

January 22, 2007

ACO Gail Foguth
Crawford County Sheriff Department
200 W. Michigan Ave.
Grayling, MI 49738

Dear Ms. Foguth:

Thank you again for taking the time to hear my concerns regarding the yellow labrador retriever that you picked up at XXXX Stephan Bridge Rd, on January 11, 2007.

Since we met, I have continued my own questioning into this matter, and have gained additional information. You requested that if I learned anything new, you would like to be made aware, and such is the purpose of this letter. Here is what I now believe, and why:

- 1) I believe the woman who called in the report of a stray dog in her car port is not telling the truth;
- 2) I believe the dog was deliberately placed in her car port, and did not get there on its own accord;
- 3) I believe that someone deliberately allowed this dog to reach the sickening condition it was found in;
- 4) I believe the woman's son (Larry Baumgart is his name, I think) could possibly be involved.
- 5) Yesterday morning (January 21, 2007), I spoke with an individual who confirmed that Larry Baumgart owns or owned a yellow labrador, as well as a golden retriever. (This person and her spouse saw Mr. Baumgart with these dogs this past summer.)
- 6) The individual and her spouse mentioned above remember overhearing a conversation at the TeePee Motel and Restaurant in Roscommon in which unknown persons were speaking disapprovingly of Larry Baumgart and his raising of dogs.
- 7) I believe that there is a possibility that the dog picked up at XXXX Stephan Bridge Road on January 11th, 2007, came from an illegal 'puppy mill', and that this puppy mill could still be operating in Crawford or Roscommon counties. I believe this should be looked into, and be proven true or false.
- 8) Lastly: I believe I could be wrong, as I have been wrong many times before.

I do not have proof to back up my beliefs. I have no solid evidence. I understand the ideas and theories I have presented are circumstantial, and clearly admit that I do not have all the facts. But here *is* a fact: I truly hope that I am wrong. I know there are numerous other scenarios that could come into play. But three full days of knocking on doors and making phone calls last week has only raised more questions. In no way do I believe that the dog somehow 'wandered' or 'crawled' to the woman's car port. And the fact that she (Mrs. Baumgart) will no longer talk to me raises deeper suspicions that she knows more than what she's saying. *(Please note that in no way did I pose any questions to the woman that were less than sincere, and in no way did I*

accuse her, or anyone, of any wrongdoing. It was after I'd spoken to her that I began to realize things just weren't adding up.) I did not approach this situation as an 'investigator,' nor am I an 'investigative reporter' . . . and I don't pretend to be. I simply write various feature pieces for local and regional magazines, in addition to works of fiction. What began as a short feature story for a magazine has turned into something bigger than I could have imagined. Yes, I feel a bit out of my league in this situation, but I am so saddened, enraged, and heartbroken over what happened to this poor animal that I feel I must do *something*.

Ms. Foguth, the purpose of this letter is to ask you to request that the Crawford County Sheriff's Department open a criminal investigation into this matter and look deeper into this case. As a former Crawford County resident and a life-long dog lover, I take this deeply personal, as I know you do. I am prepared to do whatever I can as a law-abiding, private citizen to get to the bottom of what happened to this poor dog. You can count on nothing less than my full and complete cooperation in this matter.

Again: I hope that I am wrong about my 'puppy mill' theory. Even I must admit that it seems farfetched. Perhaps it is only someone with a few dogs, which might not be considered a 'mill'. But this much I am certain of: someone allowed that dog to reach the deplorable condition he was found in, and that person should be held accountable for his or her actions.

And please note that *if* the woman who made the initial call regarding the 'found' dog is somehow responsible through any circumstance, it should be known that she has three more dogs in her care. Although I have personally seen two of these animals and found them to be well-cared for, what are we to expect from someone who has allowed a yellow labrador to suffer in such excruciating, disgusting conditions for weeks upon weeks?

I appreciate your time and consideration. I will be out of town this week, but I will make myself available during this time by cell phone or e-mail.

Sincerely,

Chris Wright