

I am writing this email because of recent news features I saw discussing concerns about Nevada Humane Society.

I work at a local veterinary clinic and believe it is important to give a voice to those pets in our lives who are not able to speak up for themselves. Because I want to protect my clinic and my position in the clinic I would like to remain anonymous. I can tell you that I work closely with clients and their pets in a clinic setting and have many years of experience working with people and their animals in this type of setting. The timing of 2 clients coming into our clinic on the heels of seeing several news stories made the situations I want to share with you even more impactful. I trust that the info I provide about the pets and owners identified in this email will be handled delicately and respectfully as they have already gone through so much hardship and heartache.

Last week we saw a sweet 8 year old, neutered male Pitbull named Hank. Hank's owner Christine adopted him from Nevada Humane Society a week earlier. She lives alone now and wanted a companion to keep her company. She said in the shelter Hank was breathing hard and labored but no one there was concerned and she attributed it to him being older. She said when she got him home he began coughing when he would get excited and he wasn't eating much. She attributed this to him being in a new home but wanted to get him checked out by her own vet. When Hank came in for his exam he was a sweet and happy dog but was having difficulty breathing. We took radiographs of his lungs and although we normally do a 3 view series there was no need in this case. Hank had so many large lesions in his lungs that the cause was very obvious to all our staff.

Below is a portion of his physical exam with abnormalities highlighted:

**Eyes:** **Eyelid mass OS superior lid touching cornea and black dermal mass** OD superior medial canthi and lower right eyelid

**Ears:** No exudate observed, no redness present externally

**Oral Cavity:** Teeth are free from excessive tartar, no gingivitis present but gingival hyperplasia present diffusely

**Dental Grade** I

**FAS** 0 /5

**Nasal Cavity:** No obvious abnormalities observed

**Cardiovascular:** **Abnormal: tachycardia**, no murmur auscultated

**Respiratory:** **Abnormal: increased inspiratory effort with increased lung sounds**

**Abdomen** Abdomen palpates normally; no pain, tenderness or masses on palpation

**Rectal:** Did not perform rectal exam

**Musculoskeletal:** Normal ambulation

and from Treatment Plan:

Diagnostics Performed:

**3 view chest rads: stopped after one view due to diffuse metastatic pulmonary lesions**  
**Senior Screen - cancelled due to metastatic dz**

Treatments Performed: None

Medications Prescribed: prednisone and cerenia palliation

**Prognosis: 5**

1. Good – Favorable outcome is expected and / or maybe easily managed
2. Fair – Favorable outcome possible and / or manageable
3. Guarded – Possible outcome is unknown
4. Poor – Non-favorable outcome is expected
5. **Grave – Death is imminent**

**Hank had Metastatic Pulmonary lesions - lung metastasis** is a cancerous growth in the **lung** that got its start from cancer cells originating somewhere else in the body.

There was nothing else medically to be done for Hank because the cancer in his lungs was so far advanced, His owner was devastated as she already bonded with this sweet dog only to be told one week post adoptions that her dog was dying from very advanced cancer. Our Vet prescribed medication to help make him comfortable (relieve his pain and entice him to eat) so Christine could take Hank home for the weekend and spoil him before returning to euthanize him on the following Monday. Hank's breathing issues did not just develop in the week that Christine had the dog in her care and she said she noticed it at time of adoptions but no one there was concerned.

This poor dog was suffering with breathing issues for some time and likely not eating much prior to adoption as well. Not only do I find it concerning that it was not diagnosed at the shelter but worry if she had not adopted this dog that he could have potentially still gone untreated and unnoticed and died a painful death.

The other instance that recently came to my attention was a cat Named Loki; a 8 year old, black and white, neutered male cat. Loki's owner Nick brought him in to be seen by our vet and told us that he adopted a bonded pair of cats (Loki and Thanos) at Nevada Humane Society a few months ago. He told me that when he adopted the pair that Loki was wearing a plastic cone around his neck but Thanos was not. He said that although they were closely bonded and together in the shelter NHS told him Loki had fleas and Thanos did not and that was why Loki had a cone one. (Of note fleas are very easily spread to other animals in close proximity) He said they gave him no medical history, no medications to take home and no mention of treatment at the shelter, let alone no instructions on when the cone could come off. When he inquired about medications they told him he was not on any medications. Nick brought Loki to see us because post adoption he continued to scratch himself aggressively to the point of causing open wounds on his neck and ears despite no evidence of fleas on either cat. After testing it was determined that Loki had serious food allergies and needs to be on a hydrolyzed diet to prevent further injuries and placed on medication to relieve his painful itching so wounds could heal and to help alleviate his pain. Once again it seems like

this animal was suffering in the shelter and the solution was to put a cone on the cat instead of trying to figure out what was really going on health wise. The prescription diet can be quite costly and this owner adopted the cat without any forewarning of the potential additional costs of repeated veterinary visits for allergy treatment and prescription food.

I work at one clinic and these two cases presented themselves with in the last few weeks, I recall other stories from other clients about their adopted pets for Nevada Humane Society needing additional medical care post adoptions but did not give it much thought until the recent news about Nevada Humane Society. It makes me wonder how many other animals are being brought to other clinic with similar untreated/unidentified health issues and potentially being adopted by clients who are not prepared for sick animals or the costs associated with medical care but don't find out until they are already bonded with their new pet.

Sincerely,  
A concerned veterinary professional and animal lover