

Alisha Lucas and Terry Shepard

1125 S. Frederick Ave

Oelwein, IA 50662

05/28/2025

Oelwein City Council

Oelwein City Hall

20 - 2nd Ave SW

Oelwein, IA 50662

Subject: Formal Appeal Regarding Accusation of Harboring a Vicious Dog

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to formally appeal against the accusation made against me regarding harboring a vicious dog at my residence. I respectfully request a review of the circumstances, as I believe this claim has been falsely placed in my name.

The allegation, dated May 27, 2025, asserts that "2 dogs were loose and attacked another dog around 1440 in the afternoon on May 21, 2025, at which time a female in a white vehicle picked up both dogs." This is a statement given by the party who alleges his dog was attacked. Per the letter from the Oelwein Police Department, it is believed that my dog, Doug, is one of the dogs that was loose and I'm the party that picked up both dogs. My dog Doug is now said to pose a danger to the community, and they are unjustly labeling him as a "vicious dog." However, I would like to attest against these accusations and show you that Doug does not meet the criteria of a "vicious dog" as defined by Oelwein City Code Section 19-26.

On May 21, 2025, I was at work until 4pm, as I am every day. My partner was at home around 2:30pm and went for a walk, without Doug. When he was walking, he noticed there was a police presence higher than usual around the neighborhood. He saw the police at a house that is known to own pitbulls as well as a white vehicle. Then, he noticed the police that were driving around were pulling over only white vehicles driving in the vicinity and this was out of the normal. It was at this time my partner called me to tell me all these weird things were happening and said they must be looking for someone because of all that was going on. By the time he got back home there were police on our property and they began questioning him as well. They began harassing him about his "dogs" being loose and attacking someone's dog at which time he let the officers know he was out for a walk and Doug, my dog, was at home in the house and not out and about without supervision. My partner has video of the police interaction with him where the police officers stated they were not able to find any dogs loose and were also not able to find the vehicle with dogs in it either. They verbally acknowledged that they did not see any dogs loose and when they came and knocked on our door, they saw Doug inside of my house where he should be. My

home has security cameras on the front, back and inside which captured the entire interaction with the police along with my partner's phone video/audio. This interaction showed the police had no idea what dogs were loose or where they went, but I was known to have a pitbull and a white vehicle, so I was a candidate for guilt. Then, once they were confronted with a camera in their face and told to leave my property they decided to go full force against me without any proof. After this encounter on May 21st, Officer Cox once again entered my property without provocation on May 25th when Doug was on his tie out in the front yard. He once again wanted to question me about my 2 dogs that were loose and bit another dog. After telling him that I have 1 dog and I don't know what he's talking about my partner came outside with his phone in hand to again record the interaction because the officer stayed out of sight of our front camera. We asked Officer Cox if he saw the dogs that allegedly bit the other dog and he said no, and was focused on Doug being one of the dogs they were looking for because he was a gray pitbull. He became upset that we would not answer any questions and stated that since we refused to answer any questions, which is our 4th Amendment right, his next action would be to seize Doug and have him forcibly removed from my home. In my eyes Officer Cox is violating my rights as a citizen of Oelwein by continuing to harass us and not honor our rights to not give a statement. This is not an admission of guilt, but merely a refusal to give any statement.

I fully understand the importance of public safety and responsible pet ownership. Doug has always been under proper care and control including a tie out in my front yard, a tie out and doghouse in my back yard, and a locked enclosure in my side yard. Doug enjoys walking with his humans on a leash and loves to give sloppy kisses. I am more than willing to cooperate in any necessary evaluations to establish the true nature of my pet's temperament.

I respectfully request that this matter be reconsidered and that any penalties or restrictions imposed be reviewed. Please let me know if there are additional documents or steps required to facilitate this process. I am available for further discussion and willing to comply with any reasonable measures to resolve this issue fairly.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Alisha Lucas

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alisha Lucas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.