

January 13, 2001

Ron & Marleen Iversen
41575 Little Lake Road
Mendocino, CA 95460

Mr & Mrs Iversen;

First I am writing this letter, because we will accept no further contact from you or your extended family, except by mail, our mailing address is printed below. This will be in everyone's best interest and eliminate any further rude interruptions.

Secondly, I am returning the bill you mistakenly left here. We are genuinely and sincerely sorry about what happened to your dog, but it is just as likely that it was your dog that attacked ours, not the other way around. Your dog was always trying to mount our dog, a common dominance action for dogs and not at all unusual with older dogs. Additionally, we have substantial evidence that there was a third animal involved in this altercation. At least two, if not more, of the numerous wounds our dog received, were from a raccoon. A raccoon tooth was removed from an abscess. Most importantly is the fact that both dogs were in violation of county leash laws, which makes you, Mr & Mrs Iversen, totally responsible for whatever damage befalls your dog, be it another dog, a wild animal, being hit by a car, or whatever else. Equally, I am responsible for what befalls my pet for the exact same reason, but I am not, in any way responsible for your loose pet.

Thirdly, we have observed your other dog, Brutus, loose on two occasions, Sunday, January 7, at around 9:30 AM and again Tuesday afternoon. We are all trying to keep these animals contained and am sure that we can all meet with more success as time wears on. We have further been informed that not long before we moved here, this same dog attacked a jogger, running with her dog in front of your property, I find it astonishing that you made no effort to keep that dog secured before now.

Finally, your daughter-in-law is telling anyone who will listen, exaggerated and highly colored representations of the facts surrounding this event. This includes but is not limited to, attributing false statements to people such as the animal control officer, amongst others, which they have subsequently denied ever saying. Regrettably, in the six months that we have lived here, the only contact we have had with your family is your daughter-in-law driving over and honking her horn in our driveway to inform us that our dog had killed your dog, which, happily, was not the case. Then you, Mr Iversen, coming over to threaten me with a lawsuit if I don't get rid of the family pet in 24 hours and now the campaign by your daughter-in-law representing not only our dog but also our family in the worst possible light. Given that you have never taken the time to get to know us, you are hardly in a position to represent us, positively or negatively.

We are looking for a home for our dog, a good home, which may take some time. My enthusiasm for finding him a home ebbs with every tale I hear told by your daughter-in-law. It would be prudent for everyone to stick strictly to the facts, embellishments and hyperbole will serve only to make matters worse for everyone. There is a great deal of ignorance and prejudice regarding different breeds of dogs including American pit bull terriers, but the only right solution is for all pet owners to keep their pets secured.

To summarize, restrict any future contact to mail only and we will afford you the same courtesy.

Sincerely,

Mary Geddry
PO Box 59
Mendocino, CA 95460