

From: [Ferrari, Jesse](#)
To: [Mason, Rebekah K.](#); [Proszek, Ashley](#); [Hobbs Doyle, Nick](#); [O'Keeffe, Elizabeth](#); [Hayden, Stephanie](#)
Cc: [Nichols, Cathrene](#)
Subject: RE: Nancy
Date: Friday, April 28, 2023 8:17:12 AM

Team,

Let's discuss this at the follow up meeting today.

I do have some concerns about breaking our agreed upon suspense dates and how it could negatively impact the future of our Canine Behavior Program. I think we could all agree that setting the standard and holding ourselves to it is important for the success of the behavior program and is a generally a good practice to follow. The Behavior Program has been stalled out for some time and we continue to warehouse dogs with serious mental health and behavioral issues. I think if we start postponing decisions now, there's a chance it could become the norm and potentially lead to program failure.

Also, I think it's important to reiterate that we're looking at each dog's unique situation objectively not subjectively while considering an overall "safe to place" with-in the community aspect. When we talk about the management aspect (life changes the adopter will need to make), we also need to consider the risk and safety factors not only the adopter would need to accept but also their neighbors and the community surrounding them - and then make an educated objective decision and move forward.

Other things I think it's important to consider:

What is the likelihood of a downward mental health spiral after spending a week or 2 with focused enrichment and no adopter? Could there be potential for more/worse mental health issues or a decrease in QoL?

What's the value added if we're looking at another week or 2 to better evaluate when some of these dogs have been here for a year+ ? I agree we owe all of the animals the time, effort and objective consideration but there is a valid argument about how much time they spend in the kennel vs triggers, mental health, risk, safety, likelihood of an adoption and also how many other animals are denied kennel space to by continuing to warehouse animals while holding out for the right adopter?

I understand that some of these decision are going to be tough but they need to be made and we need to move forward. If we continue the practices, policy and procedures that previous leadership put in place/followed, we will continue to fail the animals in our care and the community we serve.

I'm looping in Sr. Director Nichols into the conversation for her situational awareness as I know this is a tough subject and think that it's important to be transparent when moving forward with major changes.

Jesse Ferrari

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From: Mason, Rebekah K. <RKMASON@SpokaneCounty.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 9:43 PM
To: Proszek, Ashley <AProszek@spokanecounty.org>; Ferrari, Jesse <JFERRARI@SpokaneCounty.org>; Hobbs Doyle, Nick <NHOBBSDOYLE@SpokaneCounty.org>; O'Keefe, Elizabeth <EOKEEFFE@SpokaneCounty.org>; Hayden, Stephanie <SHAYDEN@SpokaneCounty.org>
Subject: Re: Nancy

Hello,

I know we have our dog team meeting tomorrow, but wanted to send this email so that we could all ruminate prior. I am asking for another week extension for Nancy and Domino. We just started trying new methods this week that appear to have positive effects so far.

Stephanie placed an impact crate inside Domino's kennel on Tuesday and he has had half his body inside. He has been spending more time at the front of the kennel, as people are less scary than the crate currently. He also wasn't consistently taking his medication, so we'd like to see if the meds have any further effects after one more week.

Ashley started walking Nancy yesterday and took her walking outside the shelter perimeter today. Nancy was sniffing around in the field today and played ball outside in the play yard for a bit. Ashley has offered to walk her longer every morning for the next week to see if the extra exercise counters the kennel stress. She also wants to take her for an offsite field trip next week to see if that engages Nancy's interest. Ashley also posted a foster request for Nancy today, so we'd like to give time to see if any interest comes forth.

Stephanie and I created a free work area in Jesse's office today for sensory play. We had Ragamuffin in there first and he had fun exploring the different stations and searching out treats. Nancy came in next and was only interested in the cheese that was easy to get too, but was uninterested in exploring any of the stations. However, she sought out attention from Ashley, Stephanie, Joe and I and laid down in the community room and hung out. Nancy then went up into the APO office and relaxed in Ashley's office for a while. Joe took her out again later today and she laid in the small play yard with relaxed posture and periodic happy tail wags.

I know we are concerned about QOL for these two dogs, but I believe that giving these dogs another week to better evaluate the recent progress would be beneficial and give us more information in order to accurately assess them. I think we can all agree that we owe these dogs time, if there are lifesaving alternatives.

Thanks for listening and I look forward to your responses.

Thanks,
Bek

Rebekah Mason
Animal Protection Officer
SCRAPS

From: Proszek, Ashley <AProszek@spokanecounty.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 1:56:54 PM
To: Mason, Rebekah K. <RKMASON@SpokaneCounty.org>; Ferrari, Jesse <JFERRARI@SpokaneCounty.org>; Hobbs Doyle, Nick <NHOBBSDOYLE@SpokaneCounty.org>; O'Keeffe, Elizabeth <EOKEEFFE@SpokaneCounty.org>; Hayden, Stephanie <SHAYDEN@SpokaneCounty.org>
Subject: Nancy

Nancy relaxing nicely in my office.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
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