

ATTACHMENT A

September 7, 2022

Neil Hornish, 584 Thrall Avenue

We were notified that tonight the Board may vote to end our ability to bring blankets and treats to our dog. We hope that this is no longer the case after our attorney spoke with Mr. Donnelly earlier this week. If the Board still intends to vote, we would like to be heard.

Since before January 20, 2021, when the Board of Selectmen voted to end our visitation of our dog, Dexter, we have gone to River Valley Animal Hospital every single day the office is open to bring these simple comforts to our dog.

The Town Attorney, Mr. Donnelly, cited – quote – “there continues to be aggravating circumstances at the River Valley Animal hospital” -- end quote. We don't know the details of the alleged charges, but I can state that no aggravating circumstances exist. We have always been courteous and polite to all the staff at River Valley, and we have a very friendly relationship with the staff.

The only difference that occurred last week is that we requested a stool sample from our dog to be tested by our vet, because Dexter had experienced recent bouts of diarrhea. The only time we have spoken directly to Dr. Sachdev since December was after a previous bout of diarrhea when Dr. Sachdev suggested that we switch the treats from steak to chicken, which we did. During that meeting, Dr. Sachdev saw fit to show us a picture of the diarrhea, but not a picture of our dog, who we have not seen for almost 20 months. Our request for a stool sample was a simple and reasonable request, to which River Valley did not express an objection. They said they'd get a sample for us. There was no drama. Yet a couple of days later our attorney receives an email from Mr. Donnelly stating that not only will the Town not allow our vet to analyze a stool sample, but this Board will vote to end our ability to bring blankets and treats.

It is not your role to act in a punitive fashion.

We've offered multiple times to resolve this. We offered solutions that could address any liability concerns and would cost the Town nothing. We even have a fencing plan approved by Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo – all solutions at no cost to the Town. But this Board has refused to even meet with us, and it's going on 3 years now.

We hope that tonight this Board will not repeat their previous mistake of summarily acting on fabricated allegations without even attempting to determine the veracity of the charges.

I ask that these comments be entered into the meeting minutes.

Thank you.