

To: St Francis Shelter

From: Debbie West, Prevent a Litter (PAL) and Lora Meisner, Coalition Advocating for Animals (CAFA)

We are presenting this information to you regarding your client Sierra S. This is a timeline/factual report of information that we think is important for you to be aware of as Sierra is your client and lives in your shelter.

On September 18, 2020, my nonprofit PAL—Prevent A Litter received an email from Mackenzie Kohler with St. Francis Shelter. She was asking for help in finding a foster home for two dogs belonging to a family that St. Francis Shelter was assisting. I was only given the name of the woman, Sierra S. The family had been living in their car and were forced out of the canyon due to the canyon fires. I was given Sierra's cell phone number and sent her a text on Sept. 22, 2020 telling her I was happy to try to find a foster home for her dogs. I asked for the information (What is their sex? Are they spayed/neutered? Are they good with other dogs, cats, kids? Are they up to date on vaccinations?) needed to find a suitable foster home. She responded with photos of both dogs. That is when I was introduced to Maddie, a 10- year-old Lab mix and Leroy, 6-year-old Pomeranian mix. I learned then that the dogs were not up to date on vaccinations and Maddie was not spayed and Leroy was neutered. I sent out a mass email to my friends and animal advocates in the community. I received an email from Louise W. I gave her the Sierra's cell phone number and they corresponded.

For the safety of Louise's, dog and child, PAL told Sierra that PAL would pay for her dogs to be vaccinated. Sierra told me that she went to Aumsville Veterinary Clinic but they did not have an appointment available until Oct. 30th. She made an appointment with Stayton Veterinary Clinic. As an act of kindness and compassion, PAL paid for a full exam of both dogs, all needed vaccinations, worming, flea treatment and microchip. PAL also paid for Maddie and Leroy's dog food, grooming twice and doggie diapers when Maddie came into heat on Oct. 31st.

PAL offered to spay Maddie at no cost to Sierra and set that process in motion on Oct. 27, 2020. It was her responsibility to make the appointment. I was not informed of the appointment date but learned on Dec. 31, 2020 that when Sierra took Maddie for her spay at Willamette Valley Animal Hospital on Dec. 31, 2020, WVAH staff informed her that Maddie was close to giving birth and was lactating. I did not learn this from Sierra. Louise W. called me and told me the news. Louise had stupidly allowed an unaltered male dog into her home while Maddie was in heat. Louise was very apologetic. (Later we suspected that this was planned.) I told her that "accidents" happen and we would move forward. I told her that PAL would continue to support Maddie and her pups. I asked her to talk with Sierra about the pups going to rescue. She told me that Sierra was fine with that. (The original agreement was that Maddie would have the pups, care for them until weaned, then the pups would go to a rescue and after Maddie was spayed, she would be returned to Sierra.) At that time, I contacted Lora Meisner/Coalition Advocating for Animals and asked if she would like to partner with PAL on the adoption of Maddie's pups. She said, "Yes".

On January 3, 2020, Louise sent me a text informing me that Maddie was in labor. It was then that I contacted Lora Meisner/Coalition Advocating for Animals and sent Louise Lora's cell phone number.

(Lora Meisner's narrative follows this paragraph. However, I got a call from Sierra (First time I had ever heard from her since PAL began supporting and providing vet care for her dogs 4 months earlier) and she informed me that she wanted Maddie and the pups. I encouraged to do what was best for Maddie and the pups and that was staying with Lora. I believe everything changed when Louise mistakenly thought Lora was going to try to "keep" Maddie. Since my conversation with Sierra on January 12th, I have received numerous vile and threatening voicemails and texts from Sierra, her ex-husband and her boyfriend.)

Lora Meisner's narrative begins:

Once it was discovered that Maddie had been exposed to an unneutered male at Louise's home (the foster) and was pregnant, PAL reached out to CAFA in order to assist with eventually arranging adoption of the pups. CAFA is a non-profit rescue. Verbal permission was given to PAL and to the foster that Sierra only wanted Maddie back and had no interest in the pups. (A text from Sierra states the same.)

Debbie told Louise, the foster, that CAFA (Lora Meisner) would be partnering with PAL regarding Maddie and the pups. On January 3, Lora texted Louise to let her know she has experience with birthing litters of kittens and CAFA's vet was alerted. Maddie had started labor on January 2.

Louise reached out to PAL and CAFA for help with Maddie regarding her non-advancing labor. Louise was concerned and reached out to us for help.

Monday January 4, Maddie's labor was not progressing. Louise reached out to Lora and CAFA because she was concerned about Maddie. CAFA began calling various Salem vets to find out if they had the capacity to do an emergency C-section that day. Louise, the foster took Maddie to VCA Vet Clinic on Commercial St. After considerable time, they got Maddie in and did a preliminary exam. Their conclusion was the Maddie and her pups weren't in distress and to just take her home. (CAFA paid the vet bill.)

Their conclusion was unsatisfactory to both Louise and Lora. Louise remembered that Maddie had received vet care (arranged and paid for by PAL) at the Stayton Vet Hospital. I called them while Louise drove Maddie there. Their vet Dr. Beachy via ultra sound found that one pup had died in vitro and was blocking the birth canal. Maddie needed an immediate emergency C-section. CAFA told the hospital that it would pay the bill to save Maddie's life. The vet asked if complications--as this was a 10-year-old dog--who should be saved Maddie or the pups? Louise contacted Sierra and she told Louise to save the pups "as Maddie is old." Maddie and her pups would be dead if CAFA hadn't stepped up and OK'd the C-section and paid the bill. Given a choice for her "beloved dog Maddie" Sierra chose to let Maddie die.

Louise took Maddie and her newborn pups to her home. Due to the effects from the anesthesia, stress, pain from surgery etc. Maddie was acting hostile and had difficulty nursing pups initially. Maddie mouthed one of her pups and inflicted a puncture wound on the back of its neck. Louise called Lora and Lora urged her to take pup to the emergency vet, which she did. They examined the pup, cleaned wound and prescribed antibiotics. (Again, CAFA paid this vet bill.)

Louise expressed to Lora her difficulty and frustration with all of the obstacles of dealing with Maddie and the pups. Louise had already had several sleepless nights and had to call in sick the next day—Tuesday--as she was suffering from sleeplessness and exhaustion. Because of Maddie's need for more supervision, care, and hands-on care of the pups as well as one extremely small runt of the litter that

might have needed supplemental bottle feeding---Louise brought Maddie and the pups to Lora's house on Tuesday 1/05. Louise had to go back to work and Maddie and the pups needed 24/7 supervision and care. Additionally, Lora/CAFA had access to a vet that could come of her home to intervene with medical care if necessary.

On Tuesday January 5, Maddie and pups were in the care of Lora/CAFA at her home. (Pups were named Maximo (largest), Mario, Macgregor and the tiny runt is Magee.) Because Magee was so small and physically at risk of not surviving, Lora slept on the floor next to Maddie and the pups Tuesday night. Once Maddie was at Lora's home—calmed down, she began to attend to her pups in a more normal manner—nursing, cleaning and potty-ing. Magee needed constant supervision—making sure he got on one of Maddie's operating teats (not all produced milk)—making sure his larger more forceful brothers weren't pushing him out of the way. Almost every hour to hour and a half, Lora made sure Magee was on a teat and nursing. Lora checked on them at least two/three times during the night.

Maddie bled through her vulva and Lora checking with her vet expressed concern. Dr. Fulton came to Lora's house and examined Maddie and the pups on Saturday 1/09. Dr. Fulton determined that Maddie was anemic—not unusual—and gave her a vitamin B12 shot that Dr. Fulton said she would need every week for the next 3-4 weeks. (Again, CAFA paid for all of Maddie's vet care.)

On Monday January 11 Sierra requested to see Maddie and the pups. Lora said it was fine, as long as she came alone and wore a mask due to Covid and since unvaccinated pups are vulnerable to parvo and distemper—both can kill pups. When Sierra arrived at my home, Maddie growled and did not greet her. I took Sierra into the room where Maddie and pups were resting. She visited them for a little while—then I showed her the room where I was going to move them once the pups became more mobile. She suddenly said she was “uncomfortable” with them being at my house and that she wanted them. When I asked where she would take them, she said that her ex-husband Aaron could put them in the garage of the place where he is living with her daughter. When I told her that the pups would die in a garage as they needed to be kept very warm and needed 24/7 supervision. I tried to explain that these were new born pups with Maddie just having undergone major surgery. Maddie needed those vitamin B12 shots and supervised care. (editorial note: Where was Aaron when she needed a foster originally for Maddie and Leroy?)

I asked her if Aaron worked and she said yes. I asked who was going to be caring for the pups and Maddie 24/7? She said her 15-year-old daughter. I asked her if that was the same daughter who attempted suicide and recently got out of a care facility? Sierra thought it would be therapeutic for her. I told her that these pups and Maddie need experienced 24/7 care, they were extremely physically vulnerable and that the runt could still die. None of my statements seemed to make a difference. She told me she wanted Maddie and didn't care about the pups. I tried to reason with her that pups needed their mom. I told her once the pups were weaned, she could have Maddie. PAL and CAFA's ONLY concern is the health and welfare of the pups and Maddie. I asked her if she would continue Maddie's vet care—she said she would—how would she do that? Her answer “none of my business.”

I was asking her to go and think about what was best for Maddie and the pups. On Tuesday she sent me a text saying that she was coming for Maddie later that afternoon. When she knocked on my door, I ignored her. I think she called the police and the police called me. I wasn't answering my phone so I called them back and explained the situation to them. They asked if there was a way to “compromise” something like “keep Maddie for 4 weeks and then give her Maddie.” I had already told her that she

could have Maddie once pups were weaned at 6 weeks. These vulnerable pups, especially the less-than-half-the-size runt needed their mom. I told them we can't compromise the health and well being of Maddie and the pups—Maddie was anemic and needed B12 shots.

After Sierra called me twice at 4-4:30 am on Wednesday 1/13 (I blocked her number after that) and received multiple threatening texts from Aaron, I contacted an animal rights attorney.

After consulting the attorney and talking to him about the threats and harassment as well as our primary concern about Maddie and her pups. He counseled me about the options and the law. He drew up a Notice of Possessory Lien for Chattel. Our (PAL and CAFA) concern was NEVER the money but the health and welfare of the Maddie and the pups. But since the only Legal mechanism CAFA had to implement to save/care for Maddie and the pups was a Lien on Property. Unfortunately, in Oregon (and other states) dogs and cats—though sentient beings—are considered property, like a couch.

Wednesday January 13, I received voicemails and texts, threatening violence both personal and against my property from both Sierra and Aaron. I was not home at 4:30 pm but Sierra was in front of our home screaming at the top of her lungs that she wanted her dog and I was stealing her dog. I had a couple coming to adopt a kitten and I had to have them follow me when I drove up into my garage in order to avoid "crazy lady" screaming in my cul de sac. My neighbors were in their front yards wondering what was going on. My husband called the police—there should be a police report on her behavior.

The police talked to her and since this was a "civil" matter as the Lien is civil, not criminal and the police should have left but contacted Louise instead at Sierra's suggestion. Sierra agreed to have Louise take Maddie and the pups back to her home. If I had not relented, the police said that Maddie and pups either went to Louise's home or the Marion County Dog Shelter. I was on the phone with my attorney who told me the police were unfamiliar with the law but were not giving me a choice—so once again, in the best interest of Maddie and the pups, I let Louise take them to her home. If the police had taken them to the Marion County Dog Shelter to an after-hours kennel which had no heat, the pups would have died of hypothermia.

Maddie and pups are now residing at Louise's home—however, Louise is the Agent of the Principals—CAFA and Pal—has to follow our instructions which right now are to care for pups and Maddie and allow NO visitation from Sierra or Aaron or any of their friends or family.

Under counsel of my attorney, the Lien against Sierra basically states that there is a Lien on Maddie and the pups for \$3500 due on or before February 15. If we don't receive these funds, Maddie and her pups are the property of CAFA and PAL.

PAL and CAFA both have emails, voicemails, and texts with vulgarities and threats from both Sierra and Aaron. We did not want it to be this way.

What we want and have wanted all along is for the pups to be with their mom, Maddie until weaned. Then the pups would become the "property" of CAFA and PAL so they can receive proper vet care: all vaccinations, deworming, neutering, micro chips and to be adopted into screened and puppy-capable homes. Maddie finally getting spayed and returned to Sierra when she has a permanent residence.

CAFA and PAL have no other interest than the best care and welfare of Maddie and her pups. We have tried to be reasonable but to no avail with Sierra. We found a foster home for her dogs, paid for their

vet care, food, etc. We asked for nothing in return except taking proper care of Maddie and the pups and to find good homes for the pups to be adopted into. And this started out as helping someone in need and ended up with an attorney and a legal document/action.

We think you need to be aware of this situation as Sierra is a resident and client of St. Francis Shelter.

We hope you can influence/persuade Sierra to do the right thing and agree to proceed with the terms of the original agreement that she had with Debbie West (PAL).

Thank you.

Epilogue:

Sierra unfortunately rejected our agreement which was taking pups into rescue and getting 10-year-old Maddie spayed. We believe St. Francis Shelter asked Sierra to leave once they realized she went against a legal lien and took Maddie and pups before the foreclosure date of the lien on Feb.15. Louise—who signed a legal agreement with CAFA and PAL to be an agent of these non-profits (on behalf of the lien) during the period of the lien and was legally obligated to follow our instructions—basically ignored the law. Louise also signed a legal agreement as a foster of CAFA's to take care of Maddie and the pups and ONLY follow the instructions of CAFA. CAFA and PAL supplied all food and was going to get veterinarian care for Maddie and the pups as well. We believe Louise, being very deceitful, became an ally of Sierra in order to get one of Maddie pups. So she illegally allowed Sierra and her ex-husband Aaron to come and take Maddie and the pups out of Louise's home. What is really heartbreaking for both CAFA and PAL is that the pups were scheduled to be wormed this week (Feb. 4th), get their first vaccinations next week (Feb. 15th) and get neutered before being adopted into qualified homes.. Since parvo is very prevalent in our community the pups could die of parvo or distemper because they will not get the vet care they need. 10-year-old Maddie being unspayed could easily die if pregnant again or possibly die of pyometra (a serious and deadly infection of the uterus) which is common for unspayed females. We are afraid that Maddie and pups will not get the veterinary care they need. CAFA and PAL really don't have any sensible legal recourse with regard to the lien. We could sue Louise for breach of contract but it's not worth it. Neither organization wants any communication or interaction with either Sierra or Louise. It's very sad and maybe tragic for Maddie and her pups. All we wanted was the health and well-being of the pups and Maddie. What's even worse is that this is an example of what happens when humans forget to be humane. These are two totally dysfunctional, mentally unstable and selfish women who decided against the best interests and well-being of 3 vulnerable pups and a 10-year-old dog. Both CAFA and PAL will always try to help people with their pets. We won't let our experience with deceitful, ungrateful people stop us from helping others in our community.

