

**VICIOUS DOG HEARING**  
**Wednesday, May 10, 2017 - 8:30 a.m.**  
**Room 430**  
**Blount County Courthouse**

**MINUTES**

Gaye Hasty, Blount County Clerk, called the Vicious Dog Hearing to order on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 430 at the Blount County Courthouse, Maryville, Tennessee.

Those present were Gaye Hasty - Blount County Clerk; Tina Enloe - owner of dog and person requesting the hearing; Jim Naelitz - Blount County Animal Control Officer; Christena Purdy – complainant; Kristi Walker, Nancy Butler, Tammy Adams, Kristin Baksa, Kenneth Adkins, Dale Ann Cox, Teavi Haefs, Officer Curtis Moore, and Rhonda Pitts - Deputy Blount County Clerk.

Ms. Hasty explained this is a hearing regarding an appeal by Ms. Tina Enloe, 2409 Webster Court, Maryville, TN, 37804, regarding a citation she received from the Blount County Animal Control regarding her dog *Larry*, and that he had been declared vicious, pursuant to Section 5 of the Blount County Animal Control Ordinance. Ms. Hasty explained the procedure in conducting the hearing.

Ms. Hasty asked Officer Jim Naelitz, Blount County Animal Control Officer, to give his comments.

Jim Naelitz, explained this was in response to an incident that occurred on April 12, 2017, 3:00 p.m. Officer Naelitz stated Ms. Enloe's dog was on the porch while she was cutting the grass and Ms. Purdy was walking through the neighborhood with her dog and cat. He said Ms. Enloe's dogs got off the porch, and Larry proceeded to chase their cat back to their residence on Cecelia Avenue and then returned with the cat. Officer Naelitz stated, as a result of the issue and the injuries due to the attack, the cat died.

Officer Naelitz called Ms. Purdy, the complainant, to come forward to give her comments.

The complainant, Ms. Christena Purdy, 2425 Cecelia Avenue, Maryville, TN, made a correction regarding Officer Naelitz's comments. She stated he was incorrect as to the fact that they were walking with the dog and the cats. She said her cat was actually at Ms. Purdy's home in her home and the dog came inside of the house and grabbed the cat and ran off with him. She said they had not been anywhere that morning. She said the dog came inside her house and grabbed the cat and ran across the block and thru the trees to Ms. Enloe's house with her cat in his mouth. She said her cat was never anywhere near Ms. Enloe's home. Ms. Purdy said her husband had brought Ms. Enloe's dogs back to Ms. Enloe's home for several weeks and she was aware that her gate was broken. She said there were two dogs that were actually at Ms. Purdy's home, Ms. Enloe's brindle dog and *Larry* that grabbed the cat. She said she held her cat in her arms as he died. She said they had the cat for fourteen years and he wouldn't hurt a fly. Ms. Purdy stated Ms. Enloe was aware of the fact that the dog had been vicious before and had previously killed

another animal, a cat. She said Ms. Enloe was aware of the fact that the gate on the porch was broken, and had been for several weeks, and did nothing to remedy the situation. She said she knew the situation was there and had done nothing to resolve it. She said she did not feel the dog should be returned to Ms. Enloe because she is irresponsible.

Ms. Hasty asked the owner of the dogs for her comments.

Tina Enloe, 2409 Webster Court, Maryville, TN, owner of the dog, gave her comments. Ms. Enloe apologized because she knew how it feels to have your cat killed. She said yes, her dog had killed a cat, and it was hers. She said she watched it and she knew what it was like. She said she did not have him put down for what he did as an animal instinct. She said since then she had taken precautions. She said *Larry* was safer on her front porch as far as not getting out. She said the gate was broken several weeks before, and that she did fix the gate to where it would lock again, but it wasn't locked that day. She explained about the notches and the groove in the gate. She said apparently she didn't make sure the gate was in the groove. She said her brindle dog, Denia, jumps the gate to go play with Bailey, the dog the Purdy's walk. She said it was almost a daily thing for the dog to go play with Bailey, and when she did that day, it pushed the gate open because it wasn't securely latched. She said that is when *Larry* got off the porch. She said *Larry* is able to jump over her back fence, and, therefore, she keeps him on the porch. She said on that particular day she thought the gate was latched and if it was, this wouldn't have happened. She said she takes care of all of her dogs. She said *Larry* is a hound dog and his instincts are to hunt small game. She said *Larry* will chase anything that is running from him. She said she has an estimate for a 6 ft. fence to be installed and has plans for it to be built. She said she doesn't have a lot of money, but she will definitely fix the fence regardless of the outcome of this. She said *Larry* did go to the Nursing Home once a week, and he serves a huge purpose in the community. She said *Larry* would never hurt a child, human being, or another dog. She said once the fence is completed, she will make sure he will never get out of the yard again. She said he will not be on the front porch. She will make sure the fence is locked at all times and he will not be able to get out. She said she is really sorry. She said this will not happen again if he is able to be given back to her. She said if he is deemed vicious, he will not be able to return to the Nursing Home where he makes the residents very happy. She asked that it be considered that *Larry* not be deemed vicious. She said he is anything but vicious to a human or a dog. She said she will make sure he will never hurt another cat or another animal.

Ms. Hasty asked if there was anyone in the audience that witnessed this specific incident. There was no response.

County Clerk Gaye Hasty read out loud Section 5 subsections (5) and (6) from the Blount County Animal Control Ordinance. Ms. Hasty stated to Officer Naelitz it was her understanding that Officer Naelitz contacted the District Attorney for Blount County, and asked for a petition to be filed in General Sessions Court for euthanasia of the animal, and the petition was not granted. Officer Naelitz responded yes. Ms. Hasty read aloud Section 5(6)(c). Ms. Hasty asked Ms. Enloe if she reclaimed *Larry* after the quarantine period. Ms. Enloe said yes. Ms. Hasty read out loud Section 5(9). Ms. Hasty stated there is no denying the fact that *Larry* did kill the cat and the ordinance specifically addresses that situation. Ms. Hasty instructed Ms. Enloe that she has to keep *Larry* maintained in a secure enclosure, and if she has *Larry* out of that enclosure, then he is

to not be running at large and he has to be on a leash and muzzled. Ms. Hasty explained the ordinance says the Animal Control Officers will do checks on the property to make sure she is in compliance with the ordinance and if not she would be cited. Ms. Hasty read out loud from Section 5(9). Ms. Hasty recommended between now and the end of the month, when the fence is being installed, to keep *Larry* secure in a fence, if she had one in the back yard, or in another manner other than the front porch. Ms. Hasty asked if there were any further questions. Ms. Hasty stated, according to the Animal Control Ordinance, because a domesticated animal was killed during this attack, *Larry* is deemed vicious. Ms. Hasty informed Ms. Enloe there were some laws that she would need to abide by, and the Animal Control Officer could help her with this.

Gaye Hasty, Blount County Clerk, closed the hearing.