

Animal Abuse Reported In Metcalf –

METCALF, IL. ([ECWd](#)) –

On January 11, 2014, the Edgar County Sheriff's Office was called to report possible animal abuse in Metcalf, Illinois. The report was made by the property owner.

The owner had entered into an owner financed sale of the house to "The former residents", who had apparently decided to move out without notifying anyone, and leaving their excess animals without food, water, or heat.

Neighbors had noticed water coming out of the house and called the owner. On further investigation, they found dead animals and a basement with almost 5 feet of water in it. This was a result of them moving without having the water shut off, causing the pipes to burst.

Abused-dead animals in Metcalf

- The 2 birds were in aquariums, nothing to perch on, no bird cage.
- The 5-6 ft snake is approximate in size. The 6 inches of tail was under the bowl and all meat and skin already gone leaving only the bone structure of vertebrae and tail. It must have been at least 10 inches in circumference in the center of the body.
- One rabbit was outside the large tub laying on its belly.
- The other rabbit was still in the tub between the side of tub and what looked like a litter box.
- A large lizard type reptile was in an aquarium barely big enough to house him and with no room to move around.
- The small lizard or snake was so far into decomposing that it was unsure what it actually was.

Docket #: 2011-1110: Dept of Ag re: Humane Association

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has finalized its report on the stolen dogs from a few months ago.

It is clear from this report that:

- Mel Elston knew where the dogs were taken.
- Mel Elston failed to get the dog scanned for a chip; funny that she followed the 7 day rule of Animal Control, but decided not to follow their scanning rule. She also failed to notify Animal Control that the dogs were “found”.
- Department of Agriculture informed her that she did not have the authority to pick up strays – that’s the job of Animal Control.
- Mel Elston knew who adopted the dogs and chose not to return them to the rightful owner.
- Department of Agriculture recommended the Humane Association be cited for failure to follow procedure and to take steps to return the dogs to the rightful owner.

To date the Edgar County Humane Association has refused to return the dogs to their owner, which now forces the owner to contemplate filing a civil suit.

One thing to keep in mind after this investigation – Mel Elston (Edgar County Humane Association), DOES NOT have the authority to take dogs, stray or not, and they certainly cannot make the decision on whether an owner gets their dogs

back – although they effectively did that in this case. There are words for people that do things like this, but I choose to keep the dirty language off of this website.

The final report can be viewed here: [ILDeptAg](#)

[Dogs again...](#)

The following are excerpts from an article in the Olney Daily Mail in Richland County showing the mentality of their county board – and another link in the disappearing dogs story. Stay with us, we'll eventually get to the bottom of it all.

This is PUBLIC information and the board thinks that they can keep it to themselves.

If there is no hidden agenda, release the info.

Who do you think you are?

<http://www.olneydailymail.com/news/x363498391/Richland-County-Board-talks-Animal-Control-Letter-to-county-board-members-makes-some-people-barking-mad>

Board Member Melinda Hunt said the board had copies of a letter written by Mike Dawson, who also writes an animal column for the Daily Mail, raising questions about where the animals at the pound are taken, also alluding to questions about whether or not animals there are being sold.

Hunt said the board was supplied information about where the animals are taken. Animal Control officer Sandy Millman said later in the meeting the animals are taken to a network of animal rescues and humane societies in the northern part of the state.

Hunt said she also spoke with Millman, Dawson and State's Attorney David Hyde, and ultimately felt it was an issue between them. She also said Hyde thought the list of places to which the animals are taken should not be made public now due to the ramifications that the entities may face.

The board then heard from Richard Eckiss, who said he is responsible for delivering animals and bringing back feed.

Eckiss said the board has a list of kennels, addresses and phone numbers, but if the information is mishandled it could be detrimental to the whole program and the pound could go back to its formerly high rate of euthanasia. He said that if the places were made public, they could begin getting calls from people here and they may decide not to take the county's animals. "These people will not tolerate being harassed," he said.

There was also this story in Disclosure Magazine Online:

<http://www.disclosurenewsonline.com/2011/11/18/we-can-only-hope-this-is-for-real>

We have an update on the stolen Bassetts from Edgar County – the Illinois Department of Agriculture is still investigating this case. We will be notified as soon as the investigation is complete.

Stolen Dogs?

This story is becoming all too common in Paris and Edgar County, as a matter of fact it has become a common occurrence in Richland and Crawford Counties also. This organization has gone completely off the deep end and the sad thing is that they think they can keep getting by with illegally taking peoples dogs.

This story, and more like it that will follow in the next few days, will make you ask this simple question – **Why** would the Animal Control Board even consider contracting with this particular not-for-profit organization (or anyone associated with it) for care and control of dogs in Edgar County?

If anyone knows of other cases of stolen dogs, please drop us an [email](#)!

Remember: **Edgar County Animal Shelter** – is an entity of the Edgar County Government and **DOES NOT operate a webpage or a facebook page**, etc.

There are not-for-profit groups in the county that are trying to blur the lines and present the illusion that they are the Edgar County Animal Shelter when, in fact, they are not.

Keep in mind that the **Edgar County Humane Association**, The Edgar County Homeless Pets, or any other Humane or Rescue Organization in Paris and Edgar County **DOES NOT have the authority step onto your property or to take control of your dog without your permission. They cannot fine you either, that is for the Animal Control Officer to do.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines “stealing” as theft of the dog, or using **threats** or **intimidation** to take a dog away from the owner.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal

Health and Welfare issues licenses and also **investigates formal complaints**. The phone number to file a formal complaint is 217-524-3006. It must be a first-hand complaint (the owner of the stolen dog) for them to take action.

Now for the first story:

After talking to the owners of these dogs:

A beagle and a basset (with a chip) were **taken from a driveway** in south eastern Edgar County, right off of the Lower Terre Haute Road, on approx. Aug 29, 2011.

The owners immediately took an ad out in the Terre Haute Tribune (since they live so close to Indiana) and nobody called about the dog. Then, while searching online, they happened to find a craigslist ad (Aug 31) that had the basset up for adoption by Judy @ 217-465-8727. The pictures are also up on "edgar county homeless pets" facebook page.

Phone call after phone call revealed lie after lie about how the dogs were found, where they were taken to, and the date they were adopted out.

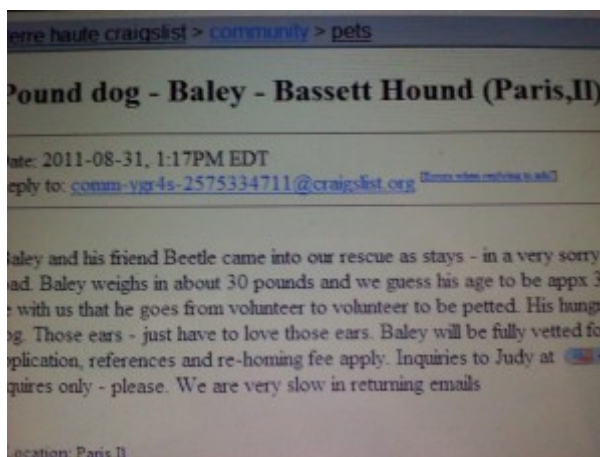
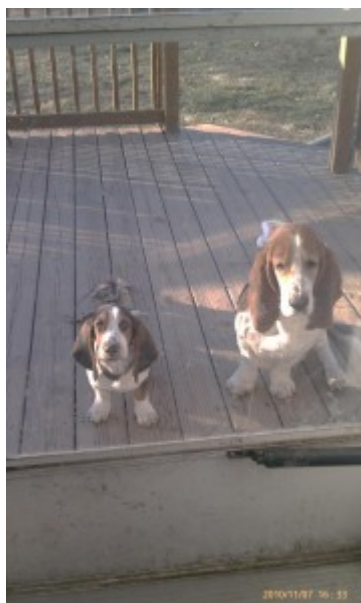
-Val (also works at Wal-Mart) told her the Animal Control Warden scanned it – how could he scan it when it was never taken to the county shelter?

-Mel Elston told her the dog was not scanned for a chip and called the owner an irresponsible pet owner.

-There are many more lies, but I think you get the point by now.

Keep in mind, that the "re-homing fee" to adopt a dog is usually \$150.00

If anyone knows the location of these dogs, please let us know.



The second story:

Will come in a few days and is about a litter of Pug puppies stolen out of a fenced yard.

Intimidation? How low will they go?

After attending an [Animal Control meeting](#) and a [District 95 School Board](#) meeting, three people – two BoE board members and another “prominant” (term used loosely) person, contacted my employers and told them that I should not be attending “their” meetings.

After attending an [Animal Control meeting](#) at a later date (Oct 3, 2011) , another phone call was made to my employer informing them that I was in attendance at the meeting and that they were “concerned” that I might get violent. Please

watch that video to see if you can detect any hint of "violence". This was yet another tactic to keep people, that don't agree with them, away from these meetings. This type of intimidation is uncalled for and is illegal.

These are the types of people (and the organizations they represent) that are allowed to volunteer at the shelter.

I know that the Animal Control board members did not make the call, so watch the videos ([animal control in particular](#)) and make your own educated guess.

Below is the video from the short Animal Control meeting on Oct 5, 2011.