

**SCHD Advisory Committee**  
**Dangerous Dog Appeal Hearing Minutes**  
**June 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm**

**Attendance**

Board Members: Jacqueline Howard, Dr. Jeffrey Bell, Dr. Elizabeth Bryan, Robert Butler, Dr. Cynthia Davis, Charlotte Harrell, Yire Hernandez, Allie McCullen

County Employees: Wanda Robinson, Joel Starling, SGT. Jessica Byrd and Cherish Allen

**Speakers:** Lisa Taylor, Michael Hope, SGT. Jessica Byrd

I. **Call to Order:** Dr. Jeffery Bell called Hearing to order. Dog in question is Zeus, Owner Lisa Taylor

II. **Dangerous Dog Hearing:**

a) Overview of Dangerous Dog Hearing Process: Dr. Jeffrey Bell reviewed Article 1A. Dangerous Dogs Sections (a) (1) a. and b; (2) a. b. and c. (See attached). Dr. Jeffrey Bell stated "Our process is we will have a statement from the owner, who will be given 5 min for her testimony. Then any witness will also be given 5 min uninterrupted. Then the board will ask any questions. Then we will hear from the plaintiff, if present. Then last we will hear from Officer Kittrell. Board will review facts we were given, then decide if we will uphold the officer's dangerous dog or overturn it."

b) Public Comment:

Dr. Jeffrey Bell called Mrs. Taylor to the table. Mrs. Taylor was sworn in under Oath by Wanda Robinson.

- Mrs. Taylor: She stated she has Zeus for 4 years. "In that time I have never had an issue with him attacking anything or anybody. I've had one dog attack him. What wasn't in the report was that the female was over at Mr. Newkirk's house had been in heat all week and she had been at my house the whole week. Playing with Zeus, being around him. And then I think that something was said to Mr. Newkirk and he tied her up. I have fought with Zeus all week trying to get him to come back in because he is a house dog, he's a house dog and then when he realized that she wasn't coming back over to play, he went to look her. And unfortunately this happened and it's my fault because I should have had him neutered. So I do not disgrunt him having the fight. But it was a natural behavior for two males, for two males to fight over a female in heat. Zeus is a very loving dog. Like I said I've never had this happen with him. I have people who have come into my yard that have been scared of dogs that say he is one of the most gentle dogs there is. Since then I've had Zeus neutered. I can show proof that I've had him neutered. I have microchipped him like yall requested and I've put everything in place. The only thing I am asking is not to list him as a dangerous dog cause he doesn't deserve it. I mean he was doing what was in his nature as a male dog. Anybody who has ever been around Zeus will be able to tell you that. It's just not fair to him for my stupidity. That's all I got to say."

Mr. McCullen then asked, "Did you say you have done certain things that were required?" Mrs Taylor stated "Yes Sir" She also stated that she had to microchip Zeus, pay the \$100 fee to the county to list him as a dangerous dog and put the \$100,000.00 Liability Insurance on her home policy; all to bring him home per the Officer. She states she also had Zeus neutered.

No further questions for Mrs. Taylor from the Board.

At his time Dr. Jeffrey Bell called Mr. Michael Hope to the table. Mr. Hope was sworn in under Oath by Wanda Robinson.

- Mr. Hope: "I've been neighbors with Zeus for the last 4 years. I got 6 grandkids and they age from 2 weeks to 13. Zeus has played with every one of my grandkids. He layed down in the yard with them, he's walked with them, he's protected them over snakes and stuff to make sure they didn't go near them, when they went walking. Zeus also sits down with me at the grill. When I go cooking and gets me in trouble sometimes because he aint supposed to have it but I can't tell him no, but uh, sometimes. But as far as danger? If he was a danger I would not allow none of my grandkids to go near him. And I mean I got small ones. Cause one that been around him that one years old is the youngest one that's been around him. And they pull on his tail and they pull on his ears. I mean, a dog aint going to let you do that if they're dangerous. You know what I mean? And Zeus has just been lovable. He's not even my dog and we actually care for him, I mean he comes in the yard and sits with me and plays with the kids. He does everything like he belongs to us, but he just doesn't. So, but uh, I mean I don't understand how anyone can say just because they were doing what's in their nature and to categorize him as something he's not. You know what I'm saying? So, that's it."

Mrs. Howard asked the question, "You said he's in your yard, hanging around and free. Is the owner with him during that time supervising?" Mr. Hope responded, "Yes, she's outside or you know, her or him (as he points to the young man sitting beside Mrs. Taylor) is sitting outside watching him. So I mean and if he's outside with me at the grill they may run in the house real quick and he's sitting right there beside me while I cook you know whatever I'm cooking, so."

Mrs. Harrell asked how often Zeus was in Mr. Taylor's yard without being leashed or directly supervised? Mr. Hope responded that this was not very often. It was only if they were outside.

No further questions for Mr. Hope from the Board.

Dr. Jeffrey Bell stated that the Plaintiff was not present. He then proceeds to call Sgt. Jessica Kittrell to the table to speak. Sgt. Jessica Kittrell was sworn in under Oath by Wanda Robinson.

- Sgt. Kittrell: Initially stated that, like the witness said, the dog does appear to be very people friendly. "If yall have any questions about my incident report, if you haven't had time to review it I will certainly give you an overview of the dog. The only thing I would add is the opportunity for yall look at the photos of the dog that was attacked." She instructed the board to swipe to the very end to see the photo that was taken during the actual attack. In the last photo the plaintiff's dog was cowed down on the ground while Zeus was still actively engaging in the attack.

Dr. Davis asked if there was any documentation stating if the female in question had been roaming the neighborhood prior to all of this? Sgt. Kittrell stated that prior to this incident she had not had complaints from either party. She stated that Mr. Newkirk had stated that Zeus had come in his yard and came up to him but was not aggressive towards him. Sgt. Kittrell stated that the only incident reported was that morning around 6:00am when the first call was called in and reported to a road Deputy. When the Deputy arrived Zeus was not around. Sgt. Kittrell stated that a second call was placed around 7:45am and she responded to this one. Mr. Newkirk had already went to Mrs. Taylor residence and spoke with Mrs. Taylor's Mother. Mr. Newkirk informed her that Zeus had been to his yard and attacked his dog pretty bad.

Sgt. Kittrell stated that when she arrived Zeus was still loose. Dr. Bryan questioned if the female was tethered at Sgt. Kittrell's arrival, she stated yes both dogs were tethered. There were both tethered to a 10x10 kennel by red light weight cable.

Mr. Butler asked "Was the female in heat and was she the cause of drawing this dog off the property?" Sgt. Kittrell stated that Mr. Newkirk did state that the female dog was in cycle and that was why he had put her in the kennel. Sgt. Kittrell said she did not feel comfortable examining the female dog, due to the female dog being defensive/aggressive towards her. The intact male was not showing any signs of aggression, but was noted to be extremely wounded during the visit.

Sgt. Kittrell explained the demographics of the area: Mrs. Taylor's residence is about a tenth of a mile down a private lane. Plaintiff's residence is across the road, which is Cabin Museum Road.

At this time Mr. Starling requested that Sgt. Kittrell send the shown photos to Mrs. Robinson so they could be included in the minutes.

Dr. Bryan asked if a lot of dogs run loose in this neighborhood. Sgt. Kittrell stated that since 2018 the only complaints she has had was Mrs. Taylor's dog, a call that Mrs. Taylor's ex-husband had been bit by a German Shepard that was owned by first residents on Cotton Lane and in the last 2 months a call about a stray pit bull that had been shot in the leg. Sgt. Kittrell states that these are the only calls of loose canines in that area from 2000 to current. Sgt. Kittrell

states that there is a lady in the neighborhood that will call if there is a loose dog. Sgt. Kittrell confirmed that prior to this, there had been no calls on Zeus or any official complaints on the two white dogs belonging to the Newkirks.

Mr. McCullen asks if we know why the Plaintiff is not here. Sgt. Kittrell stated that she does know that Mr. Newkirk works nightshift. Mrs. Wanda stated that they were invited and Cherish had called to inform them, they were well aware. Sgt. Kittrell explained that she knew he worked night shift because when she arrived after the complaint he had just got off of work.

Mr. Butler asked Sgt. Kittrell how far she would say a dog would travel for a female in heat. Sgt. Kittrell's response was "miles."

Dr. Jeffrey Bell asked if there were any other questions. No further questions.

c) Discussion:

Mr. Butler stated that as a dog owner and a hunting dog trainer, he stated "In my opinion this is a case of a natural occurring thing. If a dog is in heat they will go to them" He stated that he understands we have to keep our animals from leaving our property, but if you have another dog from the outside on your property, which makes this situation difficult.

Mr. McCullen stated that it bothers him when the plaintiff doesn't show up, even though he may have many reasons. He stated that it seems that Mrs. Taylor has tried in every way she can to comply with the rules and has done everything she would have to do to have a dangerous dog.

Dr. Bryan as what the steps were when having a dangerous dog. At this time the Board took a minute to review the steps that have to be taken by the dog owner to have a dangerous dog.

Mrs. Robinson asked Mr. Starling about our Ordinance. Mr. Starling stated that you are required to keep your animal so that it doesn't go off the property and cause injury or problems for other people. Mr. Starling continued to explain that if another dog came on to their property and their dog attacked that dog on THEIR property, it doesn't not qualify as a dangerous dog. It has to be off the property. Mr. Starling states that this is why they are always so concerned with whether the dog is off their property, or not.

Mrs. Howard questioned if the owner has already done all the things in compliance with a dangerous dog, then the element of a dangerous dog is already there. Mr. Starling responded that even though they voluntarily did these things to get the dog out of the pound, if the decision is reversed, the owner will not be required to maintain the other steps that come with having a dangerous dog; Liability Insurance, etc.

Mrs. Howard stated that her only concern was that the dog actually left the property because the other animal was in heat. Dr. Davis explained that the dog leaves the property all the time, Zeus just happen to get in a fight because the female was in heat. She stated that the fact that the dog doesn't show any dangerous issues towards human

is fantastic, but he is to other property pets. Dr. Bryan and Dr. Davis agreed that the main concern is the dog is leaving the property unattended at all hours of the night. Dr. Bryan stated at two and six in the morning. Dr. Davis stated that he is probably a great dog and that she does not question that.

Mr. Butler gave an example of a dog standing on their property and a person standing across the property line with a hot dog, saying "Here." Dr. Bryan stated but as an owner, you have a responsibility to keep your dog on your property. Mr. Butler stated that if he owned the dog in heat, maybe he would have locked her up. Dr. Bryan questioned how long Zeus was being left outside unattended. Mr. Butler stated it's not a factor that he was left outside unattended, as his dogs do the same. The problem comes when the dog leaves the yard.

Mrs. Harrell asked now that the dog has been neutered, how will that affect his behavior? Dr. Davis answered that you cannot determine any type of behavioral changes after castration.

Mrs. Harrell confirms with Sgt. Kittrell that there were no complaints on Zeus prior to this.

Dr. Bryan stated that it seems that the problem is that people just let their dogs run around and it was never an issue, until this incident.


Dr. Jeffrey Bell stated that he had been a dog owner in the past. That even though he had some great dogs, he had one that was aggressive to other dogs, which he had to keep in an electric fence. But he understood that if that dog were to have got out of his yard and attacked another dog, regardless of how good the dog was, with the rules that are in place, unfortunately that would have made that dog dangerous. He stated that even though Zeus sounds like a great dog, unfortunately the rules are in place. He stated that the good news is that it does seem that the family wants to keep their dog and the bad news is that when bad things happen you have to pay consequences.

Dr. Jeffrey Bell requested that the Board vote if no other questions or discussion. No other questions. He asked for a show of hands of all members that vote to uphold the Dangerous Dog determination; 7 members raised their hands. He then asked if any member opposed; 1 member raised their hand.

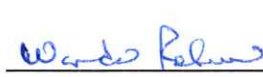
Determination of the Dangerous Dog, Zeus- Upheld.

Mrs. Taylor did receive a signed copy (see attached) of the determination letter.

**III. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by Dr. Jeffrey Bell.

  
Jeffrey G. Bell  
Chair

9-20-2021  
Date

  
Wanda Robinson  
Secretary

9/20/21  
Date

SCHD Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 19, 2021

**Attendance**

Advisory Board Members: Dr. Jeffrey Bell, Robert Butler, Linda Peterson, Jacqueline Howard, Linda Peterson

County Health Department and Administration: Edwin Causey, Joel Starling, Wanda Robinson, Tamra Jones, Kelly Parrish, Cherish Allen

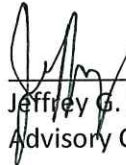
Due to not having a quorum (6 or more Board Members) meeting was cancelled.

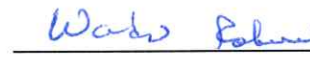
Joel Starling stated that due to still being in a State of Emergency, the Board could have a Special Call Meeting on Thursday via Conference Call. This Special Call Meeting would consist of items that needed approval only, so they could make it to the Board of Health Meeting on August 2, 2021.

Dr. Jeffrey Bell advised that the meeting be no earlier than 5:30 PM.

Wanda Robinson will have Cherish Allen call all Advisory Board Members to inform them of this Special Call Meeting.

Joel Starling stated that he would not be able to attend via Conference Call but we could move forward with the meeting.

 Wanda Robinson DDS 9-20-2021  
Jeffrey G. Bell Date  
Advisory Committee Chair

 9/20/21  
Wanda Robinson Date  
Secretary