

**From:** [Ferrari, Jesse](#)  
**To:** [Nichols, Cathrene](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Director Ferrari  
**Date:** Friday, March 10, 2023 10:54:11 AM

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Cat,

Tracking.

Sorry for the delayed responses. Both Nick and Ashley are out and we have a couple call-outs today.

Jess

Jesse Ferrari  
Director, SCRAPS  
Spokane County, Washington | [www.spokanecounty.org](http://www.spokanecounty.org)  
509.477.1967 Office | [jferrari@spokanecounty.org](mailto:jferrari@spokanecounty.org)

-----Original Message-----

From: Nichols, Cathrene <[CNICHOLS@spokanecounty.org](mailto:CNICHOLS@spokanecounty.org)>  
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 10:37 AM  
To: Ferrari, Jesse <[JFERRARI@SpokaneCounty.org](mailto:JFERRARI@SpokaneCounty.org)>  
Subject: RE: Director Ferrari

They'll reach out to me if they feel the need to address it, but I have already explained the situation and we are supported by senior leadership. I do not believe a review is necessary, so if one is to be done, it would have to be at the commissioner's direction, which we have not received.

Proudly Serving,  
Cathrene (Cat) M. Nichols  
Cathrene M. Nichols  
Senior Director, Spokane County Community Affairs  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Ferrari, Jesse <[JFERRARI@SpokaneCounty.org](mailto:JFERRARI@SpokaneCounty.org)>  
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 10:28 AM  
To: Nichols, Cathrene <[CNICHOLS@spokanecounty.org](mailto:CNICHOLS@spokanecounty.org)>  
Subject: RE: Director Ferrari

Cat,

I believe it did about 2 weeks ago although, I was unable to locate a sent copy this morning.

I'm not sure how to proceed with her request for the County Commissioners to have this reviewed, they're all Cc'd in her email.

Also, I think she's asking the Commissioners to overturn the decision to cancel the contracts with the volunteers.

Jess

Jesse Ferrari  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Nichols, Cathrene <CNICHOLS@spokanecounty.org>  
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 10:17 AM  
To: Ferrari, Jesse <JFERRARI@SpokaneCounty.org>  
Subject: RE: Director Ferrari

I thought this had already been sent?

Proudly Serving,  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Ferrari, Jesse <JFERRARI@SpokaneCounty.org>  
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 7:22 AM  
To: Marie Pechous <marie496@msn.com>  
Cc: Wade Ramm <wjramm@gmail.com>; timmalick78@gmail.com; meow@frob.org; Nichols, Cathrene <CNICHOLS@spokanecounty.org>; Hobbs Doyle, Nick <NHOBBSDOYLE@SpokaneCounty.org>; Kerns, Josh <JKERNS@spokanecounty.org>; Kuney, Mary <MKUNEY@spokanecounty.org>; French, Al <AFRENCH@spokanecounty.org>; chris\_jordan@me.com; amber.spokane@gmail.com  
Subject: RE: Director Ferrari

Marie/Dog Team,

Touching base with you again to ensure that the information provided to you is the most accurate.

During our last meeting, you asked:

1. Why a biopsy was not done.
2. Questioned the length of time between intake exam on 13 Nov and humane euthanasia and why was the decision made to euthanize on Monday morning at 10am.

The reason no biopsy was done is because a biopsy would have been required for each of the 20+ lumps that were discovered. Additionally, the mass appeared to follow the lymph system which would have required extensive surgery followed by an extensive recovery time with little/no guarantee that the cancer would not return.

There is a need to define what a biopsy is and understand this to further understand the medical reasoning behind

why a biopsy was not performed and was not indicated in such case as Amelia's.

There are three types of "biopsies" that can be done and have pros/cons to each.

- a. FNA = Fine Needle Aspirate - this type is least invasive, only collects a few cells from mass/area being evaluated and needs to be done to every different lump/mass. This is not diagnostic in mammary cancers and not recommended for mammary growths as the cells do not exfoliate off well to be able to identify. Other growths around the body this is a typical first step sampling and done usually at a first stage when a singular mass is identified on an animal to help determine what mass is. Not done in Amelia's case as would not be of diagnostic value due to how many masses and mammary masses FNA samples are not recommended to be done as poor diagnostic value and inconclusive.
- b. Incisional Biopsy - This is done under anesthesia and this would require taking a portion of EACH mass to send off for evaluation (histopathology). Is painful, has a 2 week healing process and then would need another anesthetic procedure for removal/further surgery to remove the masses in entirety if possible after results. Risks of incisional biopsies not healing, cancerous masses on abdomen/mammary do tend not to heal if this type of biopsy is performed as it leaves the remainder of the mass/cells/cancer there and you just agitated the cancer by disrupting each mass and only taking a portion of it. If you do not get a good enough portion may be inconclusive and not diagnostic.
- c. Excisional Biopsy - Removal of entire mass(es) and sent off for evaluation (histopathology). This is the largest surgery, most invasive, most painful, but is most diagnostic as you get the whole mass and histopathology can be conclusive with this type of sample submission. With one or two masses this is what is done when identified in the mammary chain. When there is as many masses as Amelia had this is unethical at the stage she was at to put her through a surgical procedure that was going to be multiple anesthetic procedures, unable to remove all the masses, and will have to leave some masses there as there is not enough dog skin on her abdomen to be able to safely remove the masses and have enough to close up the surgical sites risking infection, dehiscence/non-healing and extended pain for a condition we already know has metastases as it is in all glands and in her lungs and lymph system from her physical examination and clinical medical context.
- d. Thus a "Biopsy" was not indicated in her case and not performed. As a medical professional you take the entire case, clinical context, physical exam findings, diagnostic findings and individual animal into consideration to guide medical advice and what is best indicated for each patient. Doing a biopsy would not have extended her life or changed course of the medical recommendations as we clinically already had answers and can show/see the nature of the masses are neoplastic/cancerous.

2. Questioned the length of time between intake exam on 13 Nov and humane euthanasia and why was the decision made to euthanize on Monday morning at 10am:

The decision was made on Friday 27 Jan to euthanize on Monday 30 Jan. an email was sent to SCRAPS staff members informing them of the decision and asked for those involved with Amelia's care to spend some time with her/spoil her over the weekend.

Time line below:

15 Nov - Masses observed (Vet) and noted that further exam and diagnostics were needed.

22 Nov - Vet working on possible surgery date and noted mass removal and spay IF was possible

\*HOLIDAY Closure

1 Dec - Blood draw & x-rays recommended (this was recommended prior to a surgery due to extensive masses)

16 Dec - Noted favoring left hind leg

20 Dec - Vet re-requested x-rays from community partner/clinic - no response

20 Dec - 1st contact w/ Furry Farm in-person at SCRAPS

\*TWO HOLIDAY Closures

Staff reached out to several shelters Furry Farm was the only one to respond for possible transfer. They said they would conduct an evaluation before making a determination on taking her. With that information, Amelia's surgery was put on hold with the thinking that stitches/recovery may impeded her intake evaluation and decrease her chances of successfully passing her intake exam and making it to a foster home. In time from 20 Dec to Jan 17, we waited on the response and followed up on January 17th to set up an evaluation for January 26th .

26 Jan - Amelia did not do well with her Furry Farm evaluation. Her behavior issues exhausted her possibilities for transfer and there were no other rescues interested in her. It was then that additional Shelter DVMs were consulted and agreed that Amelia was not a good surgical candidate based on the amount of masses and progression of the her cancer.

27 Jan - Additional x--rays were taken in house and confirmed Vet concerns for metastasis. Amelia's masses would continue to grow and her Quality of life would continue to decrease.

27 Jan - An email about Amelia's condition was sent to the staff members involved with her care and behavior modification asking if anyone wanted to be present. It also asked everyone to shower her with love/treats over weekend.

10:00am was chosen as the time because it was the only time that everyone who wanted to be with Amelia when she passed was available.

Dr. notes from 30 Jan - 1/30/23: Mammary lump mapping -Starting right front mammary gland 2cm firm nodule, second mammary gland 3cm firm lump, fourth mammary gland 4cm lump with a multitude >15 small lumps palpated firm ~1cm extending around and laterally and medially from this gland and central mass appears to follow lymph system, fifth and caudal gland on right sides swollen with brown discharge. Left side mammary chain, between glands two and three 3cm firm mass, fourth mammary gland 4-5cm mass with fluid pocket that is red/inflamed and on the verge of rupture, fifth gland has largest 5-6cm mass firm within swollen caudal mammary glands. Difficult to palpate inguinal lymph nodes but some of the reported intermittent limping could be due to swelling/discomfort on mammary chain. Patient does have small dermal 1.5cm skin nodule on left hind medical hock. Xray in house non-sedated on 1/27 difficult to fully evaluate due to Patient size/overweight, regardless there are concerns for possible growth/mass in caudal lung field- dfdx: metastasis. Additionally Behavior tested dog with potential rescue partner - dog shows intense stare, weight shift forward, unable to be redirected, mouth open and intent to bite when attempted to be introduced to another dog even from across the room. High drive and arousal. P has been kennel fighting when taken out of her kennel each time for evaluation, even if adjacent kennel is unoccupied goes straight for barking, snarling at adjacent kennel when leashed up. Discussed with FF about placement, per email above they as well do not feel safe placing this dog and with medical concerns were in agreeance that humane euthanasia is the most ethical decision for this dog. Consulted with three colleagues about this case, if surgical correction would be attempted would it be humane option and would we be extending her quality of life. All three after discussion, as well agreed with my assessment that potential surgical removal would only be extending the inevitable and increasing pain/discomfort with how many mammary masses she has, even without histopathology the tendencies and quantity of presentation present as suspected to be malignant. As well without a good end term solution/safe placement with her medical/behavioral conditions she is a safety risk and would need to be in a very specific placement with advanced handler, no other animal placement, to be able to manage behavioral concerns. Taking this all into consideration, discussed with shelter director and decision was made humane euthanasia is recommended. This animal is in a position where her quality of life is unable to be extended and end stage disease will progress, to not prolong discomfort humane euthanasia was performed 1/30.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Marie Pechous <marie496@msn.com>

Sent: Friday, March 10, 2023 6:54 AM

To: Ferrari, Jesse <jferrari@spokanecounty.org>

Cc: kvv278@hotmail.com; Elicia Spotts <elicia1121@yahoo.com>; candicemorgan00@outlook.com; Wade Ramm <wjramm@gmail.com>; timmalick78@gmail.com; meow@frob.org; Nichols, Cathrene

<cnichols@spokanecounty.org>; Hobbs Doyle, Nick <NHOBBSDOYLE@spokanecounty.org>; Kerns, Josh

<jkerns@spokanecounty.org>; Kuney, Mary <mkuney@spokanecounty.org>; French, Al

<afrench@spokanecounty.org>; chris\_jordan@me.com; amber.spokane@gmail.com

Subject: Director Ferrari

Good Morning,

As of this morning 03/10/23, we have not received any acknowledgement of our past email sent on 2/23/23. To reiterate, we are requesting that you send our request to the county commissioners to have Amelia's case reviewed by an outside independent party. In addition, we would also like the decision to terminate 3 dog volunteers contracts to be reviewed as well. They are Candice Morgan Valois, Elicia Spotts, and Bryanna Franzen.

We would appreciate a response by Wednesday the 15th of March 2023. We will take your typical non response to be your final decision on this matter and we will seek all other remedies.