

June 5, 2007

Mr. Ed Nellist
Roscommon County Building
500 Lake St.
Roscommon, MI 48653

Dear Mr. Nellist:

My name is Chris Wright, and I am the author of a website called www.thorswarriors.com. The purpose of the site is to draw attention to an animal cruelty case in Roscommon County.

Roscommon Prosecutor Mark Jernigan states that there 'was not enough evidence' to prosecute Larry Baumgart for animal cruelty. However, the 3 veterinarians who actually treated the six labradors removed from Baumgart's home state:

“ . . .these six rescued dogs had very likely been in a condition of starvation for greater than three weeks in order to lose such a large percentage of their body weight . . .”

“Their poor Body Condition Scores were definitely not a result of an acute episode of starvation, but rather a chronic process.”

“ . . . it is our professional opinion that these six dogs were living in a chronic condition of neglect and starvation prior to their rescue.”

Dr. Greg Brown, D.V.M., also stated that in his 18 years as a vet, he's NEVER seen dogs in such deplorable condition. He went on to say in a television interview on NBC 25, that *“Michigan is supposed to be known as the state with the strictest animal protection laws in the country, and I guess that's true . . . unless it's in Roscommon County.”*

Further, Mr. Jernigan stated in the Roscommon Herald-News that in 2005, all dogs weighed 3-5 pounds more than what they did when they were removed from Baumgart. Well, all dogs each have now gained at least 20 pounds, and a few have gained 30-40 pounds . . . nearly doubling their weight. Despite the fact that Mr. Jernigan says there 'wasn't enough evidence' to prosecute Baumgart for animal cruelty, the facts are clear: **these dogs were living in a state of chronic starvation prior to their rescue.**

I urge you to insist that Mr. Baumgart be held accountable in Roscommon County for the dogs he was starving. Yes, he is being prosecuted in Crawford County on one charge of animal cruelty. But the actual cruelty took place in Roscommon . . . YOUR county. And there were more than just one dog involved. Additionally, the accused had a kennel license, and has had previous complaints

against him for neglecting his dogs. Why wasn't he under closer scrutiny by Roscommon Animal Control? Note that the accused was recently **re-issued a kennel license**, and continues to own dogs. If he had been arrested and charged in Roscommon, his kennel license could easily have been revoked. Clearly, Mr. Baumgart shouldn't be raising an ant farm, let alone dogs.

I have included a copy of the vet statement for your review, along with the statement of the vet tech, and statements of the foster families who initially cared for the dogs. Please read through these, and ask yourself: "why wasn't this man prosecuted in my county, where the crimes occurred?"

I ask that Roscommon County bring animal cruelty charges against Larry Baumgart. Additionally, I ask that you look into the actions of animal control officer Terry MacKillop, and ask why, in light of overwhelming evidence, did he decide not to arrest Baumgart for animal cruelty.

Sincerely,

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