

Hi Monica,

We have been told that a situation involving our family has been brought to your attention. If so I wanted to share our side of the story.

It came to our attention this evening that our family is being named and accused of being cruel or heartless. It is being said that we have stolen a dog, a shelter dog that was called in as a stray. When we met the dog, he was on a stray hold. The county policy allows 72 hours for an owner to contact the shelter before the pet can be adopted. This dog was found on a Wednesday. We visited him late Thursday. We put our names on the wait list that had been started in case his owners did not claim him before Monday. We were the third name on that list; a list which gave the owners five days to reach out for him.

The waiting list direction sheet provided by the pound stated we had to be present in the lobby at the date and time indicated to hold our position. No one else came until after the paperwork had been started. The man who came in late stated that he was on the list; the shelter explained he needed to have come at the time indicated. He said he was the one who had brought the dog in initially. He stated that he located the owner. The shelter asked where the owner was, why they weren't there for him, why the owner had not contacted them after all of these days, and why he had not contacted them again to share this update. He became argumentative and was told that the rules are the rules before he stormed out calling my husband selfish.

The shelter completed the paperwork. The dog was neutered. He is being treated for a flea infestation and ear infections. He is being cared for and loved. Our family did not break any rules, the shelter did not break any rules. I cannot imagine having a pet be unaccounted for even a day without contacting every shelter in the area.

Today the shelter contacted us to state the owner had left a note last night or early this morning when they were closed. They called us again to state that the man from adoption day returned to the shelter threatening media attention and a Facebook frenzy defacing the shelter and our family. The shelter informed us that we had done nothing wrong and that the pup was legally ours, but they wanted us to be aware.

This evening we were told that information about our family, including our names and careers, were shared via Facebook. We were called names and insinuations were made about our character. We are a teacher and a firefighter, the parents of two children and two other rescued golden retrievers. We are an involved and respected family in our community, not ones to disregard rules or morals.

We have been interested in rescuing a third golden for a few months and have narrowly missed the opportunity on others. We were cautiously optimistic about this particular pup's stray hold and then our placement on the wait list. We were elated when our daughter was able to meet "her" new boy.

We, and our children, are terribly upset about this situation. It has put us in a very uncomfortable position this evening. If the other side of the story was, in fact, shared with you and you speak with them; we welcome the opportunity to speak further with you as well.

Sincerely,
Chris & Robin Eaton

