



Press Release

November 19, 2020

Animal Friends of the Valleys Statement in response to false social media claims.

On November 18, 2020, Brandie Newman posted a claim on social media regarding her missing dog and Animal Friends of the Valleys. Sadly, the post has impacted the daily operation of the Shelter and has forced the Shelter to make a public statement correcting these false facts.

The actual facts of this case are these:

- Mrs. Newman's dog was picked up by Riverside County Animal Control after receiving a call regarding a dog running at large (RAL). This is a violation of **F&A Code: 30954-30956, 31101, 31105, 31109 Govt Code 53074**
- Mrs. Newman's dog was not wearing a collar with tags nor was he microchipped. Violation of **Riverside County Ord. No. 630.16, § 13**
- Mrs. Newman's dog was processed at the Facility and posted on www.animalfriendsofthevalleys.com website at 12:16pm 11/10/2020. The dog was available on our website from 12:16 pm on 11/10/20 through 10:50am on 11/16/2020.
- The process for inquiries regarding lost pets is to inform the party to check our website, visit the shelter in person regularly and to file a lost report on our website. We have a pet recovery specialist to help the public if they are unable to access the site themselves. Mrs. Newman did not visit the Shelter prior to the dog being adopted.
- Under the law if a public or private shelter has made the dog available for owner redemption on one weekday evening until at least 7:00 p.m. or weekend day, the holding period shall be **4 business days**, not including the day of impoundment. **CA F&A Code 31108 (a)(1)(A)**
- The dog was adopted by a family at 10:50am on 11/16/20 on the 6th business day, 2 days longer than required by law.
- Adoption contracts require the adopting party to either opt in or opt out of being contacted if the prior owner comes forward. The adopting party opted out of being contacted and this information was shared with Mrs. Newman.
- AFV, contrary to the signed contract, did make an attempt to contact the adopting party on two separate occasions. Mrs. Newman was contacted and informed of our attempt.

It is unfortunate when individuals resort to false claims to fit a false narrative. These attacks do not help an organization with a mission to help the animals. Sadly, these false statements contribute to false perceptions and create more harm than good. Many people automatically believe these false claims without hearing or understanding both sides.

We do hope that this story has a positive outcome and a lesson for all pets owners to make sure they provide identifying information for their pets so if they become lost, they have a way home.

As a resident in the County of Riverside, owners are mandated to license their dogs, which includes a rabies vaccination component. The cities of Lake Elsinore, Canyon Lake, Menifee, Wildomar and the county areas of Riverside have mandatory spay/neuter and microchip laws.

Contact:

Tammi Boyd

tammi@animalfriendsofthevalleys.com

About Animal Friends of the Valleys: Animal Friends of the Valleys is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to promoting humane care of animals through education and a humane, pro-active animal services program, and is committed to preventing the suffering of animals and to ending pet overpopulation in the communities they serve.