April Nastasi April's K911 Academy Socialization & Behavioral Program for Grumpy Dogs

Good afternoon City Council, Mayor;

My name is April Nastasi. I appreciate that you all are willing to listen with great diligence to a serious problem we have in our community. Thankyou

I am here on behalf of the 51 previously grumpy dog owners(1), who can ONLY be here today in the form of their notarized statements, . . .the thousand people who are bit each year in our community(2). AS well at the thousands that are Not reported, On behalf of April's K911 Academy, and ALSO the thousands of genetically fearful, misunderstood, potentially dangerous dogs here in Las Cruces.

COUNCIL ARE YOU AWARE:

- 1. We have had 2 DEATHs & an 1 arm amputation in the last 6 months due to dog attacks.(3)
- 2. ASCMV is knowingly, & negligently, adopting out red flag dogs to unsuspecting pet parents without properly educating them. A previous meeting they showed states where more than half the dogs returned were becuz of aggression.

One of their own fostered dogs and her pups attacked and killed, 6yr old Avery Jackson. I bring this up not to blame but to let you see that from what they advised the foster parent to do was AVOIDING the situation which in turn TEACHES the Dog, that behavior LIKE THAT, IS ACCEPTABLE. And it only takes 1 time without boundaries and consequences to escalate.

- 3. 2020 NMStatue 77-1-5(8) the owner has entered the dog in a socialization and behavioral program approved or offered by the animal control authority. We have REPORTED 1,000yrly. Las Cruces does NOT have any such program, let alone anyone experienced enough or who is willing to take on these aggressive dogs except April's K911 Academy.
 - 4. (Prevention)-We can have Great SUCESS in Preventing Dog Aggression IF Behavior modification is implemented AS SOON AS the signs show themselves to correct potentially insecure behaviors, that can promote more unbalanced, dangerous, aggressive behaviors, IF left unchecked. BUT without knowing the sometimes subtle signs, attacks can not be prevented. This NEEDS to be RECOGNIZED by everyone who has contact with a dog including city/county personnel, Police force, ACO, ASCMV, Fosters, Rescues, Vet techs, Boarders, Doggy daycares, Every dog trainer in this county, Meter readers & ANYONE who has contact with a dog as we are All teaching the dogs something.

I am here to day to ask you council: Do I ask them to wait to answer questions til after if they count their answers against my time?

- 1. WHAT IS YOUR PLAN TO IMMEDIATELY ADDRESS THIS URGENT DOG ATTACK PROBLEMS?
- 2. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH MY WORK WITH MY FACILITY REGARDING MY IN HANDS ON APPROACH TO BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TRAINING, SUPPORT THEREPY PLAYCARE, & INTENSE OVERNIGHT THERAPY(difwordhere).

 THIS IS YOUR PROBLEM, NOT MINE.

YES, The last 17 yrs of my life's work has been committed to educating,

- rehabilitating & being an advocate for GRUMPY DOGS & THEIR PET PARENTS.
- 3. This is A SERIOUS URGENT PROBLEM that isnt going away, AND . . . I CAN HELP YOU TO LOWER our dog bite numbers. . LETS TALK. . .

WHO AM I

I am a K9 Behaviorist, a resident of LC since 2001, I have my Associate and am a 2005 Bachelor of Animal Science(NMSU) Graduate, Retired horse trainer, VP for NMDR (fostering over 100 dogs), Area dog trainer for local pet store. . . In 2009 I opened the integrative/energetic training facility-April's K911 Academy. I have been working with grumpy/shy/submissive misunderstood dogs 365days a yr since 2005. RECENTLY, It was brought to my attention by county codes, after 6yrs in the same facility, that I must upgrade my building to continue my behavioral program. Due to lack of funds I have had to close the majority of my program until the upgrades can be done. In the mean time, I would like to still HELP.

SOLUTION Education and Prevention

Designate April's K911 Academy as ACO's referral to fullfill the requirement for NMStatue 77-1A-5(8) But not just after they have had numerous bites,. . . but BEFORE with Education for the public & Prevention: Such as

- 1) By requiring the owner upon the 1st Dog bite to attend in person with their grumpy dog to one of Aprils K911 Academy's FREE Fixing the Grumpy Dog workshop. Where they will learn, practice, & receive a handout. They are welcome & encouraged to attend monthly.
- 2) 2nd dog bite, owners are to attend one of the Academy's, 7 wk obedience/behavioral program where they will get weekly practice to help their dogs overcome their fear and to give them the stability, safety and security they need, to be happy, confident members of our society.

Very aggressive dogs may also need to attend support therapy playcares.

- 3) If they owners can not afford a 7wk obedience class than the should be able to obtain a voucher to do so.
 - 4) Educate our public service members with SAFE, HANDS on EDUCATION by participating in controlled playcares, & free workshops.

Are you aware that the AmericanVeterinaryMedicalAssociation – Has a Task Force on Canine Aggression and Human-Canine Interactions & have already done the hard work to provide guidelines for others to implement a community approach to dog bit prevention which can be followed and implemented. I have attached a copy of that as well.

CONCLUSION

I am qualified, experienced, with a high success rate in k9 rehabilitation, having developed a successful behavioral program and Willing to help take on the liability, for this community with their grumpy dog problems. I am dedicated to helping these dogs and their owners to get past their low genetic tolerance, to becoming happy, productive, members of our society for our families, their neighbors, and everyone who has contact with a dog. Because everyone who does, . . . is a Dog Trainer.

In the mean time, until I can secure funding to do so, I am willing start instruction with free monthly behavioral workshops for the Animal Service Center MV Staff, Fosters and adopters, WITH their own grumpy/shy dogs in a facility that will accommodate with adequate space.

I will be attending future meetings to give you an update on our progress.

EVIDENCE to LEAVE

- 1. 51 notarized Grumpy dog experiences. Pick 5 to read?
- 2. NCIC Coord,Robert Milks for MVDispatch- Reported dog bites 2019, 2020, 2021-~1,000. An earlier session with the ACSMV showed the majority of dog adoption returns are bouz of aggression. (Mimi will be there and will speak about being a foster parent for them as well & she got a grumpy dog after a few days)
- 3. 2020 NM Statue Chpt 77-1A-5
- 4. ACSMV detrimental advice to a foster parent, leading to death of 6yr old Avery.
- 5. LISTS of Improvements NEEDED for Aprils K911 Academy to continue.
- 6. April's K911 Academy Statement
- 7. April's Fixing the Grumpy Dog workshop handout

PROBLEMS/CONCERNS Cont'

- 1. 2Deaths- Educate Everyone on potential body language, that if not corrected can become potentially dangerous. Teach people who to protect themselves. Carry Air horn.
- 2. Educational programs started in elementary school, BEFORE fostering or adopting, hands on training for public service personal,
- 3. I provided the note from the ASC about the 6yr old boy who died as result of an attack from the foster dogs to show that the instruction that was provided was improper. By instructing the foster to take mom out first, than the pups, AVOIDS the issue and she learns that she is just in her behavior and without boundaries it could get worse with only one non correction. Properly Train personnel how to recognize potential behavioral issues & how to deal with these issues, how to advise & refer them to a successful socialization/behavioral program. Have them attend hands on playcare sessions to have hands on education. They can be trained to properly use tools to break up fights and PREVENT fights from ensuing.
- 4. Education with classes, workshops, public events, on hands experience. It starts in the family but they can not do their job without the resources.