November 5, 2018

OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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REPORT AND DECISION

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V18008565**

BRAD SKORETZ
Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

Activity no.: A18002429

Appellants: **Brad and Deborah Skoretz**
5111 Auburn Way S
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King County: Regional Animal Services of King County
represented by **Chelsea Eykel**
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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS/DECISION:

Department's Preliminary Recommendation:	Deny appeal
Department's Final Recommendation:	Deny appeal
Examiner's Decision:	Grant appeal in part, deny appeal in part

EXAMINER PROCEEDINGS:

Hearing Opened:	October 17, 2018
Hearing Closed:	October 17, 2018

Participants at the public hearing and the exhibits offered and entered are listed in the attached minutes. A verbatim recording of the hearing is available in the Hearing Examiner's Office.

After hearing the witnesses' testimony and observing their demeanor, studying the exhibits admitted into evidence, and considering the parties' arguments and the relevant law, the examiner hereby makes the following findings, conclusions, and decision.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

Overview

1. Animal Services asserts that the Skoretzes neglected their horses, Poco and Jax, and that this neglect allowed both horses to endure pain, suffering, or injury. The Skoretzes timely appealed. After reviewing numerous exhibits and four hours of hearing, we find that Animal Services convincingly met its burden of proof as to Poco, but did not quite meet its burden of proof as to Jax. Because after the Poco violation the Skoretzes successfully implemented their veterinarian's recommendations, we halve the applicable penalty.

Background

2. On May 31, 2018, Sgt. Chelsea Eykel of Animal Services responded to a third-party complaint that the Skoretzes' two horses had overgrown hooves visible from the roadway. Ex. 35 at 001. Based on Sgt. Eykel's observations on the poor quality of the horses' hooves—evident from the photos, Exhibits 3–7—and that the horses were exhibiting signs of lameness, she asked the Skoretzes to work with a professional farrier. Mr. Skoretz wanted to continue doing his own farrier work, and so Sgt. Eykel gave him the option of having a veterinarian come out and give the okay.[1]

3. The Skoretzes first contacted a farrier Becky Anderson, who visited and did some work. Ms. Anderson, however, was nervous to trim all the hooves without an x-ray.

4. The Skoretzes next contacted Dr. Linda Hagerman, who visited on June 29. According to Dr. Hagerman's write-up a few days later, she observed that Poco was:

> stiff to walk in the front and limping [left front leg] to trot. Feet are in bad shape, especially [left front leg]. Dished toe, large cracks and widely separated white line….Hasn't been dewormed or vaccinated in a while…. I think [Poco's] laminitis was caused by obesity and being on pasture grass. Treatment will involve intensive foot trimming and shooing…, taking her off pasture and feeding hay instead.…I also recommended deworming…vaccinating…[and] getting her to lose 75 [pounds] and feeding equine vitamins.

Ex. 30 at 001. Importantly, she diagnosed Poco with "Chronic laminitis."

[1] There were extensive discussions between Sgt. Eykel and the Skoretzes about the lack of clean drinking water the Skoretzes were providing Poco and Jax. As drinking water was not the deficiency on which Animal Services based its violation notice, we do not discuss drinking water further.

5. At hearing, Dr. Hagerman described finding Poco overweight, with feet in such bad shape that she was limping. Poco's hooves were overgrown and deeply cracked. Both her front feet showed signs of bone rotation, with the bones not in the right place. She explained that chronic inflammation leads to bone demineralization, which becomes painful. Poco's feet were so poorly trimmed that it was hard to take a measurement, although she could see they were dramatically] off. She did manage to take measurements, which showed Poco with angles of 18 on the left and 13 on the right—as compared to a normal angle of 5. She explained that unchecked access to green pasture causes more damage and rotation—not only more lameness and suffering in the short term, but more difficulty correcting the condition in the long-term.

6. Ms. Skoretz questioned Dr. Hagerman whether white line or Cushing's disease could be the culprit (instead of laminitis). Dr. Hagerman found no evidence of white line disease; while Poco's hoof white lines were stretched and abnormally long, there was no telltale moisture sign. She opined that white line would typically be a secondary, bacterial infection, and not the cause of hoof degeneration. She explained that Cushing's disease would typically show itself even with dry grass, and this was not Poco's condition.

7. Dr. Hagerman described looking with Mr. Skoretz on June 29 for a place to fence in the horses so they could eat a hay diet. As to the efficacy of a grazing muzzle, she explained that the horses would still need some time, each day, with the muzzle off and in a fenced area, to eat the dry hay. (Mr. Skoretz confirmed that Jax and Poco would only eat hay if they were first made to be hungry. Ex. O-2.) Mr. Skoretz prevented her from examining Jax, so her analysis of Jax was limited to a finding of "Limping [left front" and "bilaterally dishy feet." Ex. 30 at 002.

8. Several weeks later, the Skoretzes called Dr. Tricia Arnold for a second opinion. Dr. Arnold visited on August 2, approximately five weeks after Dr. Hagerman's visit. In her August 9 letter, Exhibit F, Dr. Arnold recommended a grazing muzzle to limit overconsumption of grass, noting it was important to check the horses daily to make sure the grazing muzzles were not rubbing, and that the horses were capable of eating and drinking. The one bolded portion of Dr. Arnold's August 9 letter was that "**Caution in the spring and the fall, consumption of lush green glass must be limited to avoid laminitis**."

9. As to Poco specifically, Dr. Arnold's August 9 letter described lameness in Poco's walk, most likely related to a severely cracked hoof. She described the quality of both front hooves as "poor." After consulting with a farrier, Dr. Arnold updated this to stating that Poco should keep her grazing muzzle on for another week, and should continue bute (pain medication).

10. As to Jax specifically, she did not observe lameness at a trot, but did observe that the "quality of front hooves is poor," with "cracks and defects in the hoof wall." She recommended that the Skoretzes have a "farrier working on [Jax's] front feet every 4-6 weeks to aid in providing a healthier hoof." After later consulting with a farrier, Dr. Arnold updated this to stating that Jax's muzzle could be removed for the remainder of

the summer, but replaced once the rains begin, to avoid "another bout of laminitis in the fall."

11. Dr. Arnold later re-examined the horses and wrote on September 14 that, in her professional opinion, both horses were by that point being cared or in a satisfactory manner, had lost weight, were moving well, and were receiving regular and quality farrier care." Ex. H. She wrote that:

> During the dry summer weather it is safe for these horses to be on pasture. Once the wet fall season arrives (typically the middle of October), Mr. Skoretz has been instructed to provide grazing muzzles for both horses. After the first hard frost, sugar content in the grass should be low enough for these horses to not wear muzzles throughout the winter. Mr. Skoretz has been instructed to make me aware of when he plans to take their muzzles off. Once temperatures warm in the spring grazing muzzles will be required.

12. At hearing, Dr. Arnold testified that the horses had been "grossly obese" at the time of her August 2 visit. (She actually gave a higher bodyweight score than Dr. Hagerman.) She explained the variation among veterinarians on the efficacy of muzzles versus fence restrictions. At her visit she had found laminitis in Poco and noted that both horses were still on unrestricted grass, access which concerned her. She explained that when horses are foundering, access to fresh grass in the spring or fall is problematic. She described spring and fall grasses in Western Washington—as compared to other locations—as "very dangerous." Mid-May to the end of June is the worst, but this year July was wetter than normal.

13. By the time of her assessment in August—which she described as the driest part of the year and when the grass dies out—Dr. Arnold explained there was less of a problem with unrestricted grass access. She clarified that she could only speak based on what she observed in early August, which was a completely different (and drier) time of the year than May [when Animal Services first visited] and June [when Dr. Hagerman visited]. Dr. Arnold clarified that she did not see the horses in the timeframe of those earlier visits, so she could not tell if either horse had had a laminitis flare up then. Jax did not seem to have laminitis by the time of her August visit, but Poco was still sore.

14. In addition to the expert testimony, the Skoretzes' testified at great length and offered numerous exhibits.

15. Among the highlights of Mr. Skoretz's testimony was his explanation that he has asked farriers how to trim, and that Washington has no state farrier certification. A farrier had told him it was good to let the hooves grow out. He thinks hooves chipping off is natural. Prior to this summer, the last time he had a farrier out to visit the horses was approximately seven years ago. Other people feed his horses grass and fruit. Exs. 16 & 18. Jax had no visible sign that he was lame in any way, so Mr. Skoretz assumed he was not in pain. Conversely, when he observed Poco limping, he saw she was in pain. He

thought his August 9 photo showed Poco and Jax were not fat. Ex. O-8. He walked through exhibits showing him trying to take care of their hoofs.

16. Among the highlights of Ms. Skoretz's testimony was that it was not feasible to take the horses off a pasture and find other boarding given they had family and from three states and there was a lot going on. Yes, the hooves had grown long, but her husband was busy. She does not think they need a farrier when most people can do such work by themselves. She was not present for the veterinarian's examination, but she has done internet reading. She thinks the horses have white line disease, not laminitis. It is up to the horse owner to decide which recommendations to follow. She agreed Poco was limping, but Jax was not, and she saw no visible sign from Jax that he had laminitis. She does not mind if Poco is limping. Why not give her access to unlimited food if it makes Poco happy, and why is Animal Services so concerned about an animal?

17. Ms. Skoretz recognized that, in retrospect, they could have been more prompt, but there were family things going on. Their care may have been ineffective, but it was only a result of ignorance or carelessness, not of ill-intent. They did not intentionally deprive their horses of adequate care. She wished she had paid more attention. She got her priorities mixed up, and did not stay on top of Poco.

Legal Standard

18. Unless directed to by law—and no special directive applies to today's case—the examiner does *not* grant substantial weight or otherwise accord deference to agency determinations. Exam. R. XV.F.3. Ours is a true *de novo* hearing. For those matters or issues raised in an appeal statement, Animal Services bears "the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence both the violation and the appropriateness of the remedy it has imposed." KCC 20.22.080.G; .210.

19. Animal Services asserts a violation of KCC 11.04.250.A.2, which makes it unlawful to:

> By reason of neglect or intent to cause or allow any animal to endure pain, suffering or injury or to fail or neglect to aid or attempt alleviation of pain, suffering or injury the person has so caused to any animal.

20. As to the first relevant portion of that provision ("[b]y reason of neglect…to cause or allow"), Ms. Skoretz referred to the RCW on criminal negligence and asserted that they did not meet that and so should not have been charged with a crime. There is no criminal allegation here. Ours is an administrative action, and we look to the less strict civil understanding of "neglect" as the "omission of proper attention to a person or thing, whether inadvertent, negligent or willful." *Neglect*, BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY (16th ed. 2014). While "negligence" focuses on the mental state and the reasons someone fails to perform a duty, "neglect" is an objective inquiry of whether people have done that which was their duty to do. *Id.*

21. As to the second relevant portion of that provision (causing or allowing "any animal to endure pain, suffering or injury"), Mr. Skoretz argues that neither horse was in "extreme or excessive pain" or "intense pain." Ex. 32 at 006, 010. That is not the standard. The

code does not add a modifier such as "extreme" or "excessive" or "intense." And we do not get to "add words where the legislature has chosen not to include them." *Nelson v. Department of Labor & Industries*, 198 Wn. App. 101, 110, 392 P.3d 1138 (2017).

Poco Analysis

22. As described above, Dr. Hagerman observed Poco with feet in such bad shape that she was limping. Poco was suffering from "chronic laminitis," chronic inflammation that leads to painful bone demineralization. Poco's feet were poorly trimmed feet and her foot bone angles were dramatically off. Poco needed intensive foot trimming and shooing, removal from grassy pastures, and to lose 75 pounds.

23. Dr. Arnold's opinion is not to the contrary. Her written professional opinion was that as of September 14, "both horses are being cared for in a satisfactory manner." Ex. H (underscore added). That creates no conflict as to the horses' condition and care in May–July. In fact, she candidly explained that she was not present during those earlier periods when the pastures were greener (with grasses she described as "dangerous"), and so could not comment on their condition back then. (By the day before Dr. Arnold's August 2 visit, the photo shows the pasture still with some green, but significantly drier. Ex. O-5 at 002.) Yet even in August, after the pasture had significantly dried up, Dr. Arnold was still requiring Poco to be restricted. And her diagnosis, again, was that the horses were "grossly obese."

24. The Skoretzes argue that the violation should be overturned, because they did not receive a hard copy of Dr. Hagerman's report until July 23. In addition to providing an oral report to Mr. Skoretz during her June 29 visit, Dr. Hagerman then emailed a PDF version of her written report to Ms. Skoretz on July 2. Ms. Skoretz explained that her phone did not open PDFs, she did not have working Wi-Fi at home and does not like to use that anyway, she has elected not to do personal email on her work computer, she was way too busy to go to a computer, she was tired at the end of her long work days, and she has an unpredictable work schedule. The decision not to take steps to find—given the myriad of technological options available in 2018—a way to open up and read Dr. Hagerman's email, and to instead wait for a snail mail copy, was a choice. And choices have consequences. Moreover, Dr. Hagerman was the veterinarian the Skoretzes—not Animal Services—selected. So any communication breakdown between the Skoretzes and Dr. Hagerman was not attributable to Animal Services.[2]

25. Moreover, there was no requirement that Animal Services wait a specific time to serve a violation notice. Nothing would have prevented Animal Services from assessing a violation (at least for Poco) on the date of its initial site visit at the end of May. That Animal Services waited to issue a notice of violation does not fundamentally alter our analysis.

[2] Dr. Hagerman explained at hearing that the summary in her written report was nothing really new, beyond what she had conveyed orally to Mr. Skoretz on June 29. The basic walk-a-way point from her visit—that the Skoretzes needed to restrict the horses' access to pasture grass—was not some hypertechnical instruction, such as the proper dosage for a complex medicine, which would have even required written directions.

26. The Skoretzes asserted that muzzling was a better solution (than limiting the lateral extent of the horses roaming) for grass intake restrictions. Dr. Arnold agreed. Dr. Hagerman did not dispute that muzzling could be an appropriate approach, but explained that this would require that the Skoretzes take each muzzle off each day while the horses ate hay, and keep the horses in a fenced area during that time. Yet ours is not a scenario where, say, Mr. Skoretz listened to Dr. Hagerman's June 29 assessment of the horses' hoof problems, obesity, and need to be off grass, and the following day the Skoretzes restricted grass access by muzzling (instead of fencing off) their horses. Their horses were still not restricted by the time Animal Services issued its violation notice on July 26, or even by the time Dr. Arnold visited on August 2.

27. The Skoretzes argued that that they were just laypeople, and so could not have known the horses' plight or the actions they needed to take. They also provided a letter from a neighbor that he only noticed lameness in one of the horses on one day in the previous year, Exhibit N, as evidence of what a reasonable person would have observed. Yet the Skoretzes argued with Animal Services, with the first farrier they asked out, and with the first veterinarian they asked out, over the proper course of treatment. For hearing, Mr. Skoretz produced reams of internet research, and Ms. Skoretz asserted her theory that the veterinarians had misdiagnosed laminitis when in fact the root cause of the hoof problems was white line disease.

28. The Skoretzes cannot have it both ways—claiming expertise when it comes to second-guessing professional opinions and trying to substitute their own assessments of medical diagnoses for Poco's condition or what constitutes best medical or farrier practices, but then asserting they did not know any better and should be excused. Moreover neglect is an objective test, and even if they were reasonably not aware of the problems before Animal Services' visit at the end of May, they were by then. And yet they let Poco continue to endure pain, suffering, or injury.

29. One consequence of this being a civil and not a criminal case, of neglect being an objective test, and of the lack of a "bad intent" requirement here is that Skoretzes' reasons for the neglect are not critical. This is not a case about whether the Skoretzes are good or bad people. It is whether, as of Animal Services violation notice, there had been neglect which allowed Poco to endure pain, suffering, or injury. Given the Skoretzes' resistance to Sgt. Eykel, farrier Anderson, and Dr. Hagerman, it is a little hard to accept their omission of proper attention to Poco was purely "inadvertent" and not at least a little willful.[3] But even giving them the benefit of the doubt as to motive, it was still neglect, and neglect with allowed endure Poco to endure pain, suffering, or injury.

Jax Analysis

30. The evidence related to Jax is not so straightforward. While Dr. Arnold agreed with Dr. Hagerman that Jax was overweight, that some sort of grass restriction is necessary in the spring and fall, and that it was only "safe" for Jax (as well as Poco) to be on pasture without a muzzle during the dry summer months, neglect is only one of the two essential elements for proving a KCC 11.04.250.A.2 violation. The other is that this neglect

[3] See, e.g., Ex. 35 at 005, n. 14.

caused or allowed the animal to endure pain, suffering, or injury. And for Jax the evidence is not as overwhelming as it is for Poco.

31. While Dr. Arnold noted (as of August 9) that Poco still had to keep his grazing muzzle on for another week, she opined that Jax's muzzle could be removed for the remainder of the summer, indicating Jax was not in such dire straits. Ex. F at 003. While Dr. Arnold observed that the "quality of [Jax's] front hooves is poor," with "cracks and defects in the hoof wall," and she recommended that a farrier work "on these front feet every 4-6 weeks to aid in providing a healthier hoof," she did not observe any lameness in Jax's trot. Ex. F at 001.

32. There is certainly a plausible explanation that Jax had been enduring pain, suffering or injury by the July 21 date Animal Services asserted as the date of violation, and yet Jax had simply recovered by Dr. Arnold's assessment two weeks later. After all, even without a real examination, Dr. Hagerman observed that Jax was limping on June 29. At hearing Dr. Arnold answered that she thought Dr. Hagerman's June 29 "Limping LF" diagnosis was "fair." Yet there is simply is not the definitive proof in the record as to Jax's pain, suffering, or injury as there is for Poco's.

33. As to laminitis specifically, unlike Poco—where we have Dr. Arnold's (as well as Dr. Hagerman's) definitive assessment of laminitis—the most we have for Jax was that Dr. Hagerman "suspect[ed]" laminitis. Ex. 30 at 002. Dr. Arnold did write that Jax needed a muzzle in the rainy season "to avoid another bout of laminitis in the fall," Exhibit F at 002 (underscore added), from which one might infer that Jax was indeed suffering laminitis earlier in the year, as Dr. Hagerman suspected. But Dr. Arnold testified that, in August, she could not confirm a case of laminitis for Jax. And Dr. Arnold reiterated that she had not been present in May through July.

34. Although we typically do not put too much evidentiary weight on hearsay, it is admissible. HEx. R. XII.B.1. Sgt. Eykel's written comments from her June 13 visit are instructive in showing the contrast between her assessment of Poco and of Jax. While she observed Poco was "visibly painful and lame when walking," her corresponding observation for Jax was that "he too was short strided[,] although much more willing to move[;] at one point did trot[,] although he was very short strided and stilted movement." Ex. 35 at 005 n.11. This matched her hearing testimony, that while Poco was "visibly lame," Jax seemed "uncomfortable." Those are not the same thing.

35. Dr. Hagerman did not examine Jax. We are somewhat hesitant to hold this lack of factual development against Animal Services, because it was Mr. Skoretz who took it upon himself to limit Dr. Hagerman's examination to only Poco. In barring Dr. Hagerman from examining Jax, Mr. Skoretz took away what would have been the best single piece of evidence on which we would base a finding of whether Jax was enduring pain, suffering, or injury during the lush grass season. Yet we do not find this conduct egregious enough to employ an evidentiary sanction against Mr. Skoretz. And so we simply do not have the record on Jax like we do for Poco.

36. In sum, Jax's case is much nearer to the line than Poco's. If the Skoretzes had the burden to prove that Animal Services was wrong, we would conclude that they had not carried their burden. But because Animal Services has the burden, and because we make no evidentiary sanction regarding the missing Dr. Hagerman examination, we find that Animal Service did not quite meet its burden of proof as to Jax.

Additional Analysis

37. We address three final items—the responsible party, the amount of the fine, and a look towards the future.

38. In his answer, Mr. Skoretz pointed to Ms. Skoretz as the party responsible for any violation. Ex. 32 at 004. Yet even in his answer, he pointed to his role in events. *Id.* at 005 ("I allowed only basic vet care and declined the unscheduled and unnecessary x-rays… I cautioned the first farrier …"). After hearing all the testimony, we conclude that each spouse separately, or jointly, would have qualified as a proper respondent(s). That Animal Services cited Mr. Skoretz—instead of Ms. Skoretz or both Skoretzes—is not an error.

39. As to the amount of the penalty, where—after a violation but before the hearing—an appellant has taken responsible steps to avoid a recurrence of the violation, we have reduced, though never eliminated, the otherwise applicable penalty. Per Dr. Arnold's written report and testimony, by September 14 both horses were being satisfactorily cared for and the Skoretzes were following her protocols well. Ex. H. While future lack of professional veterinarian or farrier care, or lack of muzzling or otherwise restricting Poco or Jax from rich, sugary grasses in the wet season, might lead to a future violation, as of the close of hearing, the Skoretzes had corrected the violation, per Dr. Arnold. We thus halve the applicable penalty.

40. As to that future, the Skoretzes are aware that other people sometimes feed the horses. This knowledge adds an extra responsibility to either to prevent this or, if prevention is not feasible, to restrict sugary grasses even more in the wet season, to compensate for these additional food sources. And while Mr. Skoretz certainly possesses far better farrier skills than the average horse owner, and while amateur efforts might have been sufficient when the horses were younger and healthier, Jax and certainly Poco are in different condition now.

41. As one of the numerous articles the Skoretzes' submitted explained,

> Financially laminitis may be the most expensive equine disease to treat…. A conservative added-cost estimate for minimal care for foundered horse is $200 a month…. It is not unheard of for an owner to spend $10,000 in a single year to treat a complicated case of laminitis. And even then there are no guarantees for the horse's survival or future soundness.

Ex. D at 004. And if muzzles are the way the Skoretzes restrict their horses' access to grass in the long wet months, there will be the added responsibility of daily muzzle-off/confinement time. Certainly, Ms. Skoretz's concerns about animal rescue outcomes

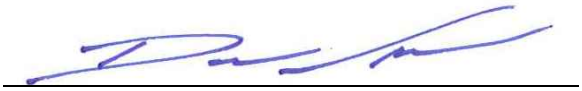
were heartfelt, but those are balances to be made and choices to take. There may—but there may not—be a solution that allows them to keep both horses in an economically efficient manner.

DECISION:

1. The Skoretz appeal as to Poco is DENIED as to the violation and PARTIALLY GRANTED as to the amount of the penalty, so long as they pay the resulting $250 penalty to Animal Services by **December 31, 2018**.

2. The Skoretz appeal as to Jax is GRANTED.

ORDERED November 5, 2018.



David Spohr
Hearing Examiner

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

King County Code 20.22.040 directs the Examiner to make the County's final decision for this type of case. This decision shall be final and conclusive unless appealed to superior court by *December 5, 2018*. Either party may appeal this decision by applying for a writ of review in superior court in accordance with chapter 7.16 RCW.

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2018, HEARING IN THE APPEAL OF BRAD SKORETZ, REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES OF KING COUNTY FILE NO. V18008565

David Spohr was the Hearing Examiner in this matter. Participating in the hearing were Sergeant Chelsea Eykel, Deborah Skoretz, Brad Skoretz, Dr. Linda Hagerman, and Dr. Tricia Arnold.

The following exhibits were offered and entered into the record:

Department-offered exhibits

Exhibit no. 1	Notice of violation no. V18008426, issued July 26, 2018
Exhibit no. 2	Notice of violation no. V18008565, issued August 24, 2018
Exhibit no. 3	Photograph of horse Jax
Exhibit no. 4	Photograph of horse Jax
Exhibit no. 5	Photograph of horse Poco
Exhibit no. 6	Photograph of horse Poco
Exhibit no. 7	Photograph of horse Poco
Exhibit no. 8	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 9	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 10	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 11	Photograph of water trough

Exhibit no. 12	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 13	Photograph of horses
Exhibit no. 14	Photograph of horse Poco
Exhibit no. 15	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 16	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 17	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 18	Photograph of water
Exhibit no. 19	Photograph of water
Exhibit no. 20	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 21	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 22	Photograph of horse Poco
Exhibit no. 23	Photograph of water trough
Exhibit no. 24	Photograph of horse's foot
Exhibit no. 25	Photograph of horse's feet
Exhibit no. 26	Photograph of horse's foot
Exhibit no. 27	Photograph of horse's foot
Exhibit no. 28	Photograph of horse's feet
Exhibit no. 29	Photograph of horses
Exhibit no. 30	Tacoma Equine Hospital patient record no. 5425, dated June 29, 2018
Exhibit no. 31	Photograph of horses
Exhibit no. 32	Appeal, received September 14, 2018
Exhibit no. 33	Emails between Brad Skoretz and Regional Animal Services of King County, dated August 23 and 24, 2018
Exhibit no. 34	RASKC staff report to the Hearing Examiner
Exhibit no. 35	RASKC investigation report no. A18002429
Exhibit no. 36	Communication log with Dr. Hagerman

Appellant-offered exhibits

Exhibit no. A	The Horse article titled "Pasture Grass: The Healthy Choice," dated May 5, 2016
Exhibit no. B	Article titled "When Excess Carbs Create Problems in Horses," by Kathryn Watts
Exhibit no. C	Article titled "Laminitis Attack: The First Line of Defense," by Dr. Don Walsh and Kathryn Watts
Exhibit no. D	Equus Magazine article titled "Living with Founder," by Christine Barakat, dated March 22, 2005
Exhibit no. E	Equus Magazine article titled "Life after Equine Laminitis," by Heather Smith Thomas, dated April 6, 2012
Exhibit no. F	Cedar Springs Equine Veterinary Services examination report, dated August 9, 2018
Exhibit no. G	Tacoma Equine Hospital patient record no. 5425, dated June 29, 2018
Exhibit no. H	Cedar Springs Equine Veterinary Services report letter, dated August 14, 2018
Exhibit no. I	Aerial photograph of property
Exhibit no. J	Article titled "Mechanisms for Development of Laminitis"
Exhibit no. K	Rocky Mountain Research & Consulting Inc. article titled "The Signs of Laminitis"

Exhibit no. L NANRIC article titled "Treating Chronic Laminitis" by Dr. R.F. (Ric) Redden, dated 2010

Exhibit no. M Appellants' statement, dated October 3, 2018

Exhibit no. N Statement from Justin Dorris, dated September 30, 2018

Exhibit no. O

1. Photograph of horses Poco and Jax
2. Photograph of hay; photograph of horse; video of horses
3. Photograph of property
4. Photograph of horses; video of horses
5. Photograph of property; videos of horses
6. Photograph of horse Jax's foot; photograph of horse Jax; photograph of horses; video of horse Jax
7. Photograph of horse Poco; photograph of X; photograph of horse Poco
8. Photograph of horse Jax; photograph of horse Poco; photograph of horse Jax; photograph of horse Jax's foot; photograph of horse Jax's foot; photograph of horse Poco; photograph of horse Poco
9. Photograph of property; photograph of biotin power and wood preservative; photograph of biozide gel; photograph of jar
10. Photograph of horse and fence; photograph of horse Poco; photograph of horse Poco; photograph of water; photograph of water; video of horse Poco; video of horse Jax; video of horses
11. Video of horse Poco
12. Photograph of boot; photograph of boot; photograph of boot; photograph of boot; photograph of boot; photograph of horse
13. Video of horse
14. Photograph of horse Jax; photograph of horse Poco; video of horse Poco, video of horse Jax; video of horse Poco
15. Video of horse Poco; video of horse Jax
16. Photograph of horses
17. Video of horse
18. Photograph of horses Poco and Jax; photograph of water; photograph of people on property; video of horse Poco; video of horse Jax
19. Photograph of property and horses; photograph of horse Jax's foot; video of horse; video of horse Jax
20. Photograph of horse Poco; photograph of horses
21. Video of horse Poco; video of horse Jax
22. Photograph of property and horse

Exhibit no. P Photograph of horse feet; photograph of horse Poco; photograph of water; photograph of horse foot

Exhibit no. Q Photograph of horse foot; photograph of horse; photograph of horse foot; photograph of horse foot

Exhibit no. R Rebuttal to RASKC investigation report A18002429

DS/ld

November 5, 2018

OFFICE OF THE HEARING EXAMINER
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue Room 1200
Seattle, Washington 98104
Telephone (206) 477-0860
hearingexaminer@kingcounty.gov
www.kingcounty.gov/independent/hearing-examiner

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

SUBJECT: Regional Animal Services of King County file no. **V18008565**

BRAD SKORETZ
Animal Services Enforcement Appeal

I, Liz Dop, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that I transmitted the **REPORT AND DECISION** to those listed on the attached page as follows:

☒ EMAILED to all County staff listed as parties/interested persons and parties with e-mail addresses on record.

☒ placed with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as FIRST CLASS MAIL in an envelope addressed to the non-County employee parties/interested persons to addresses on record.

DATED November 5, 2018.

Liz Dop
Legislative Secretary

Anderson, Becky
Rainier Farrier Services
Hardcopy

Arnold, Tricia Dr.
Cedar Springs Equine Veterinary Services
Hardcopy

Cormier, Marilynn
Hardcopy

Eykel, Chelsea
Regional Animal Services of King County

Hagerman, Linda Dr.
Tacoma Equine Hospital
Hardcopy

May, John
AAA Performance Shoeing
Hardcopy

Skoretz, Brad/Deborah
Hardcopy