

Rose Anne Fierro
4115 Meadow Lane
Seaford, N. Y. 11783
516-799-6948 phone
516-541-3682 fax
March 15, 1999

Mr. David Horton
President, Doberman Pinscher Club of America
2 Poe Lane
Westford MA 01886

Dear Mr. Horton :

I have been involved with Doberman Pinscher rescue since 1982 and have been a member of the Doberman Pinscher Club of American (DPCA) for approximately 20 years. I am also on the DPCA's COPE/Rescue list as one of their approved rescue groups. I have received numerous awards in recognition of my work in rescue including the GAINES MEDAL presented through the Nassau/Suffolk Owner Handlers Association.

I am writing to you regarding a problem involving a puppy which I bred and a rescue group operating out of Maryland. This organization is called Doberman Assistance, Rescue and Education, Inc. (DARE). Theresa Wilds of 4611 Burlington Road, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781 is the president of this group. They have been in existence for approximately one year.

Last November, I placed a show puppy with Ms. Wilds on a trial basis. No papers or money were exchanged pending my ascertaining whether this actually was a good home for the pup. On February 21st after Mrs. Teresa Wilds failed again to show up for a scheduled appointment with the puppy, I went to her home with Mrs. Dee Ryan Shaw. The AKC letter attached along with additional documentation will provide you with the relevant details. The conditions under which Ms. Wilds maintained the animals was horrendous, beyond anything I have seen in my 17 years in rescue. (1 & 2) AKC case #9901329

If you will recall, this is essentially a repeat of an incident which occurred on January 3, 1998 involving Sharon Schiele, 357 Third Avenue, Phoenixville, Pa. 19460 and Becky Johnston, 17 Meadow Lane, Haverford, Pa. 19041, who are members of the Delaware Valley Doberman Pinscher Assistance, DVDPA. In that incident, they were accused by DARE of puppy kidnapping after they had to remove some puppies of theirs from Ms. Wilds home with the assistance of law enforcement personnel. It was my understanding that at that time several members of the DPCA's COPE wanted to prosecute Ms. Schiele and Ms. Johnston for puppy kidnapping. I understand that no action was taken as the DPCA'S function is not prosecution in nature and also because neither DARE nor the DVDPA were receiving funds from COPE. Thus there was little reason for the DPCA to become involved in this matter. At that time you may

not have been made aware of the conditions that existed at the Wilds home, and thus I am attaching a copy of Becky Johnston's letter at the time of that incident (3) At this time however, DARE is receiving DPCA/COPE funds. (4)

Like the previous incident - the Internet sympathy campaign is being played again by the same individuals on behalf of the principal individual involved - Teresa Wilds.

I am writing to you not in an attempt to have you investigate the inhumane circumstances that the rescue (and other) dogs are being kept under -- I will leave that to the AKC and the Prince George County Humane Society (Maryland Humane Society) officials to pursue -- but to bring to your attention what I consider to be an abuse of office by the current chair of COPE/Rescue, Ms. Sharon Hildebrand.

Immediately, after reclaiming my dog, February 21st, I contacted Gwen Lucoff about the condition of both my puppy and the other animals there and to inform her that what she was told last year and her involvement in the incident with DVDPA was incorrect. She referred my e-mail to Sharon Hildebrand the current chair of COPE and Colleen Taylor a member of DARE without consulting me first, to investigate this matter. (5) However, Mrs. Hildebrand never once asked me or Dee Ryan Shaw what took place .

On February 22nd and February 23rd Mrs. Dee Ryan Shaw and myself received two e-mail's (see attached) from both Ms. Conigliaro and from Ms. Sharon Hildebrand. Both these e-mail's, "YOUR ACTIONS" are threatening and are a blatant attempt to coerce both Ms. Ryan and me from reporting the inhumane conditions that we observed at the Wilds' residence. Ms. Hildebrand even goes so far as to use her employment status with the State of Virginia to intimidate me. (6 & 7)

Additionally, on March 9, 1999 (see attached 8) I received an even more threatening e-mail from Ms. Hildebrand relating to what she perceives to be "false reports" and what she intends to do to us. What report she is referring to - I have no idea.

On March 3rd, I received a call from Judy McClain, 301-776-5545, of the Prince George County Humane Society, P. O. Box 695, Laurel, Maryland 20510. I had previously made some inquiries to the Akita rescue people and someone gave her my number. She told me that she had received a complaint from a health care worker on the conditions at Mrs. Teresa Wild home on Feb. 12th and that they had a planned visit to for her hobby permit on March 9th. This appointment was made on February 10th. Due to a snow storm, the inspection was done on March 10th. The inspection resulted in a number of summons being issued, including citations for both animal abuse and animal neglect. Mr. Joan Kratko did the inspection and took numerous photos. Mr. George Whiting is the director of this facility and stated to me that his report is not finished but that he would talk to you if you so desired. His phone number is 301-499-8301 and fax 301-499-8329. Mrs. Wilds had a month to prepare for this inspection. I believe they found 23 dogs mostly Dobermans and 4 cats in deplorable living conditions.

On March 10th Athy Conigliaro, Treasurer of DARE and according to her e-mail the Vice President of the Metropolitan Baltimore Doberman Pincher Club, posted to

one of the major Internet dobe lists that there were "false" animal control reports being made against their group. Their were no "false" reports. This was a planned hobby kennel license inspection. (9)

That evening, at approximately 7 PM, Mrs. Hildbrand called me at home screaming in a threatening manner and once again reminding me of her status as an "officer of the court". She told me I could be arrested for taking my pup across state lines and that SHE was the "head" of the COPE committee. I told her that none of this would have happened had she corrected the situation at Teresa Wilds home in the first place when she had to know last year that the conditions were inhumane. That her job was to preserve and protect the breed and not to cover up and "protect" the conditions at the home of Teresa Wilds, president of DARE. She told me that she had seen my puppy at Teresa Wilds and the other dogs in her possession and that they were all "fine". When I asked "when" she said "I don't have to answer that." I told her "Sharon at some point you will have to answer that". I told her - you were asked to "work" with me on this matter and you have done nothing but threaten me and aggravated the situation why- because you knew all along what the situation was at Teresa Wilds home and you have supported them through the COPE funds. I asked her what her affiliating was with DARE as she is so protective of them last year and now. I told her that I will ask for a full accounting of COPE funds and the distribution of these funds to DARE. I hung up as her screaming and threats became too much.

Again on March 11th, Athy Conigliaro posted yet another misrepresentation of what happened to one of the major Internet dobe lists with over 1000 members after the Human Society visit, and goes on and on about "litigation". There is no litigation involved here, so I can only believe it was posted as another intimidation tactic against anyone who may question their ethics. These posts are attached. (10)

I would hope that the DPCA does not condone the chairman of one of its most visible committees to use her office in such a disgraceful way. I believe that Ms. Hildebrand's actions are (1) extremely inappropriate for the chair of COPE and (2) may represent a conflict of interest given her present involvement with both COPE and DARE. Furthermore, may I suggest that until the proper investigations have been completed by the AKC and the Prince George County (Maryland) Humane Society, that at the very least Ms. Hildebrand be put on administrative

leave from her official COPE duties and that DARE be suspended from receiving any more COPE funds.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rose Anne Fierro

attachments

- 1/ AKC letter 2/28/99
- 2/ Dee Ryan Shaw letter 2/24/99
- 3/ Becky Johnston letter 1/13/98
- 4/ Athy Conigliaro e-mail COPE 3/9/99
- 5/ Gwen Lucoff e-mail 2/21/99
- 6/ Athy Conigliaro e-mail 2/22/99
- 7/ Sharon Hildebrand e-mail 2/23/99
- 8/ Sharon Hildebrand e-mail 3/9/99
- 9/ Athy Conigliaro e-mial 3/10/99
- 10/ Athy Conigliaro e-mail 3/11/99