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THURSTON CO. DIST. COURT

# IN THE THURSTON COUNTY DISTRICT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON.

Plaintiff

v.

CAROLYN LATTIN & DEBBIE LATTIN,

Defendant

No. 17-M000154, 17-M000155

EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND MOTION TO RETURN LIVESTOCK IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT SODOMY OF THE GOATS

COMES NOW the Defendants, Carolyn Lattin and Debbie Lattin, by and through their undersigned attorney Justin Kover, to offer this Emergency Motion to Return Livestock Immediately to Prevent Sodomy of the Goats to the parties, and to the Court.

#### INTRODUCTION

The agents of Thurston County who are housing the goats which were seized in this case are guilty of the most heinous neglect imaginable. The Defendants offer proof from a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine that the goats in this case are not just being neglected, but that the young bucklings are the victims of sodomy perpetrated by the grown bucks. This is a result of the complete and utter lack of knowledge on basic goat husbandry.

#### **DECLARATION**

1. I am Justin Kover, Counsel for the Defendants in this case.

EMERGENCY MOTION TO RETURN LIVESTOCK/PREVENT SODOMY -1 State v. C. & D. Lattin

Justin Kover, Attorney at Law (360) 951-6962 justinkover@hotmail.com

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- 2. On or about September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 I met with DPA Aaron Young, Deputy Sheriff Sergeant Roland Weiss, one Deputy Shipley, Kathy Bailey, Ajai Singh Khalsa, Deputy Sheriff Carrie Nastansky, Dr. Jason Humphrey, DVM, and the Defendants at Thurston County Animal Services on Martin Way in Olympia.
- 3. Dr. Humphrey examined the goats pursuant to the order of this Court.
- 4. Dr. Humphrey sent us his report that day. His report indicates that the goats are suffering severe neglect at the location they are currently housed, including:
  - The female doelings are being underfed according to an inappropriate diet. See *Vet Report, September 12, 2017, Item #1*.
  - The doelings are not being dehorned, a procedure that would have occurred has Thurston County not seized the goats. See *Vet Report, September 12, 2017, Item #2*.
  - The goat kids are not being properly vaccinated, though they have received some sort of vaccination. See *Vet Report, September 12, 2017, Item #3*.
  - The bucklings are being sodomized by the grown bucks, with whom the bucklings should never have been housed while they are rutting. See *Vet Report*, *September 12*, 2017, *Item #4*.
  - The bucklings have not been castrated, and to do so now that the proper time has passed will greatly increase the suffering of those kids. See *Vet Report, September 12, 2017, Item #5*.
  - Lameness issues (such as hoof rot) which are not being addressed. This is, for all intents and purposes, what the Defendants are being charged with on far weaker evidence. See *Vet Report, September 12, 2017, Item #6.*
- 5. Dr. Humphrey finds that the removal of the goats from the Lattin Farm was arbitrary and capricious because in his sixteen (16) years of practicing veterinary medicine he has never seen an animal be confiscated from an owner without a prior examination from a veterinarian who has determined that the owners are not following an established care plan. See *Vet Report*, *September 12, 2017, Item #7*.
- 6. This report was alarming, but as Counsel for the Defendants I was mindful that the Court desired a care plan from a veterinarian before it would consider releasing the goats to the Defendants.

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7. On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 I received that care plan and filed this motion. See *Vet Report, September 21, 2017*.

# STATEMENT OF ISSUE

Can this Court return the Defendants' goats to them immediately to prevent further neglect and suffering at the hands of Hooved Animal Rescue? The answer is yes.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

See Vet Report, September 12, 2017 and Vet Report, September 21, 2017.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

The Defendant respectfully requests the following relief from the Court:

- 1. That all livestock seized from the Defendants shall be returned immediately.
- 2. That the Defendants attorney fees be paid by the State.
- 3. That the Thurston County Sheriff apologize to Mrs. Lattin for what she and her family has suffered at the hands of his Deputies.

DATED this 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, 2017:

Respectfully submitted by:

JUSTIN KOVER, WSBA #51117 Attorney for the Defendant

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Justin Kover, Attorney at Law (360) 951-6962 justinkover@hotmail.com

## **CONFIRMATION OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, a copy of the foregoing request was hand delivered and sent by e-mail to Jon Tunheim, Thurston County Prosecutor, care of Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Aaron Young at <a href="mailto:younga@co.thurston.wa.us">younga@co.thurston.wa.us</a>, and hand delivered to the Clerk of Courts.

Justin Kover

EMERGENCY MOTION TO RETURN LIVESTOCK/PREVENT SODOMY -4 State v. C. & D. Lattin

Justin Kover, Attorney at Law (360) 951-6962 justinkover@hotmail.com





Chns Affeldt, D.V.M.
Jason Humphrey, D.V.M.
Chet Iverson, D.V.M.
Dina Wild, D.V.M.
Ashley Ritter, D.V.M.
Erin Ruminski, D.V.M.
Sara Howard, D.V.M.
Sara Howard, D.V.M.

1305 South Gold Street • Centralia, Washington 98531
Phone: 360-736-3361 • Fax: 360-736-1085 • www.cascadewestvet.com

September 12, 2017

# To whom it may concern:

On the above date I examined 18 goats confiscated by Thurston County Sheriff's Department at the Thurston County Animal Service Center. The findings are in the table that follows. Identification is based on the tag numbers that are on the goat's collars if present; if not present, a description. My primary veterinary concerns, after examination of the animals in question, regarding the housing and husbandry of these goats while in the possession of Thurston County are as follows:

- The female doelings, especially the individual labeled Nubian Doeling with Horns, are underweight and should be housed separately from the adult females and fed a diet appropriate for young ruminants.
- 2. The above mentioned doeling has not been dehorned while the rest of the herd has been. This would have been done at the farm, had the doeling been left with the herd.
- Based on my discussion with the Thurston County staff responsible for the care of these goats, this year's kids have been inadequately vaccinated, receiving only a one CD&T vaccine in July with no booster in the label recommended 4-6 week time frame.
- 4. The adult bucks are being allowed to mount and sodomize the young bucklings.
- 5. The bucklings have not been castrated, and although they are of an age that still could be done the surgical complications and pain associated with the procedure are greatly increased. Surgeries at an appropriate age would have been done at the farm had the bucklings been left with the herd.
- 6. There are lameness issues within the herd that are not being addressed.
- 7. During my 16 years of practicing as a large animal veterinarian I have been a part of multiple animal welfare cases in involving Sheriff's departments of Lewis, Thurston and Pierce Counties. Never has there been a time when animals were confiscated prior to a veterinarian examining the animals. The only times that animals were confiscated was when the owners of the animals in question failed to comply with the health plan the examining veterinarian had put forth. I find the confiscation of these animals to arbitrary and capricious.





Chris Affeldt, D.V.M. Jason Humphrey, D.V.M. Chet Iverson, D.V.M. Dina Wild, D.V.M. Ashley Ritter, D.V.M. Erin Ruminski, D.V.M. Sara Howard, D.V.M.

1305 South Gold Street • Centralia, Washington 98531
Phone: 360-736-3361 • Fax: 360-736-1085 • www.cascadewestvet.com

September 21, 2017

To whom it may concern:

During the last week I have completed the development of a herd management program for the goat herd of Lattin's Cider Mill. I recommend the confiscated goats be returned to the owners of Lattin's Cider Mill where they have a monitored herd health and nutrition program in place under my supervision. Once returned I will continue to provide veterinary oversite of care and treatment of the goat herd. The management program is summarized below.

- 1. Visual identification of all goats in herd.
- 2. Recording and maintaining treatment records for each animal in the herd.
- 3. Staff training for Body Condition Scoring, lameness evaluation, hoof care, animal handling and administration of vaccines and medications.
- 4. Implementation of vaccination and medical treatment protocols.
- 5. Monitoring of the compliance of the established herd management program.

If there are any further questions please feel free to contact me at the above numbers.

Sincerely,

Jason Humphrey, DVM

| Does and Doelings | Bucks and Bucklings                                     |
|-------------------|---|
| 25- BCS 2.5/5     | 222- BCS 2.5/5  |
| 159- BCS 3/5      | 274 PCC 2 F Ir  |
|                   | 324- BCS 2.5/5 Significant mounting by the adult bucks. |
| 17- BCS 3/5       | 161- BCS 2/5  |
|                   | Deformity on the heels of both front hooves.            |
| 209- BCS 2.5/5    | 23- BCS 2.5/5   |
|                   | Left hind hoof deformity                                |
| 362- BCS 2.5/5    | Hercules Adult Brown- BCS 3/5                           |
|                   | Lame in the RH unknown origin??                         |
| 408- BCS 2/5      | Zeus Adult Black and White- BCS 3/5                     |
|                   |   |

290- BCS 2.5/5

127-BCS2/5 320- BCS 2.5/5

Abscess on the right mandible

Nubian Doeling with Horns-BCS-1.5/5

Nubian Yearling with white ears-BCS 2/5

Nubian Doe Blk with Tan ears- BCS 3/5 unresolved hoof scald lesion both hind limbs

Please feel free to contact me regarding my examination of these animals.

Sincerely,

Jason Humphrey, DVM