

Investigation and Findings of the Ingham County Controller/Administrator  
Concerning the Ingham County Animal Control and Shelter Report  
Issued by the Michigan Humane Society

On May 10, 2018 the Michigan Humane Society (MHS) issued an investigative report about care provided to five dogs held by the Ingham County Animal Control Shelter (ICAC) between June 23, 2017 and April 23, 2018. The MHS investigation was conducted by Deborah MacDonald, MHS Senior Investigator and Director of Statewide Response, at the request of Ingham County Animal Control Director John Dinon.

The content of this report focuses only on factual events and findings related to care provided to the dogs Dreamville, JayJay, Skully, Jonah and Bebe. Facts presented are taken from records maintained by ICAC and supplemented by information learned from statements provided in personal interviews of ICAC employees. Some additional source-cited information is included only to promote understanding of certain technical subject matter. Contributors to this report include the Controller/Administrator, Deputy Controllers, Human Resources Director, and Human Resources Specialists.

In a post-report interview Ms. MacDonald stated her opinion that ICAC is “ahead of the curve on dog fighting cases.” She stated other agencies do not take on dog fighting cases because of negative publicity and hyperbole. MacDonald added that ICAC’s ability to perform their own surgeries “is leaps and bounds above others.”

Persons named in this report include John Dinon, Animal Control Director; Anne Burns, Deputy Animal Control Director; Dr. Karen Worthington, Shelter Veterinarian; and Caitlin Budzinski, Animal Control Officer. Animal Care Employee comments are reported in aggregate and private veterinarians are not identified in order to preserve anonymity. A department structure flowchart is provided for reference at the end of this document.

## **General Background**

The summer of 2017 saw 47 fighting dogs seized in Ingham County. Of these dogs, 30 were rehomed, 15 were euthanized for behavioral reasons, and two were euthanized for medical

reasons. According to Dinon the typical animal at the shelter will stay for about 10 days. In the case of these fighting dogs, the average length-of-stay was 181 days. Two dogs included in this report were housed at the shelter for more than 300 days. ICAC process about 3,000 animals each year (see Table 1). Although 2017 saw fewer animals in total, the summer months were especially busy with the fighting dogs.

**Table 1:** *Ingham County Animal Control Shelter  
Animal Intake History*

Year	Dogs	Cats	Other	Total
2013	1,561	1,498	307	3,366
2014	1,339	1,440	83	2,862
2015	1,387	1,525	89	3,001
2016	1,415	1,565	36	3,016
2017	1,187	1,364	48	2,599

**SOURCE:** Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Animal Shelter Annual Reports, 2013 - 2017

Important to this analysis is knowledge that an animal’s behavior may deteriorate over time, a phenomenon that has been dubbed “cage crazy” from being housed for long hours in a cage (kennel), and this behavior is indicative of mental distress. Called “cage crazy”, “kennel crazy”, or “kennelitis”, a paper by Montana’s Stafford Animal Shelter titled “Exercise and Canine Mental Health” describes this distressing behavior as “...stress-induced canine compulsive disorder (which) can include spinning and jumping in the kennel, chewing incessantly, and jumping and pulling excessively if on a lead.... Other more depression-like symptoms may include self-mutilation, lack of appetite and lethargy” (Stafford Animal Shelter).

## **Medications**

Several medications are routinely administered at ICAC. The following medications were administered to dogs referenced in this report.

*Alprazolam* is both an anxiolytic (anti-anxiety) and mild sedative (Pet MD, 2018).

*Bordatella* is a kennel-cough vaccine (CertaPet.com, 2018).

*Clavamox* is used to treat many different types of bacterial infections such as respiratory, ear, urinary tract, and skin.

*DHPP* is a combination vaccine that prevents four different viruses: canine distemper, infectious hepatitis, parainfluenza, and parvovirus (Contentrefined, 2018).

*Doxycycline* is an antibiotic used to fight bacterial infections in dogs and cats (Pet MD, 2018).

*EN Dog Food* is prescribed for dogs that have gastritis and enteritis, inflammatory bowel disease, pancreatitis, and other diseases of the intestinal tract (Chewy, 2018).

*Famotidine* is primarily used in the treatment of stomach (gastric) and intestinal ulcers (Teampetcarerx, 2013).

*Meloxicam* is a nonsteroidal ant-inflammatory drug (Pet Rescue Rx, 2018).

*Metoclopramide* is used to treat nausea, vomiting, and reflux disease in dogs and cats by normalizing their digestive system function (PetMed Express, 2018).

*Metronidazole* is an antibiotic used in dogs and cats to treat various conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease, nonspecific diarrhea disorders, infections caused by Giardia, and periodontal disease (PetMed Express, 2018).

*Panacur* is a broad spectrum parasiticide used to treat hookworms, roundworms, tapeworms, and whipworms in dogs (PetMed Express, 2018).

*PEN-G* is an antibiotic used to treat and prevent bacterial infections in dogs and cats (Ruben, 2015).

*Pepcid* is an anti-acid. This drug should be given without food because food will decrease its effectiveness (Dog's Upset Stomach, 2015).

*Revolution* is a drug that protects dogs against a variety of common internal and external parasites (Revolution4dogs, 2018).

*Stronig* is most commonly used to treat hookworms and roundworms in dogs and cats (Pet MD, 2018).

*Trazodone* is used by veterinarians to reduce anxiety and aggression in dogs and cats. It is the equivalent to the human drug Prozac (Pet MD, 2018).

*W/D Dog Food* is formulated with extra carnitine and protein to increase a dog's metabolism, stabilize blood glucose in diabetic dogs, and provide extra fiber to promote feelings of fullness (Amazon, 2018).

*Zoloft* is prescribed to treat aggressive dogs. It decreases the activity in the part of the brain that causes excessive aggression, thus reducing the behavior to manageable levels (Smart Dog Owners, 2018).

## **Whipworms**

Medical conditions that plagued at least three of the subject animals involved whipworms. Whipworms are one of the most common intestinal parasites in dogs (Burke, 2017). This parasite is commonly known as a “whipworm” because it resembles a whip. The whipworm parasite is generally transmitted to dogs when they ingest infested matter, although whipworms can be contracted from other infected animals as well (Pet MD, 2018). The peak age for infection is 12 to 18 months. Whipworm eggs are very resistant to drying and heat, so they can remain viable (alive) in the environment for up to five years (Elliott, 2014). They are one of the most pathogenic worms in dogs and can mature to re-infect a dog in 10-60 days (Ward, 2014).

Whipworms are diagnosed by finding eggs with a microscopic examination of the stool. However, multiple stool samples are often required because these parasites pass small numbers of eggs on an irregular basis, so some samples may be falsely negative (Ward, 2014). When whipworms attach to the cecum and colon, they cause irritation. The more whipworms, the greater the irritation, which can lead to weight loss, diarrhea, bloody stools, and anemia. This causes a decrease in quality of life and body condition score and can be dangerous in puppies, senior dogs, and dogs with compromised immune systems (Burke, 2017).

Most dogs can cope with a light worm burden without showing any symptoms. A mild infection can cause intermittent, waxing and waning diarrhea that alternates with normal stools. With a heavy infection, the worms create significant irritation to the lining of the bowel, which responds by becoming inflamed. The dogs then show symptoms including weight loss and blood-tinged diarrhea (Elliott, 2014). Significant weight loss of over 10 percent of the normal body weight is considered serious enough for veterinary intervention (DogzHealth, 2017).

Other than properly sanitizing, the best way to prevent a whipworm infection is to avoid placing dogs in closed or crowded quarters with other animals (Pet MD, 2018).

## Dreamville

Dreamville, a male pit-bull mix aged approximately one year and 10 months, was taken in on Thursday, July 27, 2017. He was immediately placed on hold with no expiration date as part of a criminal prosecution. Dreamville was held in pen 66 of the shelter bite ward and was at ICAC for 63 days. Animal Care staff reported that Dreamville came to the shelter happy but became a very aggressive dog as time progressed.

**Table 2:** *Dreamville Weight History*

Date Recorded	Weight (pounds)
August 3, 2017	40
August 11, 2017	44.8
September 28, 2017	31*

\*Converted to pounds. Recorded as 14.10 kg

Medical records show DHPP and Bordatella vaccinations were administered on Thursday, August 3, 2017. Stronig was administered on Friday, August 4, 2017. On Friday, August 11 ACO Budzinski completed a medical report form that noted kennel cough. She asked animal care staff to provide a fecal sample for analysis by an outside veterinarian. On Tuesday, August 15, 2017 Dreamville was moved to a more secure cage and could not be moved with a snare and leash. Trazodone was administered on Wednesday, August 16, 2017.

Notes for Dreamville entered under “Illness/Symptoms” on a Veterinary Medication List for Monday, September 18 indicate the dog would “eat but throwing back up since last Wednesday,” was losing weight and had diarrhea. Also noted were the words “Blockage? From eating toys?” Dr. Worthington recalled in a later interview that she became suspicious about a blockage when an Animal Care worker reported a missing dog toy.

Budzinski reported on a conversation that occurred on Tuesday, September 19 in which Dr. Worthington claimed Dreamville “may have a possible obstruction” (Budzinski’s words). Budzinski advised Dr. Worthington to discuss her suspicion with Dinon. Budzinski spoke to Dinon who indicated he would speak to Dr. Worthington about the need for an X-ray. Dr. Worthington recalled that Dinon needed to grant permission for X-ray because Dreamville was an evidence dog. Dinon’s decision was to “wait and see,” according to Dr. Worthington.

A veterinarian exam was performed on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 after Animal Care staff reported to Dr. Worthington that Dreamville was throwing up, had passed stool but did not eat. Animal Care workers commented in interviews about Dr. Worthington's prompt response to their cited concerns. Dr. Worthington was unable to physically treat the dog. She ordered PEN G and Metoclopramide administered by poke stick and Famotidine in a hot dog. (Poke Stick used in this context means a trigger syringe pole that is operated just like a syringe found in a medical office except that it offers a much greater reach. There is no additional pressure on the animal during the injection.) Dr. Worthington further ordered administration of PEN G and Metoclopramide injections by poke stick for the next five days. Famotidine was to be continued orally, given by way of a hot dog. The dog was to be monitored for stool, eating, drinking and vomiting. In an email message to Dinon and Burns (copied to Budzinski) sent at 9:02 a.m., Dr. Worthington stated, "The dog ate canned cat food this am. He did not eat yesterday. He did not vomit over night or pass stool. We will watch him today, continue medications if able, and feed him a little bit more today."

A veterinarian exam was next performed on Monday, September 25, 2017 after Animal Care staff reported that there was stool over the weekend in the kennel. It appeared that Dreamville had eaten and the kennel was a mess. Dr. Worthington noted that the dog appeared thinner, but she was still unable to handle him. She was able to verify stool in the kennel and his consumption of canned food. Dr. Worthington wrote that Dreamville was "not a surgical candidate" because of his "temperament and the ability to treat hands on." She ordered that medications be continued and added Pepcid. The dog was to be monitored for stool, eating, vomiting and temperament. Dr. Worthington also discussed euthanasia with Dinon.

A veterinarian exam was performed on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. Dr. Worthington reported a small amount of stool in the kennel, but the dog looked worse and thinner. She was "unable to give any medications other than hot dog," and reported he "attacks the poke stick." Dr. Worthington stated Dreamville "did eat a small amount of canned cat food," but he did not eat all of the food as some was scattered around the kennel. This account was confirmed by Animal Care staff in subsequent interviews. Dr. Worthington was unable to handle the dog and determined he was "not a good anesthetic risk" and "not a good surgical candidate due to recovery." Dr. Worthington updated Dinon on the dog's condition. In a subsequent interview she added "foreign body obstruction" to her rationale for not performing surgery.

On Wednesday, September 27, 2017 Animal Care staff reported seizure-like activity to Dr. Worthington. Dinon accompanied Dr. Worthington to the dog’s location where both observed the dog in the middle of a seizure. Dr. Worthington recommended euthanasia, and Dinon agreed. After Dreamville was euthanized, his body was taken to Michigan State University (MSU) for a necropsy. Upon reflection on the Dreamville case, Dr. Worthington stated the final decision to euthanize for medical reasons should rest with the veterinarian.

The MSU necropsy report dated Friday, September 29, 2017 provided a body description and review of internal conditions. Of interest was notation of “two firm, fibrous foreign objects measuring 10.5 cm x 4 cm x 3.5 cm and 12.5 cm x 4 cm x 3.5 cm were present within the lumen (cavity of a tubular organ) of the duodenum” (the first portion of the small intestine). The Morphologic Diagnosis section described the body as a whole to show “severe emaciation and serious atrophy of fat.” “Obstructive foreign objects with distal dilation” were noted in the duodenum. “Multifocal firm pinpoint nodules” were noted in the ascending aorta. The final diagnosis(es) section dated Friday, October 6, 2017 stated “the major gross examination findings were the severe emaciation and duodenal foreign body (rope segments). There was no evidence of intestinal compromise associated with the foreign body, thus it seems unlikely that it is related to the emaciated state.”

Dinon has acknowledged that, with the benefit of hindsight, he wishes that the decision to euthanize Dreamville would have been made earlier. He decided not to euthanize earlier because the dog showed some signs of response and he wanted to offer Dreamville “every chance to survive.” Dinon stated he simultaneously attempted to secure consent to euthanize from the Prosecuting Attorney’s office but realizes now that the shelter may euthanize evidence dogs to “alleviate unnecessary suffering.” Dr. Worthington said health records for Dreamville “weren’t the greatest” and that she would work to improve medical documentation.

## JayJay

JayJay, a female pit-bull mix of an unspecified age, was taken in on Thursday, July 27, 2017. She was immediately placed on hold with no expiration date as part of a criminal prosecution. JayJay was

**Table 3:** *JayJay Weight History*

Date Recorded	Weight (pounds)
July 27, 2017	39
October 14, 2017	41

held in pen 41 and was at ICAC for 80 days.

Medical records show a medical examination and Strongid treatment on Thursday, July 27, 2017 along with DHPP and Bordatella vaccinations. On Thursday, August 17, 2017 Alprazolam and Trazodone were administered. After a subsequent examination on Thursday, September 7, 2017 dosages of both drugs were increased.

On Saturday, October 14, 2017 JayJay appeared normal during the routine morning kennel check. At approximately 10:05 a.m. Animal Care employees witnessed JayJay having what appeared to them to be a seizure. Medical reports say “she was laterally recumbent, shaking and foaming at the mouth.” Dr. Worthington moved JayJay to a kennel near the surgery room. There was a delay in moving JayJay because Dr. Worthington was in the middle of a surgical procedure. Upon examination, Dr. Worthington found JayJay to be in a postictal state (the altered state of consciousness after an epileptic seizure). Her temperature was 100.7° (normal ranges from 101° to 102.5°, according to the American Kennel Club) and her pupils were dilated but reactive to light. JayJay was breathing deeply at a rate of 20 breaths per minute (normal range is 10 to 35) and her heart rate was 132 (normal range is 60 to 140). Several other vital signs were recorded. Alprazolam and Trazodone were reduced and JayJay was to be “closely watched for the next couple of days.”

Later that same day JayJay was found comatose and not responsive. After the Dreamville case Dinon had authorized Dr. Worthington to make the final decision on euthanasia in medical situations. Dr. Worthington contacted Dinon to tell him JayJay would be euthanized. After JayJay was euthanized, her body was taken to MSU for a necropsy.

The final MSU necropsy report dated Tuesday, October 17, 2017 noted a concern about possible rodenticide poisoning. Severe diffuse congestion in the liver was suggestive of terminal shock. No evidence of a significant underlying infectious or neoplastic disease was present. A general toxicology report issued on Tuesday, October 18, 2017 stated tests were negative for anticoagulant rodenticides. Dr. Worthington has theorized that JayJay was the victim of an aneurism.

## **Skully and Jonah**

Skully, a female pit-bull mix aged approximately four months, was taken in on Friday, June 23, 2017. She was immediately placed on hold with no expiration date as part of a criminal prosecution. Skully was held in pen 43 of Ward 3 and was at ICAC for 307 days.

**Table 4:** *Skully Weight History*

Date Recorded	Weight (pounds)	Date Recorded	Weight (pounds)
June 28, 2017	13	April 9, 2018	37
March 10, 2018	34.6	April 10, 2018	37.3
March 27, 2018	33.4	April 11, 2018	37.5
March 30, 2018	33.3	April 12, 2018	38.3
March 31, 2018	33	April 13, 2018	39.7
April 1, 2018	33.2	April 14, 2018	39.8
April 2, 2018	32.8	April 15, 2018	41
April 3, 2018	32.9	April 16, 2018	41
April 4, 2018	32.9	April 17, 2018	40.5
April 5, 2018	33	April 18, 2018	41
April 6, 2018	33.8	April 19, 2018	42
April 7, 2018	35.5	April 20, 2018	42
April 8, 2018	36	April 21, 2018	42

Revised to include 33.3-pound weight recorded on March 30, 2018; Corrected entries for April 3-9.

Jonah, a male pit-bull mix aged approximately four months, was also taken in on Friday, June 23, 2017. He was immediately placed on hold with no expiration date as part of a criminal prosecution. Jonah was held in pen 32 of Ward 3 and was at ICAC for 307 days.

**Table 5:** *Jonah Weight History*

Date Recorded	Weight (pounds)	Date Recorded	Weight (pounds)
June 28, 2017	19	April 3, 2018	34.2
March 10, 2018	41	April 4, 2018	34.6
March 26, 2018	36	April 5, 2018	34
March 26, 2018	35	April 6, 2018	34.2

March 27, 2018	35	April 7, 2018	36.4
March 30, 2018	35.2	April 8, 2018	37.6
April 1, 2018	35	April 9, 2018	37
April 2, 2018	34.4	April 10, 2018	38.5

\*Revised to include 35-pound weight recorded on March 26, 2018.

Medical records show fecal exams on both dogs that tested positive for roundworm on Sunday, June 25, 2017 and Monday, June 26, 2017. DHPP and Bordatella vaccinations were administered on Wednesday, June 28, 2017, as were doses of Strongid and Doxycycline. A Revolution treatment was provided to both on Friday, October 6, 2017. Second treatments of Revolution and Strongid were provided on Friday, November 17, 2017. Alprazolam and Trazodone were administered on Thursday, February 1, 2018. After a veterinarian exam on Thursday, March 8, 2018, Alprazolam and Trazodone doses were increased to two times each day. Both dogs tested positive for whipworm on Saturday, March 10, 2018 and placed on Panacur.

Blood work drawn on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 showed a slight increase in BUN, BUN/ Creatinine ratio and a decrease in blood glucose. BUN is a common test of kidney function. An elevated BUN by itself may not be clinically meaningful. Creatinine is a much more sensitive test of kidney dysfunction. Even small elevations of this enzyme can indicate significant kidney problems. Because it is not affected by dietary protein, any elevation in creatinine levels suggests a strong possibility of underlying kidney disease (Messonnire, 2010). Changes in Skully’s test results were determined “not significant at this time,” but Dr. Worthington would monitor the dog for changes.

On Monday, March 26, 2018 Budzinski advised Burns of concerns about the health of Skully and Jonah. Burns stated in an interview that “the County vet was not working on the date the complaint was made, so I (Burns) ordered the dogs” to a private veterinarian and asked that a “cruelty/neglect evaluation” be performed. Burns also ordered that medical histories be withheld from the veterinarian. Burns stated she did not consult Dr. Worthington because “she lives in Charlotte or Potterville and it was her day off.” Dinon was not scheduled to work on March 26, so Burns notified him about her actions through a telephone call.

Budzinski said she saw “no documented intervention of vet care” before March 10. She added that “Dr. Worthington was well-aware the dogs were skinny” and the treatment was not working. Budzinski also claimed that Dr. Worthington kept records only she (Worthington) had access to, and that “You’d have to ask the Vet for more detailed records.” Budzinski thought it was necessary to express concern about the dogs’ condition to Burns, “especially after what happened to Dreamville.” Animal Care employees stated in interviews that all dogs in Ward 3 (13 total) and the Bite Ward (4 total), including Skully and Jonah, were being treated for whipworm when they were taken to the private veterinarian. Burns did not notify Animal Care employees that the dogs would be taken for assessment, and did not inquire about recent (March 10, 2018) treatments for whipworm.

When asked to explain her decision further, Burns stated she did not believe Dinon and Dr. Worthington took her (Burns) concerns about Skully and Jonah seriously. Burns said “there should have been swift, serious action taken after Dreamville and JayJay,” but nothing happened. Burns acknowledged a staff meeting held sometime in the weeks prior to March 26 where it was decided that staff concerns about dogs would be brought to Burns, Dinon and Dr. Worthington. However, Burns stated she did not agree with this arrangement. It was her (Burns) opinion that “an Animal Control Officer is ultimately responsible for his/her animal.” She went on to state her opinion that Dinon “lacks knowledge of the operation” and that he was “just there as a figurehead.” Burns said this position “would have been on my mind” when she decided to refer Skully and Jonah for a cruelty/neglect evaluation.

When asked why she chose to describe her request to the private veterinarian as a “cruelty/neglect evaluation,” Burns said she did so because she did not want to influence or bias the veterinarian’s evaluation. She suspected wrongdoing by another employee, dogs were not being weighed and feedings were not recorded. However, one Animal Care employee said Skully and Jonah were being fed twice each day and their food allowance was doubled when the dogs appeared to be getting thin. Another Animal Care employee discussed how medications were administered to both dogs. Both dogs were thin, but their condition was consistent with whipworm. Burns agreed in an interview that she “should have contacted HR” so that an investigation could be conducted.

A fecal exam performed by the private veterinarian was negative for any parasite ova on both Skully and Jonah. The veterinarian reported that “The female dog was limping and had a

wound and swelling on her hock from what looked to be a long-standing injury. Her toenails were also cut back beyond the quick.” Dinon, Burns and Animal Care employees all agreed that Skully’s toenails were not cut back, but their condition was the result of spending so much time on concrete surfaces at the shelter. Burns said their condition was “not uncommon for dogs that are constantly on cement.”

The veterinarian stated, “Both dogs had sticks and rocks in there [Sic] feces and the male had foreign material like paint embedded in his gums. These are all red-flags for a forensic veterinary investigation.” An Animal Care employee noted that the paint material embedded in Jonah’s gums was likely the remnants of a “nylabone” chew toy. In an email communication, the veterinarian wrote, “At the time I performed my exam, I was not told that these pets had been in ICAC custody but, that would not have changed my findings. If these dogs had been in the custody of a private owner, my report, findings and conclusions would have been the same. Most likely, that owner would have been prosecuted for neglect.”

Dinon requested a Michigan Humane Society investigation into animal care at the shelter on March 28 at urging of Burns. Dinon stated he felt his “back was against the wall” when Burns made the request. He did not believe the accusations of neglect, but he did not want to interfere with what might be considered a whistleblower matter. Dr. Worthington was consulted by Dinon, but she did not wish to stand in the way of animal welfare. Dinon described the design of the “Ingham” weight scoring scale (1-5) and the “Purina” weight scoring scale (1-9) as objective. But humans are subjective, so it is possible for one person to score an animal as a “3” and another person to score that same animal as a “1.” Dinon cited an example where Dr. Worthington is used to seeing “skinny strays” and a private veterinarian is used to seeing “fat pets,” so their frame of reference is different. Dinon could not comprehend Burns’ belief the dogs were neglected while knowing they were fed and medicated. He also expressed suspicion about all of this happening on a day he and Dr. Worthington were not present.

On Thursday, March 29, 2018 Skully and Jonah were started on a feeding schedule of W/D Dog Food, as directed by Burns, and Metronidazole was administered. A fecal exam performed on Saturday, March 31, 2018 produced a negative result. Blood work drawn on March 31 revealed very minor changes in some test categories. Dr. Worthington questioned why the private veterinarian assigned W/D dog food, a diabetic/weight-loss food, for Skully and Jonah. She stated the dogs were given this food for three days which resulted in additional

weight loss. After a fecal examination on Sunday, April 1, 2018 Dr. Worthington switched the dogs back to EN Dog Food. Blood work completed on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 identified no significant issues. Skully and Jonah were not vomiting, were eating and were not experiencing abdominal pain. Both dogs were described as “very active.” Animal Care employees were instructed to begin Zoloft on Thursday, April 5, 2018. Employees were asked to watch for and document changes in behavior and food intake. On Friday, April 6, 2018 Animal Care employees were instructed to increase the last feeding of the day for the next five days.

Diarrhea was documented for both dogs in an examination conducted on Saturday, April 14, 2018. On Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Skully was spayed and Jonah was neutered, both were tested for heartworm (negative), and microchipped. Each dog also received vaccinations for rabies, DHPP and Bordatella.

Skully and Jonah were released to Bark Nation on Thursday, April 26, 2018 and subsequently rehomed. The dogs were reported to be in “good condition” when transferred. A Bark Nation official saw both dogs on Saturday, March 10, 2018 and observed both as being in good condition and looking healthy. The Bark Nation official visited the shelter to examine seized fighting dogs around eight times. Only once did they encounter a medical concern about a dog that appeared to have hair loss. Medical records confirmed the dog was being treated for the condition. Bark Nation encountered some behavioral concerns, but they reported this was not unusual for these types of dogs being held in a shelter over an extended period. Bark Nation found Dinon and Animal Control staff to be receptive to recommendations meant to address behavioral concerns. The Bark Nation official witnessed no lack of compassion or care among the Animal Shelter staff.

Whipworms or any type of intestinal parasite could contribute toward weight loss in dogs, according to the Bark Nation official. Additionally, these types of dogs are high energy. Any dog in a kennel over a long period will experience shelter stress, which can cause fluctuations in weight. This is especially true of young dogs, such as Skully and Jonah. Findings reported in the MHS Report are common for any long-term hold the Bark Nation representative has seen in various shelters around the country. She has seen many worse conditions. Live release of fighting dogs is rare in Michigan. In most cases, shelters will automatically euthanize these types of dogs once they are forfeited.

## Bebe

Bebe, a female German Wirehaired Pointer aged approximately eight years, was taken in on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. She was held in pen 38 of Ward 3 and was at ICAC for 231 days.

**Table 6:** *Bebe Weight History*

Date Recorded	Weight (pounds)	Date Recorded	Weight (pounds)
October 24, 2017	26.5	April 17, 2018	38
March 29, 2018	32.2	April 18, 2018	40
March 30, 2018	30.8	April 19, 2018	41
March 31, 2018	30	April 20, 2018	41
April 1, 2018	31.4	April 21, 2018	41.5
April 2, 2018	30.8	April 28, 2018	42
April 3, 2018	30.2	April 29, 2018	41
April 4, 2018	31.2	April 30, 2018	41.1
April 5, 2018	31.4	May 1, 2018	41
April 6, 2018	31.8	May 2, 2018	42
April 7, 2018	36	May 3, 2018	42
April 8, 2018	32.7	May 4, 2018	41.5
April 9, 2018	37	May 5, 2018	40.5
April 10, 2018	35.9	May 10, 2018	42
April 11, 2018	37.5	May 11, 2018	42
April 12, 2018	38	May 13, 2018	43
April 13, 2018	38	May 15, 2018	42
April 14, 2018	37	May 20, 2018	43
April 15, 2018	39	May 25, 2018	44.9
April 16, 2018	40	May 30, 2018	45.6

Medical records document DHPP and Bordatella vaccinations were administered to Bebe on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. A fecal exam completed the next day tested positive for

whipworm resulting in doses of Strongid and Panacur. Doxycycline was given on Sunday, November 5, 2017, followed by a Revolution treatment on Friday, November 17. A fecal exam on Monday, December 11, 2017 was negative and Bebe was placed on EN Dog Food for diarrhea. Metronidazole was given on Friday, December 15, 2017. She received Panacur on Saturday, March 10, 2018. On Wednesday, March 28, 2018 a fecal exam came back negative. Blood work reviewed on Thursday, March 29, 2018 showed a slight increase in BUN, BUN/ Creatinine ratio and a decrease in blood glucose. Neither of these issues was deemed significant but would need to be monitored. Bebe did not have a fever and had a normal abdominal palpate. Clavamox was started for an ordered duration of 14 days and Burns was notified of the results.

Burns assigned a private veterinarian to perform an examination of Bebe on Thursday, March 29, 2018. The private veterinarian found Bebe to be alert, engaged, and to have an excellent appetite, but rated her body condition as “emaciated” (weight was recorded as 32.2 pounds). Dr. Worthington observed in a later interview that Bebe was four pounds heavier than her intake weight when the private veterinarian determined she was “emaciated.” Budzinski expressed her concern about how Dr. Worthington rated Bebe. Whipworm treatments were recommended in three-week intervals only because it is so prolific. Budzinski secured a copy of the private veterinarian’s report and forwarded the document to Burns with commentary. Budzinski also requested a follow-up email from the private veterinarian with recommendations for additional testing. Bebe started on a feeding schedule of W/D Dog Food, as directed by Burns.

Additional blood work was ordered on Saturday, March 31, 2018 and the results became available on Sunday, April 1, 2018. A mild BUN/ Creatinine ratio increase was noted, as was a mild increase in glucose. The white blood cell count was much improved but the platelet count was high. Animal Care staff reported “fecal was mushy,” so Bebe was switched back to EN Dog Food by order of Dr. Worthington.

On Wednesday, April 4, 2018 Dr. Worthington consulted with a private veterinarian about elevated folate, cobalamin and TLI (disease indicators) in Bebe. It was concluded that these elevated counts were not an issue at this time. It was also noted that the dog was not vomiting, was very active, was eating and had a non-painful abdomen. Dr. Worthington placed Bebe on Trazodone for anxiety and instructed Animal Care staff to watch for behavioral changes

and dietary changes. On Friday, April 6, 2018 Animal Care staff were instructed to increase Bebe's last feeding of the day for five days.

On Tuesday, April 10, 2018 Burns authorized Budzinski to contact the private veterinarian to share the March 29 and April 1 blood work results and Dr. Worthington's file notes. In an email message Budzinski asked the private veterinarian for an interpretation of the blood work results, a compilation of additional tests that need to be completed and generally asked, "What do these results mean as far as her condition." The private veterinarian responded on Thursday, April 12 with observations and treatment advice consistent with that documented in ICAC files. Budzinski followed-up with a conversation and documented the private veterinarian's comments in an email message on Friday, April 13, 2018.

A fecal exam taken on Saturday, April 14, 2018 came back negative, but diarrhea was noted. Dr. Worthington examined Bebe on Wednesday, April 18, 2018. She observed increased kennel neurosis/jumping and sores on the dog's feet from running through feces. Bebe was subsequently bathed and placed on Zoloft. On Friday, April 20, 2018 Bebe received vaccinations for DHPP and Bordatella. On Saturday, April 28, 2018 Bebe's food was decreased to five cups per day. On Friday, June 8, 2018 a heartworm test came back negative. Bebe was microchipped, spayed and placed on Meloxicam after surgery. She also received a vaccination for rabies.

## **Policies and Procedures**

In a July 10, 2018 written statement addressed to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, McKamey Animal Center Executive Director and former Ingham County Animal Control Director Jamie McAloon stated she was aware of certain policies and protocols at ICAC because she helped create them along with staff, including Burns. McAloon provided ICAC protocols found among her records and stated there are many more on hard drives and in binders at ICAC. McAloon said she personally made sure Burns "had a hard drive with all of them when I resigned in 2014."

Burns stated McAloon's assertions are "absolutely inaccurate." She stated there were no standard operating procedures or policies, and that "McAloon acted on memo, not policy." To a person, each employee interviewed at ICAC said they had no knowledge of policies and

protocols left by McAloon. One office worker recalled the existence of a green binder that might have contained policies and operating procedures, but the binder vanished several years ago.

Dinon stated ICAC currently has 22 standard operating procedures. Four of these policies were created by former Animal Control Director Andy Seltz and the remainder were implemented by Dinon. Four policies have been implemented since release of the MHS report.

## **Food for Animals**

Over the years ICAC has relied on donations for much of the food provided at the shelter. While ICAC occasionally issues a “plea” for more food, all employees interviewed were aware that the ICAC budget includes funding for food as needed. No employee was concerned about the shelter running out of food, and Animal Care employees know where to go to secure additional food if that became necessary.

## **General Operations**

Nearly all persons interviewed for this report acknowledged deep organizational dysfunction at ICAC. One Animal Care employee described all divisions as separate operations that do not function as a team. Burns cited “territorial infighting” between Animal Care employees and Animal Control Officers as mostly personality clashes.

Many employees conveyed an opinion that the Director and Deputy Director are not responsive to their suggestions and reported issues. Others expressed frustration that Dinon rarely provides a “yes or no” answer to their questions.

Employees uniformly believe there is a need for training. Although the job description states the Deputy Director will train staff, Burns said she relied on Dr. Worthington to do training and did not follow-up.

A private veterinarian wrote that Burns “never seemed to be able to accommodate without approval from Mr. Dinon. I often felt that there was a disconnect between them, at least as far as working with veterinarians on neglect and abuse cases.” Another example of management breakdown is documented through email messages. On Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Dinon issued a directive to Budzinski about weighing dogs which said, “The animal care staff

are weighing Skully and Jonah and the Darling dogs daily. It is not necessary for you to do so also. Please discontinue weighing the dogs.” Burns was copied on Dinon’s message. On Thursday, April 26, 2018 Burns sent an email message to Budzinski which read, “I know you were instructed by the director to not weigh the court case dogs. Additional information has been brought to my attention so I am asking you to please weigh all 4 dogs and please send me the weights.” Dinon was not copied on Burns’ message.

Animal Care employees cited frustrated with Dinon and Burns when requested help did not materialize when the fighting dogs were seized. Another reported that Burns denied a request for bite sticks even after Budzinski offered to train Animal Care employees. Dr. Worthington stated her belief that ICAC was too short-staffed to handle all of the dogs seized in 2017. Dinon stated his belief that staffing levels were adequate for the number of dogs seized.

Complaints about non-medical staff handling medical issues were common. Tensions between Animal Control Officers and Animal Care employees were emphasized.

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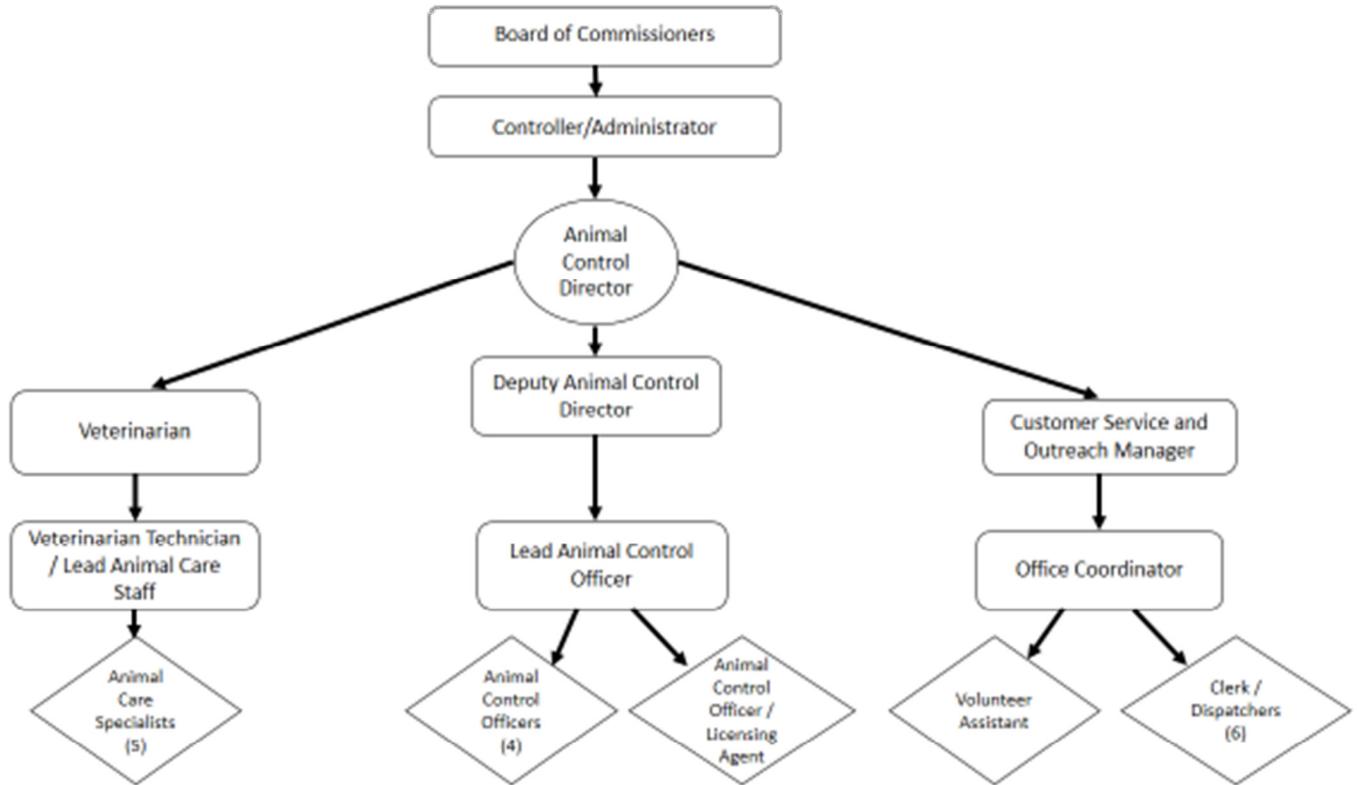
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# Ingham County Animal Control Department Flowchart<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The department flowchart depicted above depicts a structure consistent with the intent of Resolution 13-338. This flowchart accurately describes the department structure as assumed during events documented in this report. However, it was later discovered that the Resolution 13-338 structure was void for lack of ordinance publication.