

Dear City Council Members,

We are writing you this letter to give you a written appeal to the recent police report describing our purebred Golden Retriever, Willow, as a vicious dog.

Willow is a very docile dog. She is three years old and has grown up together with our three year old child. We have two children ages three and two that were outside at the time of the incident. Willow is very protective of our children. She has never been unkind or aggressive towards anyone who has shown her kindness, respect, and love. She is the sweetest and most caring animal but Willow is very protective of our children. We have nieces and nephews ranging from the ages of 4 months to 8 years old and Willow has been nothing but excited and kind when they visit.

This incident occurred when the girl ran through the corner of our yard from her back yard to a friend who had called her over. From the information we have been given, there was no need for medical intervention after this incident due to the need for only a Band-Aid. Willow solely felt the need for protecting our young children that were outside at the time.

This is not our first incident with this family. In summer of 2022 our boys were out playing in our backyard with Willow. This family's black dog took off running into our backyard to the opposing side farthest from their house after our children. My husband and I were both outside at the time. Willow was very quick to protect our boys by stopping this dog right before it made it to them. I understand her need for protecting our children.

Another incident occurred when their dog came into our garage in October 2022 while we were outside unpacking from a trip. It proceeded to urinate all over our air mattress that was sitting just inside the garage. We had to throw it out. Willow was in our garage with us at that time as well. We have never called the police about these incidents because we would never want to put a family in the situation we are currently facing. Dogs have a very good memory. Willow felt the need to protect our boys.

We had an underground dog fence put in the spring on 2022. Willow has never crossed that line since this fence has been put in. She has been outside at the same time that this family has been playing in their backyard. Willow will go sit near the edge of our property, within the dog fence, and watch the neighbors. She has never once broken out into their yard, but simply just watches.

In the police report, the parents stated they were on a family walk at the time of the incident. That information is false. They were in their backyard at the time. I spoke with another neighbor and her daughter directly after this incident occurred. The daughter was outside riding her bicycle at the time this transpired. I was told that the young girl was in her backyard. Once her friend yelled the young girl's name, she proceeded to take off in a sprint across the edge of our property, within the underground dog fence, in order to get to the road in front of our home where the girl was riding her bicycle. Her friend believes that when she yelled for the young girl and she began to run, it frightened Willow. She also stated that as soon as the young girl was away from our yard, Willow went to sit directly in front of our porch.

Unfortunately, we do not have cameras in order to prove exactly what occurred on 10/10/2024. Willow could have nipped at this young girl while she was crossing the corner of our yard. The minute I heard crying, I was out of our front door and onto the porch. The young girl was in the neighbor's yard across our street, and Willow was sitting in front of our porch. I

said her name, and she came directly into the house. I then proceeded to yell for our children, and they came right into the house as well.

When police officer Schuler returned to our residence at approximately 10:10pm on 10/10/2024, Willow was not aggressive toward him. She sat in our kitchen and was calm and quiet while looking out of our front door at him the entire time he was speaking with us.

We have taken Willow to Amber Avila, owner of Doggie Doo's grooming salon in Oelwein. She had nothing but positive things to say in regards to Willow after her very first grooming appointment, as is noted in her testimonial on Willow's behalf. Jerry Bond is the owner of Paw Laws, dog training and boarding. We took Willow to him for a week the end of July into early August. He has also written a testimonial on Willow's behalf. While she was with him, his five year old daughter let Willow in and out of her kennel.

We strongly encourage you to take this into consideration during your decision as our family, especially our children, have been in tears for the past few days at the prospect of losing a member of our family.

Sincerely,

Justin Hanson



Abbey Hanson

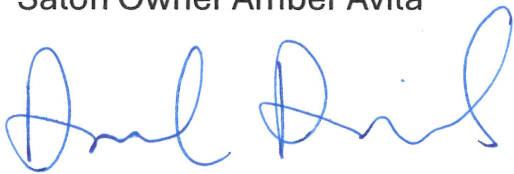


To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Doggie Doo's grooming salon in Oelwein, IA we have checked in Willow as the breed of Golden Retriever on 8/7/2024 and has had no problems with her in our salon. She is a very well-behaved dog meanwhile grooming in itself can make a dog very nervous and she fit in just well for her first experience with us. As the salon owner I have not met Willow before, and she did extremely great with the process including a new person handling her for about three hours. On this same day of her groom we did have one other dog in the salon and she had no signs of curiosity and acted as if it was not there. Doggie Doo's does have the right to refuse service to any pet that may cause harm to itself or us and our top priority is to keep all of our pets in the salon safe and happy. Willow shows no sign of aggression or threatening behavior as I enjoy having her at the salon, she is very sweet and loving. We look forward to seeing her again! If there are any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us at the salon.

In best of regards,

Salon Owner Amber Avila



Phone: 563-363-2283

Email: Doggiedoosandplay@gmail.com

Address: 1101 South Frederick Ave

Oelwein, IA



DOGGIE DOO'S

YOUR PET. OUR CARE.

Est. 2014

PAW LAWS TRAINING & BOARDING, LLC

18792 80th Street Maynard, Iowa 50655

563-920-7620/ 319-242-1769

Aggressive Dog Evaluation with Recommendations:

I, Jerry Bond, of Paw Laws Training & Boarding LLC have been called upon to do a evaluation of a dog that has been deemed vicious due to a bite that took place in the city of Oelwein. Some of my credentials include working with and training sport dogs in the practice of high-level obedience, tracking work and protection work, I have also attended and completed the Tom Rose School which is a school for dog trainers that work in the areas of Obedience, tracking, scent, protection work, and management.

I did an evaluation of a dog named Willow, who is a three year old golden retriever that is owned by Justin and Abbey Hanson of Oelwein, Iowa. Willow is a dog with lots of personality who has only been boarded once in her lifetime which was with us at Paw Laws Training and Boarding.

During that time Willow exhibited signs of being nervous which was likely due to never having been boarded before and is typical behavior with no socialization to being in a boarding kennel. She preferred all care to be done by my wife, Abby and loved interacting with our 3YO son, Jagger, 5 YO daughter Jhetta, and 8 YO daughter Journey. Willow showed no signs of aggression while she was here and had never bit anyone before the incident that occurred on October 10, 2024, when she nipped a girl in the ankle, who had been running through the Hanson's yard to get to her neighborhood friend. Justin and Abbey both know that a bite of any sort is not acceptable and have been proactive about seeking assistance by asking for this evaluation and some obedience training. In my recommendation, I would say Willow would benefit from completing an obedience course which the Hanson's are willing to do. Based on previous encounter with Willow we noted no signs of aggression. She is a well-loved pet and she and her family would benefit from an opportunity to prove this to the city council. If you have any questions regarding the evaluation please do not hesitate to reach out, my contact information is provided in the letter head.

Thanks for your time and consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry P. (1207)". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.