home Primary Role:Witness Secondary Role:  
Animal Owner: No , Person Reporting:Yes ,Property Owner:No

Case Activities

Activity #:	9256905	Conditions:		Danger?	
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Appendices # 6

<b>State:</b>	Closed	<b>Jurisdiction:</b>	Caswell Lakes	<b>Patrol Area:</b>	
<b>Type/Subtype:</b>	Investigation - Welfare	<b>Cross Streets:</b>		<b>Distance:</b>	0
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Created Date/Time:</b>	01/12/2026 17:04	<b>Created By:</b>	JDickenson
<b>Review Date:</b>		<b>Last Updated Date/Time:</b>	04/20/2026 16:39	<b>Last Updated By:</b>	JDickenson

**Comments:**

01/12/2026 1000hrs

We received a call to the dispatch line from Holly Lynn [REDACTED] reporting a welfare concern for 28 dogs in Caswell Lakes.

1100hrs

I called Holly and spoke with her regarding her message. She stated that she had driven a Mark Walker [REDACTED] from 49181 S Silver Salmon to the airport in Anchorage and he flew to Montana. Holly stated that Mark had told her that his ex, the registered kennel owner, Misty Rehder [REDACTED] would be arriving to the property on that same Friday and she would be providing care for the dogs. Holly stated that she had driven past the property today and there were no vehicle tracks in the snow, and the foot tracks she thought were hers from Friday when she had been there. I asked her to submit a problem report so I could have her statement and the photos and provided her with the enforcement email to send the video she stated that she had. Holly submitted 4 photos of the driveway of 14181 S Silver Salmon, and one video where dogs could be heard barking, but not seen.

1114hrs

I called Mark Walker at [REDACTED] to confirm the complaint that I'd received. After introducing myself I informed him of a welfare complaint I'd received that he was mentioned. I asked him about the kennel and he stated that Misty has been in contact with him via text since he left state and she has been telling him that she is on property and maintaining the dogs. I thanked him for speaking with me and ended the call.

1116hrs

I called Misty Rehder [REDACTED] informed her that I'd received a complaint of her not being on property and not providing care for her dogs. She stated that she has been on property since her boyfriend left on 01/09/2026 and has been feeding them everyday. She stated that she was currently in Wasilla picking up dog food and would be heading back out to the property. I asked her to send pictures of her feeding the dogs when she fed this evening, she stated that she would. Misty texted 7 photos to the dispatch phone on the evening of 01/12/2026.

01/17/2026

Having had established contact with the kennel owner, and receiving evidence of care from her for the dogs on the date of the complaint, I did not drive out to the location at that time. As I had not followed up with my complainants, they reached out to me for a follow-up. Holly Lynn [REDACTED] had called and left a voicemail wanting to get a follow up on the status of this complaint, before I had the opportunity to return her call, I missed a call from Alyssa Buser [REDACTED] requesting the same thing.

1309hrs

I returned the call to Holly who stated that she had been by the property on S Silver Salmon and had not seen evidence of anyone being on property.

1313hrs

I returned Alyssa Buser [REDACTED] and she stated that she was friends with a mutual friend of Mark and Misty who had showed her a video of him being on the property today and the video showed that the dog had not been cared for for some time. I asked for his contact info and Alyssa put him on the phone. I introduced myself and asked him who he was and what was going on. He provided his name Mike [REDACTED] and stated that he had been on the property of Misty Rehder and had taken a video of the dogs and their kennels which showed that they had not been cared for today. I asked when he had been on site and he stated "40min ago", the time of his statement was 1316hrs.

1331hrs

I received a call from Mark Walker [REDACTED] requesting a welfare check on his ex-girlfriend's property. I asked what had changed from our previous conversation when he stated that he was in daily contact with her and she had been telling him that she was caring for the dogs. He stated that he was still getting told by Misty that she was on property caring for the dogs, but he'd been called by several people telling him that she's been lying to him. I told him that I'd received other reports and was headed out to the property to check on the dogs.

1535hrs

I arrived at 49181 S Silver Salmon and there was a white ford pickup parked at the end of the driveway in the road. As I stopped my truck, two ladies exited the truck and one approached me. She stated that she was there to care for the dogs, had just called dispatch and was told to wait for me to arrive. I introduced myself and she provided Shantel Wiley [REDACTED] as who she is, and the other woman was her sister. I walked up the driveway and knocked on the door, I heard more than one dog barking and my knock was unanswered. Shantel followed me onto the property and I informed her that I could not give her permission to enter the property and she stated that she did not care, let them call the cops, she only cared about the dogs. I proceeded to walk around the cabin to check on the dogs, they all appeared to be a adequate weight and active. I saw that three dog houses without a roof and it was snowing at the time of my visit. With no observed immediate medical concerns, I posted a 24hr notice door tag and left the property at 1555hrs.

1704hrs

I had a voice mail from Shantel providing her name and phone number requesting a follow-up from her complaint.

1806hrs

Misty called from the door tag asking what it was for. I informed her that I had received more complaints of her not being on property and the dogs are not being cared for. Misty stated that she has been living there daily, and works as a nanny off property from 0930-1400 everyday. She does not have a car so there is no tracks in the driveway, and she is relying on friends to give her rides. Misty was adamant that she is residing on property and is feeding the dogs 3x a day. She stated that she had just returned from the hospital in Anchorage where she had been diagnosed with Covid. She asked that if we come back out to her property, please inform her so she can be wearing the appropriate medical attire. I thanked her for informing us of that. I asked her about the 3 dog houses that were broken and she stated that the dogs Oscar Pigpen and Birdie were only tied out during the day when she is off property, she brings them into the cabin every night. I informed her that to be tied out during the day they have to have some sort of shelter to keep them out of the elements and she would need to fix or replace the dog houses as soon as possible. I told her that it was snowing on my visit and the 3 dogs had no means of getting out of it. She stated that she would call a friend who already had the supplies and tell them that she could not wait any longer, that she had to have it fixed now. Misty stated that she had hired a handler to live on property as she was expecting to be having to stay in the hospital in Anchorage for an overnight a week for treatment of non-covid related medical issues that just arose. Misty stated that she is going to be

downsizing her kennel and rehoming her dogs as she expects to be moving to Idaho in mid-February. I asked her what time she would be at her property on 01/19/2026, she stated that she has two medical appointments and would be home at 1630hrs, I told her that I would be out at her property to inspect the fixed dog houses and the status of the other dogs. I told her that with her telling me she was starting to rehome the dogs, I asked why she wasn't reaching out to the local community as it seemed there were several people that were concerned for her and her dogs. I thanked her for speaking with me and ended the call.

01/18/2026 1015-1041hrs

I called Holly, Alyssa and Shantel and updated them on my contact with Misty and advised them that I would update them when I had further information.

01/19/2026

Three photos showing fresh straw in dog houses were submitted by Misty Rehder to the dispatch phone.

01/20/26

We received 5 additional photos of Misty Rehders dogs showing their houses with straw which were meant to be sent in with the 3 on the 19th.

We received a statement through Problem Reporter from Sarah for an incident that occurred on 01/09/26 @ 1213. Sarah states that on 1/09/26 the co-owner off the kennel departed the state, leaving Misty Rehder in charge of 28 dogs. Sarah states that she was a coworker with Chad who is Ms. Rehder's boyfriend and that she has been living with Chad since October 2025 and that Chad has confirmed with her that Ms. Rehder has not been on the property to take care of the animals but that neighbors have been taking care of them. Chad can be reached at [REDACTED] Statement in Content Manager. -S. Evans

01/23/2026

I had a voicemail from Misty Rehder, left on 01/22/2026, at 1439hrs, when I arrived to work, she wanted to confirm that I'd received the photos that she'd sent in, and to provide the hours of a new job that she'd got.

1103hrs

Holly Lynn [REDACTED] called the dispatch line and was forwarded to my desk line. I answered and Holly stated that she had some new information to provide. I asked her what she had and she stated that she'd called the the owner of 49181 S Silver Salmon Dr and provided Milos Lustig [REDACTED] Holly stated that Milos had told her that he was serving Misty with eviction papers and Holly wanted me to be aware. I advised Holly that evictions are civil and we do not get involved unless requested by AST. Holly asked what could she do until then, I replied that we do not have an abandonment concern at this time, I am following up with Misty for some dog shelter concerns. Holly stated that she will continue to drive by the property for signs of Misty not being on property, and as they are expecting snow this afternoon, it shouldn't be hard to set a timeline off of the tracks with fresh snow. We then ended the call.

1355hrs

I arrived at 49181 S Silver Salmon to follow up on the condition of the dog houses and the amount of straw present as discussed with Misty. Upon arrival I saw several tire tracks in the driveway, what appeared to be recent foot prints in the snow from the driveway to the area the dogs are restrained. I saw fresh straw of adequate quantities in the dog houses that I could see from the front porch. My door knock was not answered, I left a 24hr door tag on the door knob, took 8 photos and cleared scene.

Appendices # 6

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1801hrs

I called Alyssa Buser to get the name of her friend who had stated he'd taken a video on 49181 S Silver Salmon. My call was not answered, I left a voicemail requesting a call back.

01/25/2026 1152hrs

I received an voicemail from Misty stating that she had broken her phone and had tried to call as soon as she'd gotten it replaced.

1405hrs

I arrived at 49181 S Silver Salmon and made contact with Misty. I confirmed her attempts to contact me as she'd claimed, through her phone log history, she had not been calling my desk line, but had been calling the Animal Shelter number 746-5500 and had not left voicemails, which is also on my business card. I discussed the photos previously received of the dogs eating kibble from the ground, she stated that she had dropped the handful of kibble to get the dogs to stand still for the pictures, she was using the food pans that were present.

01/31/2026 1137hrs

I arrived at 49181 S Silver Salmon. The owner was not on site and my door knocks were not answered. I posted a 24hr door tag requesting a phone call, took 13 photos and cleared scene.

02/01/2026 1346hrs

I received a call back from Misty Rehder. She stated that she had tried calling for my door tag at 0830hrs this morning but had not left a voicemail. She stated that she had been in Anchorage cleaning houses and not returned home until approximately 2100hrs. She stated that she had been in court earlier in the week because of a stalker that she's trying to have a protective order put in place. I asked if she was willing to provide me the name of this person and she provided Holly Lynn Rose. She stated that ever since her boyfriend Mark had moved out she has been harassed by Holly to the point that she's now trying to get the protective order. I asked how the downsizing/rehoming was going and if she was still looking at moving back to Oregon mid-month. She stated that her ex-boyfriend Mark and her were discussing him returning to take over the kennel after she left. I asked what she had in place should he not be able to return and she stated that she would be here until all that was figured out. I asked if she'd hired the kennel hand and she replied that he (Miles) was on a volunteer basis for extra credits through high school. She stated that Miles and his mom were her fall back if she had to stay in Anchorage overnight for medical reasons. I asked when would she be available for another visit to confirm the dog boxes have been dug out as my visit yesterday revealed the snow pack had become higher than the opening on some of the dog houses. She stated that she had a medical appointment tomorrow and she should be home around 1500hrs on 02/02/2026. I told her that I would be out there at that time to inspect the care of the dogs hopefully for the last time.

1606hrs

I called Mark and he stated that he was not moving back up to take over the kennel. He stated that he has been in contact with Misty daily and she has been telling him that she is always on the property and the dogs are being well care for, but he has mutual friends calling him as well telling him the opposite so he's not sure what is going on.

1618hrs

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I called Alyssa to follow up with a few missed calls. I asked for the name of the man I spoke with who provided the video and she provided Mike Dolinar [REDACTED]. Alyssa stated that she has not been out there recently to check but she has been hearing from others that Misty is not staying on the property and only coming out every couple of days. I let Alyssa know that I had an appointment with Misty to follow up with the care being provided for the dogs. She thanked me for the call back and we ended the call.

1637hrs

I called Holly to follow up with her voicemail. She stated that she was just wanting an update on the status with Misty and her kennel. I informed her that the issues that were seen I'd discussed with Misty had been addressed, she seemed pleased to hear that. She asked about living on the property as a requirement per the kennel license and I confirmed that it was. I'd stated that I had not been able to disprove Misty's statement of her living on the property and Holly stated that she'd received permission from the land owner to place a game camera on the adjacent property so she could monitor the comings and goings of Misty.

02/02/2026 1455hrs

I arrived at 49181 S Silver Salmon and met with Misty Rehder. I checked the conditions of the dogs houses for straw and snow build up. The straw was adequate and she was in the process of digging out the fronts of the houses. There were no houses that presented any concerns at the time of my inspection. I addressed the feces that was present and she stated that she was picking up every other day due to her job in Anchorage. I asked what her feeding plan was and she stated that she'd reduced from 3x daily to 2x daily, I asked her adjust it per dog as I saw five that were thinner than the others. She stated that those are the ones she uses for skijoring so they are harder to keep weight on. I advised her to bump their food quantity back up and she stated that she would. I asked her what her short/long term plan was as I'd talked to Mark to see when he would be returning to take over the kennel and he stated that he had no idea what I was talking about. Misty stated that she had read into her current situation with Mark and had realized that she'd read it wrong. She stated that she has rehomed the three dogs and has three more being rehomed in the next couple of days. She stated that she'd signed a new 6mo lease and would be on property for that time, and rehome dogs as she could. I thanked her for her time and advised her that I would be closing this case at this time. If she had any questions in the future to call my desk or send me an email. I then cleared scene. Case closed

JDickenson

Update:

02/13/2026 1416hrs

Holly Lynn called the dispatch line and was forwarded to my desk line. I answered and she stated that she'd left a voicemail earlier in the week. I told her that I was just coming back in from my weekend and hadn't had a chance to call her back. She stated that she'd received a screenshot of a text message from a friend that was allegedly from Misty stating that she hadn't been living on her property and she was living with her boyfriend Chad. I asked when this text was from and she stated 12/05/2025. I explained to Holly that it was hearsay and that I could not take action on it, she asked even if it was from Misty and I told her yes even then. I explained that the text was two months old, and since this investigation started, I was not able to prove, nor had I received evidence of Misty not living on the property. Holly stated that she had friends calling her telling her that Misty is away from the property for 2 days at a time. I told Holly that these friends needed to submit a report online if they had evidence. Holly stated that they were all scared because Misty was sending so many death threats over TikTok and social media. Holly stated that she personally was not worried about the threats as she had court scheduled on 02/17/2026 with Misty for civil matters. But the friends were all scared and wanted to stay anonymous. I reiterated to Holly that they could not remain so and she stated that actually Mat Hardwig had told her that all the reports were supposed to be anonymous but they weren't and that's how Misty found out it was her that had complained. I told Holly that I had not at any point provided Misty with her information as the complainant and if she had put 2 and 2 together it was not off of my actions or statements. I also told her that Chief Hardwig had not told her the complaints are anonymous, he had explained to her that we do not give out information unless there has been a public records request submitted. I reiterated to her that for the borough to take enforcement action we needed a physical witness to come to court to provide testimony for the infraction that citations were issued for. She asked what she needed to do if a friend called

her again regarding Misty, I explained that they would have to submit a report online, she then asked how they could do it anonymously and I again stated that they could not and she replied that that was the problem, everyone was scared of her. I explained that up until now, I did not proof of Misty living off of property and every issue that was brought up with her had been addressed, so this case was closed and any new complaints or issues would need a new report online. Holly thanked me for speaking with her and we ended the call.

JDickenson

Status History	Status Date/Time	Activity Owner	Status Update Date/Time	Status Updated By
Ended	02/13/2026 15:40	Joseph Dickenson	02/13/2026 15:40	Joseph Dickenson
New	01/12/2026 12:12	Joseph Dickenson	01/12/2026 12:12	Joseph Dickenson

Result Qty	Result	Is Primary	Result Date	Result By
1	Made Contact with Complainant	Yes	01/12/2026 11:00	Joseph Dickenson
1	Made Contact with Witness	No	01/12/2026 11:00	Joseph Dickenson
1	Made Contact with Defendant	No	01/12/2026 11:16	Joseph Dickenson
3	Educated Complainant/Defendant	No	01/12/2026 11:16	Joseph Dickenson
1	Door Tag	No	01/17/2026 15:35	Joseph Dickenson
1	Made Contact with Complainant	No	01/17/2026 18:05	Joseph Dickenson
1	Educated Complainant/Defendant	No	01/17/2026 18:05	Joseph Dickenson
1	Made Contact with Defendant	No	02/02/2026 14:55	Joseph Dickenson
8	Photo(s) Taken/Received	No	01/23/2026 13:55	Joseph Dickenson
14	Photo(s) Taken/Received	No	01/31/2026 11:37	Joseph Dickenson
3	Photo(s) Taken/Received	No	01/19/2026 19:00	Joseph Dickenson



**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**

Animal Care & Regulation  
9470 E. Chanlyut Cir. • Palmer, AK 99645  
Phone (907) 746-5500 • Fax (907) 746-6683  
www.matsn.gov.us

**KENNEL/CATTERY REGISTRATION APPLICATION (MSB 24.10.020)**

Required documents/information to be attached/provided with application:

Copy of current rabies immunization certificates or list of dogs with Rabies immunization information. (Borough form available).

Additional information/requirements:

- License fee \$75, due upon passing inspection (not before).
- Emergency Evacuation Plan provided to MSBA/AR and posted on the kennel property.
- Please contact Code Compliance to determine if you are located in a flood zone. (907-861-8574) FEMA map # \_\_\_\_\_
- MSB Business License # \_\_\_\_\_ (907-861-8442)

Breeder  Boarder  Musher  Trainer  Personal  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate / Emergency Contact

Owner's Name: Misty Rehder

Name: Mark Walker

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Address: 49181 S Silver Salmon  
Willow AK 99688

Physical Address: 49181 S Silver Salmon  
Willow AK 99688

Telephone - Home: N/A Work: N/A Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

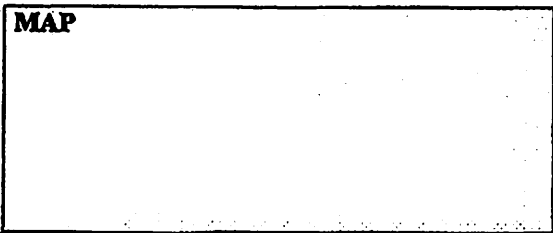
Kennel/Cattery Name: Walkers Wild Ride

Number of Dogs: 28 Cats: 0

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Location: 49181 S Silver Salmon  
Willow AK 99688

Directions to facility: Turn on to hidden hills from the  
parks Highway, turn left onto Caswell Lake Rd.  
Keep going until South Silver Salmon. First  
house (green) on the left.



1 of 1  
Appendices # 7

FOR OFFICE USE			
APPLICATION DATE: <u>11/26/24</u>	REGISTRATION #:	ISSUE DATE: <u>1/1/</u>	EXPIRATION DATE: <u>1/1/</u>

Walkers Wild Ride Evacuation Plan

Misty Rehder – [REDACTED]

49181 S Silver Salmon

Willow AK 99688

In the event of an emergency call Misty Rehder at [REDACTED] or Mark Walker at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Secure trailer to truck.

Put crates(4) in back of the truck – Dogs to go in crates: Jelly Bean, Rampage, Noodles and Dutchie. Dogs that can ride free in the truck – Zoey, Ribbit and Smudge

Box Dogs, free must go in his assigned box.

Grab black tote box from under the overhang, this box contains a drop chain, extra collars, and dog bowls.

Grab buckets, scoops and dog food.

Head to sheep creek lodge to check in with Misty or Mark and then head to Susitna Sled Dog adventures or K2 Aviation.

Mark Walker – [REDACTED]

Vet – John Tumoi [REDACTED]

**From:** [Matthew Hardwin](#) on behalf of [Animal Care Enforcement](#)  
**To:** ["Kelly Donnelly"](#)  
**Bcc:** [Vanessa Forbes](#), [Joseph Dirkenson](#), [Shereen Evans](#)  
**Subject:** RE: REPORT OF ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT - Holly Lynn  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 21, 2026 12:54:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Director Donnelly,

Thank you for the information. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Animal Care & Regulation has received information (MSBACR case #C0009369376) concerning the report filed with the Alaska SPCA and there is an active investigation.

If you wish to receive information regarding the investigation, please consider submitting a "Public Records Request". The form and information for public records can be found at <https://matsugov.gov/public-records> (but the form is also attached).

Animal Care & Regulation (Enforcement)  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
9470 E. Chanlyut Cir.  
Palmer, Alaska 99645  
Dispatch: (907) 761-7501  
[animal.care.enforcement@matsugov.us](mailto:animal.care.enforcement@matsugov.us)

**From:** Kelly Donnelly <[kdonnelly@alaskasPCA.org](mailto:kdonnelly@alaskasPCA.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 20, 2026 1:02 PM  
**To:** Animal Care <[animal.care@matsugov.us](mailto:animal.care@matsugov.us)>  
**Cc:** Vanessa Forbes <[vanessa.forbes@matsugov.us](mailto:vanessa.forbes@matsugov.us)>  
**Subject:** Fw: REPORT OF ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT - Holly Lynn

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]**

Hi Vanessa and Team,

It looks like this one may already be on your radar. However, please do not disclose the name of the person reporting to the Alaska SPCA. It appears that sharing information is part of the problem that is complicating this already messy situation.

Can one of you follow up with me after you've done a welfare check?

Thank you,

Kelly Donnelly, Executive Director/CEO

3710 Woodland Dr., #1200

Anchorage, AK 99517

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [kdonnelly@alaskasPCA.org](mailto:kdonnelly@alaskasPCA.org)

Book a meeting Please let me know if you need more than 30 minutes.



[www.alaskasPCA.org](http://www.alaskasPCA.org) DONATE TODAY!

---

**From:** Holly Lynn <[noreply@formresponse.com](mailto:noreply@formresponse.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 19, 2026 5:42 AM  
**To:** Admin <[admin@alaskasPCA.org](mailto:admin@alaskasPCA.org)>; Kelly Donnelly <[kdonnelly@alaskasPCA.org](mailto:kdonnelly@alaskasPCA.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: REPORT OF ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT - Holly Lynn

---

## REPORT OF ANIMAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT

Name (will not be shared with pet owner) Holly Lynn

Email

[REDACTED]

Phone Number if we need to contact you:

[REDACTED]

Pet Owner's Name (if known)

Misty Rehder

Address where abuse/neglect is happening:

49181 S Silver Salmon Drive, Talkeetna, AK, 99623

Have you reported this to any other agency? Yes

If yes, please tell us which agency, when the report was made, an any other information you can provide.

We initially reported the abuse to our local MATSU animal care shelter. Misty Rehder owns a kennel with 28 dogs in the area. She doesn't live on property and we've had multiple mushers in the community check on the dogs to find that no one is caring for th. The officer that was involved in the complaint called the owner and told her who called and made a complaint, shared the pictures we'd.taken of the property showing that no one had been on the property (we've had lots of snowfall recently which makes it very easy to determine if anyone has been there. Since then every time someone in the community calls and reports, he calls the owners and informs them. They were even notified when a 24 seize notice was posted on her door. It's absolutely absurd that she's being helped to abuse these animals.

What kind of animal is it?

Dog

Describe what you know of the animal's living situation:

Kennel of 28 dogs (the kennel license is in Misty Rehder's name) plus a house dog locked in the cabin. Multiple dogs outside do not have any kind of shelter. Minimum if any straw in the houses. And snow is piling up around the ones that do have houses. No snow removal is being done, multiple visits show no signs of activity in the dog yard.

For how long has this been going on?

3 weeks

What can you tell us about the owner/caregiver?

Mark Walker and Misty Rehder own Walker's Wild Ride Kennel in the Talkeetna area. Mr Walker left the kennel on December 9 when he discovered that his partner Misty had been having an affair. He confided in multiple mushers in the area that he was concerned that the dogs would not be cared for after he left. We began checking on the dogs Monday, Dec 12. The area had received a significant amount of snow and confirmed our fears that no one was caring for the dogs. Absolutely no signs of activity at the cabin or dog yard. No tracks of any kind. We immediately reported this information to the local animal control department.

Please upload pictures, videos, or recordings here:

[IMG\\_5736.jpeg](#)  
[IMG\\_5734.jpeg](#)  
[IMG\\_5733.jpeg](#)  
[IMG\\_5735.jpeg](#)  
[IMG\\_5737.jpeg](#)  
[IMG\\_5732.jpeg](#)

Is there anything else we should know?

I had a video of the property where you can hear the dogs barking when I call them. But it won't allow me to upload. I did not go into the property for fear of being accused of trespassing, which has happened. My involvement in this matter is complicated. I dated the man (over two years ago) that Misty had the affair with. I worked with Mark in 2024 and knew that he and Misty were still involved when multiple people in the community mentioned seeing Misty with my ex. I was the person responsible for telling both men that Misty was actively involved with both of them. Misty is a vey disturbed young woman. She had been unsuccessful in getting a job anywhere in our area due to

problems at her previous employers...K2 and Susitna Sled dog Adventures. Both will verify that she is not rehirable. Our concern is strictly to get the dogs to a safe environment where they will be cared for.

We are a group of concerned mushers in the community who take the neglect of animals very seriously and only want to ensure that these dogs receive the care they deserve.

I moved to Talkeetna in 2021 and love the community. I work relentlessly to help make it better. I have worked for Dallas Seavey's kennel (winters) and Mahay's Jet Boat Adventures (summers) since 2021. Both of these companies will give you a character reference on my behalf. I also own a business in Talkeetna (BNB and guide service... Alaskan Dream Adventures.

The health and wellbeing of my community is very important to me. That is my reason for being involved in this. Misty Rehder is a growing problem in our community and the lack of care that she is providing for the 28 dogs she is responsible for is cause for alarm.

You can [edit this submission](#) and [view all your submissions](#) easily.