

May 6, 2002

Norm Vroman
Mendocino County District Attorney
100 North State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

VIA FAX TRANSMISSION

Re: Shooting at Geddry home in Mendocino

Dear Mr Vroman;

Before I begin, this letter may take a more personal note than I would want it to but please remember that the sanctity and serenity of my home has just been destroyed in a heinous and violent way. My children and I moved into this property two years ago because we believed it would be a safe place to live and for them to grow up. That has all been shattered now. Shattered by ignorance, prejudice and irrationality.

My neighbors, the Iversens and even the Kalinas, had a fear of 'pit bulls' long before I moved next to them. I can't control that. I can not control the pre-dispositions and prejudices and beliefs, right or wrong, of other people. I can not. I can try to work things out with them in a neighborly and social manner. To this end I have sent letters, email and messages through the animal control officers. Since January of 2001, I have asked again and again, that they comply with the leash laws and keep their animals safely on their own property. We contained our dog to the back, fenced two acres of our home unless we were with him in the front.

Either, they could not or would not keep their animals contained. Both dogs roamed the streets freely, frequently coming onto our property. On May 2, 2002, one of their dogs got into a fight with my dog in my front yard and I tore my hip muscle breaking them apart. These are irresponsible pet owners. For years their dogs have chased kids on bicycles and terrorized joggers but they still let them run freely. Again, I implored animal control to have them comply with the leash law but the Iversens could not or would not do it.

This letter is not the forum to defend the breed but I will interject some things to establish our position. Our pet was an American Staffordshire Terrier though I believe the neighbors always believed him to be an American Pit Bull Terrier, the distinctions between the breeds are unimportant here. Still, these two quotes from the American Kennel Club and United Kennel Club may give some understanding for those unfamiliar with these breeds that we are not the 'lovers of vicious animals', we are being painted as.

This breed is eager to please and brimming over with enthusiasm. APBTs make excellent family companions and have always been noted for their love of children. The United Kennel Club.

Over the past 50 years, careful breeding has produced today's American Staffordshire Terrier who is affectionate, reliable, and an especially good dog for children. The American Kennel Club.

Fear and ignorance are dangerous bedfellows and someday, in another forum, I will argue that the breed is the victim of bad press, something you should be acutely sympathetic to.

What you must explain to me is why these people are above the law? Why can they flagrantly violate the leash law and force me to be responsible for what befalls their pet? Why can they come onto my property, after stalking my dog all day and commit multiple felonies and leave me to bear the burden of what they have done? Even if my dog had killed their dog, Don Iversen committed multiple felonies. Something is horribly, horribly wrong here. What are these laws for if you and the sheriffs department are not going to enforce them?

If the leash law had been enforced both their dog and my dog would be alive today! If you do not enforce the laws they broke when they shot into my property and murdered my pet, what are the consequences of that going to be down the road? Can they continue on as vigilantes whenever there is a neighborhood dispute? Can I conduct myself in the same out of control, irresponsible fashion and get away with it? Can everyone else in the neighborhood behave this way? Is this behavior acceptable in Mendocino County? Just exactly what is going on here? Something is terribly, terribly wrong that my family can be victimized and terrorized this way, not just by my neighbors but by the inaction of your office.

You must answer these questions, Mr Vroman and not in the curt, get me off the phone because I am taking up your valuable time, manner that you did yesterday. I need a true and detailed answer as to why these people are above the law. Why hasn't Don Iversen been charged? I deserve that. My pet that was INNOCENT of killing their dog deserves it also. My family deserves it and we deserve it in writing.

Sincerely,

Mary Geddry
41701 Little Lake Road
Mendocino, CA 95460
707-937-5328

cc: Tony Craver, Sheriff
951 Low Gap Road
Ukiah, CA 95482