

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786
September 20, 2019

Subject: The Glorified Dog Pound & Sarge's - a Sweetheart Deal, Let's Follow the Money Dog.

This investigation of Sarge's started off due to a belligerent Sarge's employee, now identified at **Erica Leann Phillips**.

From <http://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/190915SargesFollowTheMoney.pdf> ,

"Whenever a person who is either elected or appointed to a position of power, or uses that power to intimidate people or abuse their power, I will go after them."

[**Editors Note:** Text above slightly expanded in previous link.]

*"The threshold for this investigation of Sarge's was triggered due to the behavior of some Sarge's employees to a young boy, TJ Ramey, Terry Ramey's son. For whatever reason, TJ and his father were at Sarge's inquiring about a dog that had just come in. Initially, TJ was told he would be able to get the dog, but after a woman with **straight blonde hair** interceded, everything changes, and it became terribly murky about TJ being able to acquire the dog. That was enough for me to drop what I was doing and take a look..."*

Erica Leann Phillips photo, taken from Sarge's website, appears at <http://www.haywoodtp.net/pubII/190919Mugshot.pdf>

Erica Leann Phillips was originally ID'ed as the woman with the straight blonde hair.



Erica Phillips

Adoption Center Manager

Erica has been with Sarge's for 4 years. She has always enjoyed being a part of the rescue effort in Haywood County. She saw the need, first hand, over the 9 years she was a veterinary technician for more community involvement and is thrilled to be part of Sarge's mission. Erica was also the rescuer of Wuzbug, a two legged Chihuahua, who inspired the Sarge's Special Needs Fund in her name. Erica's fur babies include 4 cats, Scoots, Lloyd, Widget, and Rosie, also 3 dogs: Oscar, Zoe & Dumplin'.

On Wednesday, 9/18/2019, I made the command decision to collect all of the data I could obtain from Sarge's (at both locations) regarding the dog that TJ was inquiring about, referred to as "Leon" at the Sarge's desk in the Glorified Dog Pound from the county computers. Then, go to Sarge's in the Industrial Park and get the balance of what I could from Sarge's computer. With this information, compare it to the Flow Diagram developed with Doyle Teague last Thursday on 9/12/2019. That was the plan.

I visited the Glorified Dog Pound around noon on 9/18/2019. I asked for Jeff Stamey, the #2 guy there, as Doyle Teague has disappeared, gone dark, dove into a bunker, who knows, since our meeting last Thursday with Terry Ramey.

Dog Pound personnel indicated I had just missed him, as he was rushing off to an important meeting with **Bryant Morehead**, County Manager.

I decided to go into the Lion's den (Sarge's part of the building) and ask for printouts related to TJ's dog, referred to as "Leon" at that point. That was 12:02 pm. After waiting about 5 minutes, a fellow came out and asked if he could help me. I requested printouts of everything related to "Leon" from the time he came in to the time he was transferred to Sarge's. He identified himself as "Doug".

[**Editors Note:** On one of the printouts, the Voucher Number Document, there is a name at the bottom indicating the clerk, DSAVITT. I presume this guy's name was Doug Savitt.]

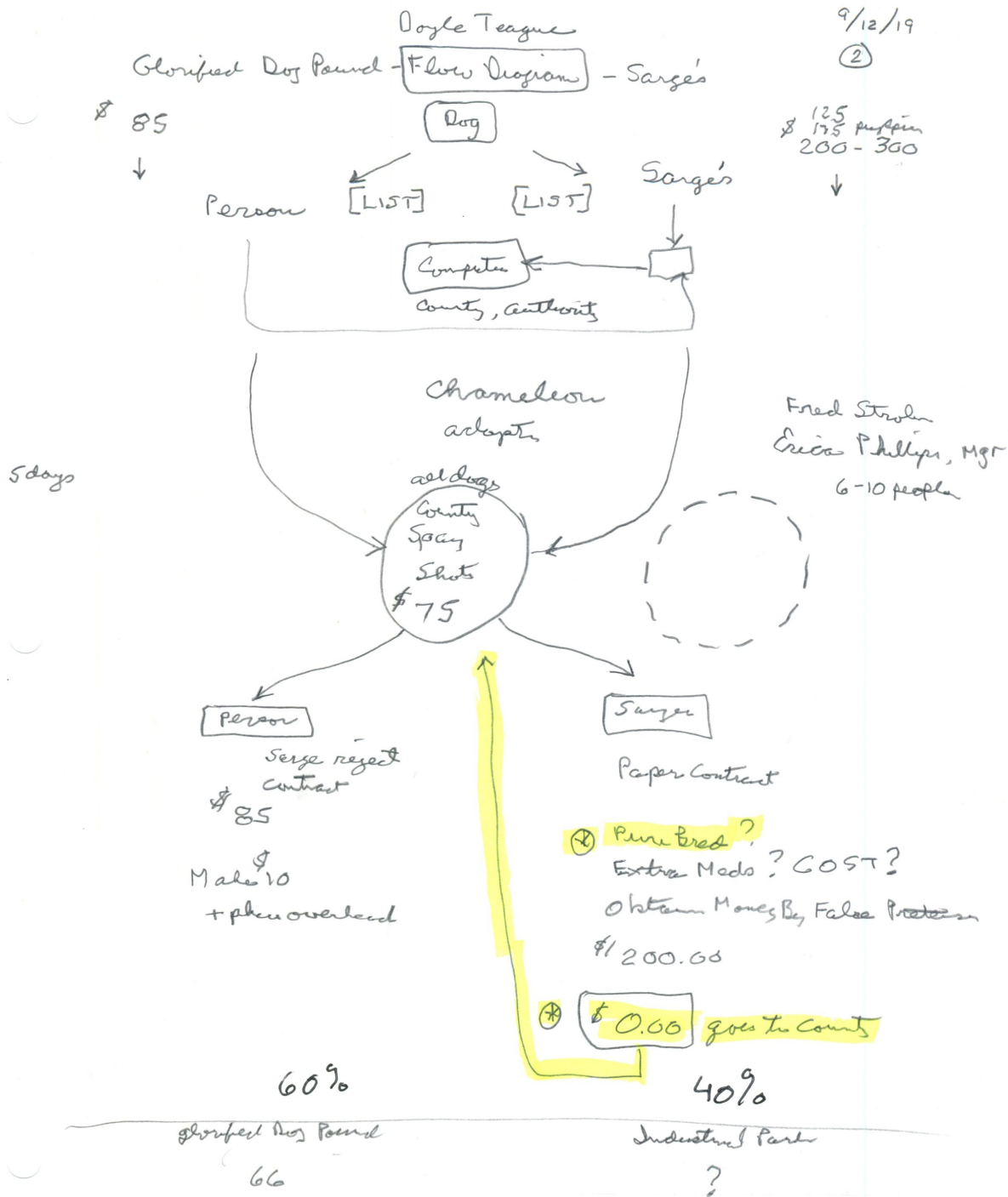
I got every excuse in the book as to why he could not print the history out...

- He was not familiar with doing that,
- It was a very old program,
- etc., etc., etc...

I requested that he just start pressing the print button and print out everything he could. That resulted in my receiving five (5) pages.

- Leon's Medical History,
- Untitled document with the Date Leon became county property,
- Document entitled Voucher Number: R19-008010 (front and back side of paper),
- Transfer Contract.

Why don't we compare these documents with the Flow Diagram Developed by Doyle Teague on 9/12/2019? First the Flow Diagram, then the five pages of documents, interspersed with comments.



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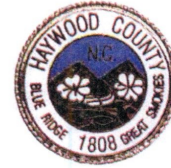


Note in this flow diagram that dogs go through the process of Spay/Neuter, shots, etc., before the transfer to Sarge's or that portion of the Glorified Dog Pound that people can get dogs for \$85 at the Pound.



Haywood County Animal Services

453 Jones Cove Road
Clyde, NC 28721
Phone: 828-456-5338
Fax: 828-456-9340



LEON'S MEDICAL HISTORY

A007750 DOG BLACK & TAN M GERM SHEPHERD

SEP 19 2019

Leon's microchip information:

Leon's most recent weight:

09/04/2019

Condition: NORMAL

Temp:

Weight:

Treated by: LB

Visit Type / Reason

VACC ONLY

Vaccines & Diagnostics

CPB 00541416B
DA2PP 02121813B
PYRANTEL 4.5CC

Medications

} medication given to dog by Glorified Dog Pound

Notes:

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2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786

This document indicates the dogs name while at the Glorified Dog Pound, Leon. It was provided the medication highlighted in yellow by the Glorified Dog Pound. There is a description and photo of the dog and a presumably a tracking number.

Kennel No:
DOG B-8

Animal No:
A007750

Haywood County Animal Services



Name:
Leon
Color:
BLACK & TAN
Breed:
GERM SHEPHERD
Sex:
MALE
Age:
5 MONTHS
Collar Type:
/
Markings:

SEP 19 2019

Tag:

Due Out:

9/10/2019 ← Date Became County Property

Intake Date:
9/4/2019

Intake Type:
STRAY / OTC

Intake By:
LM

Crossing:
FAIRHAVEN

*Dog Came in Stray
Over the Counter?*

How do they know the dog's Birthdate?

Monroe A. Miller, Jr.
2200 Camp Branch Road
Waynesville, NC 28786

This document indicates Due out: 9/10/2019, which was explained to me that this is the day the dog became County Property. The intake day was 9/4/2019, which is a span of six days. The MOU indicated three days, but Doug explained that ordinances and/or statutes require six days to contact a previous owner, not three days. The notation at Intake Type indicates STRAY/OTC. To me, this indicates this dog came in off the street, i.e. Over The Counter. Later documents indicate an actual birth date for this dog of 4/4/2019. WTF? How would Sarge's personnel know what the birth date is?

This is also the date (9/10/2019) that the dog was transferred to Sarge's.

Haywood County Animal Services

245 Hemlock Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-456-5338 Fax: 828-456-9340



Voucher Number: R19-008010

SEP 19 2019

This certifies that SARGES ANIMAL RESCUE has received an animal from the Haywood County Animal Services

Owner Information:

SARGES ANIMAL RESCUE
256 INDUSTRIAL PARK DR, WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786 (828) 246-9050

Animal Information:

LEON (A007750) - 5M-MALE, BLACK AND TAN, GERM SHEPHERD

Veterinarian Selected:

NO VETERINARIAN SELECTED

Procedure required: **Spay/Neuter & Rabies Vaccination**

Signature of Owner _____ 09/19/2019 Signature of HCAS Representative _____ 09/19/2019

Veterinary Office Only:

The undersigned Doctor of Veterinary Medicine hereby certifies to Haywood County Animal Services that the below services were rendered in full.

Please complete the section below and return to Haywood County Animal Services for reimbursement. Mailing address is **PO Box 36 Hazelwood, NC 28738.**

Please fill in the date below of any services provided.

Date of Spay or Neuter: _____ Date of Rabies Vaccination: _____

Signature of Veterinarian _____ Date _____

**Reimbursement Amount:
Up to
\$ 0.00**

Voucher: R19-008010

Owner:

Animal:

Clerk: DSAVITT

Transaction Date: 09/10/19

Print Date: 09/19/19 hameleon Software\Chameleon\Crystal\Receipt.rpt

Doug Savitt?

This document indicates a blank for both Neuter and Rabies Vaccination. This dog left the Glorified Dog Pound without getting either. This directly contradicts the Flow Diagram developed by Doyle Teague. WTF? Doug verified that the dog was neither Neutered or had a Rabies Vaccination, although the dog was old enough to have the procedure.

Haywood County Animal Services

245 Hemlock Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-456-5338
Fax: 828-456-9340



Receipt Number: R19-008010

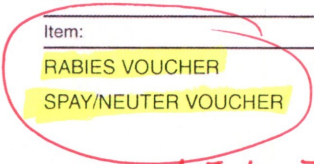
Receipt Date: 09/10/19

Person Information: SARGES ANIMAL RESCUE
256 INDUSTRIAL PARK DR
WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786

PID: P000001

Received From: _____ Check No: _____ Phone: (828) 246-9050

Item:	Animal ID:	Reference No:	Price:	Each:	Amount:
RABIES VOUCHER	A007750	K19-007552	\$.00	1	\$.00
SPAY/NEUTER VOUCHER	A007750	K19-007552	.00	1	.00



What does this mean?

VOUCHER

Did the Glorified Dog Pound pay for this?

Total Fees Due:

Payments: Cash: \$0.00
Check:
Credit Card:

Total Payments Received: **\$0.00**

Thank You!

Change: \$0.00
Balance Due: \$0.00

Animal Information:

A007750 LEON - MALE, GERM SHEPHERD, BLACK AND TAN DOG Born: 4/4/2019

Kennel Information:

Animal ID	Activity No	Intake	Outcome	In Type	Out Type
A007750		09/04/19	09/10/19	STRAY	TRANSFER

Clerk: DSAVITT

Transaction Date: 09/10/19

Print Date: 09/19/19 hamelon Software\Chameleon\Crystal\Receipt.rpt

Voucher? WTF? What does this mean? Is Sarge's supposed to cart this dog to a facility to have it neutered and use a prepaid coupon from the county's Glorified Dog Pound? Same for the Rabies Shot? WTF? It appears from this that Sarge's does not pay for this.

Haywood County Animal Services

245 Hemlock Street
Waynesville, NC 28786
Phone: 828-456-5338 Fax: 828-456-9340



Transfer Contract

Animal Info: A007750

SEP 19 2019

Type: DOG	Breed: germ shepherd
Name: Leon	Color: black
Date of Birth: 4/4/19	Gender: male
Current Age: 5M	

← WTF?
How do they know Birth date if it come in off the Street?

The recipient agrees to abide by the Haywood County's Animal Services ordinance and NC General Statutes:

- (1) All animals adopted from a shelter **MUST** be spayed or neutered.
- (2) Dogs may not leave the owner's property unless under the control of a responsible person.
- (3) Dogs 4 months of age and older must display a current county name tag or microchip.

State law requires **ALL CATS, DOGS AND FERRETS 4** months of age and older to be vaccinated against rabies.

Animals will bite and may become ill. Haywood County or Haywood County Animal Services will assume **NO** liability as to the health or temperament of this animal.

I, , the undersigned do hereby declare that I am aware:

- 1) That animals are **DIFFERENT** from human beings in their response to human actions;
- 2) That the actions of animals are often **UNPREDICTABLE**; and
- 3) That animals should be **CLOSELY** supervised when they are with **CHILDREN** (especially under the age of 10) and
- 4) That the HCAS makes **NO CLAIMS OR REPRESENTATIONS AS TO THE TEMPERAMENT, HEALTH OR MENTAL DISPOSITION** of the animals put up for adoption.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF LIABILITY ISSUES ONLY

I hereby accept possession and ownership of the animal indicated above, and hereby **RELEASE and WAIVE** any right against Haywood County or Haywood County Animal Services which may have now or in the future for damages to person(s) or property caused by said animal, or assistance with vet bills incurred as a result of illness of this animal or spread to other animals.

The animal you have adopted **MUST** be neutered or spayed by _____

was not neutered at time of Transfer To Sarge's. WTF
no one can explain why.

SARGES ANIMAL RESCUE
256 INDUSTRIAL PARK DR
WAYNESVILLE, NC 28786
(828) 246-9050
P000001

~~Animal Services Staff~~ 09/19/19
~~Monroe A. Miller, Jr.~~
~~2200 Camp Branch Road~~
~~Waynesville, NC 28786~~

This is a transfer contract, not filled out. Presumably, in Sarge's files at the Glorified Dog Pound, there is an executed paper signed off for this dog. I will probably never get to see it. I will leave it up to Law Enforcement to carry on from here...

This document also confirms that Leon was not neutered.

Doug could not explain to me why this dog left the Glorified Dog Pound without being Neutered, nor given the rabies shot. I presented the flow diagram, and he could offer no explanation.

Having exhausted both our patience, I scuttled over to Sarge's at the Industrial Park. They must have been waiting for me.

The Operations Administrator over at Sarge's, according to Doyle Teague, is a guy named Fred Strohm.



Fred Strohm

Administrator

Fred moves to WNC from Terre Haute, Indiana, where he was the Operations Manager at the Terre Haute Humane Society. He and his wife have four dogs, Heidi, Morgan, Dublin and Lala; and three cats, Mokey, Lilo and Aladdin. He considers Aladdin his "child," since he raised him from the bottle-feeding stage. The bond between Strohm and his cat Aladdin is so strong, Aladdin often rides around on Strohm's shoulder. His previous career path dealt with Information Technology, Business Incubators and Video Game Centers. "Taking care of the animals, in their best interests, is my number one priority," Strohm said. "My focus will be on how we can better serve the animals in Haywood County."

I walked into their (leased) facility around 12:30 pm. I was greeted by a guy at a desk, and there were two customers seated in front of him. A guy peaked around the corner, and I asked I would like to speak to Fred Strohm - that was him. He escorted me into his tiny office. I requested all of the documentation on a dog named Leon. He checked his computer, and no dog named Leon. I mentioned that this was the dog that TJ Ramey, Terry Ramey's son was interested in, and had filled out an adoption application.

Fred searched some more, and discovered that the dog had been renamed to Wagner, like the paint sprayer.

[**Editors note:** It was about that time that a Sheriff's Deputy came in and stood at the door to Fred's office. Since the Deputy did not say anything, and neither did Fred, I continued dialog with Fred.]

Fred and I waited a long time for Microsoft Word program to boot. He then printed a single page for Wagner, a German Shepherd Dog, 5 months, born on 4/4/2019. The dog was scheduled to have a Microchip installed and be neutered on 9/23/2019.

I showed Fred the Flow Diagram and asked why it was not Neutered prior to leaving the Glorified Dog Pound. His initial reaction was he did not know why, and then questioned some of the flow diagram prior to the dog getting neutered. I suggested he take that up with Doyle Teague, but that Doyle Teague had gone

dark. I figured I was going to get about as much as I was going to get, so I decided to get up and leave.

As I rounded the corner into the lobby, there were two additional Sheriff's Deputies standing there. I asked, are you here for me?

They said yes.

Three deputies - I am honored.

About that time, **Erica Phillips** came out from where she was hiding in the back, her face was red, and it looked like she could spit nails.

She basically said she didn't want me there and issued a No Trespass against me.

I was escorted out of the building. There were three (3) separate black Sheriff's vehicles there. I should have taken a picture. One of the deputies, Chris Collins, asked what this was about. I asked him if he had about 5 minutes. I explained I was there to get information on TJ's dog, and to correlate that with the flow diagram. I presented the "Follow the Money" document.

I explained that I had been to the FBI the day before, and then to Sheriff's Christopher's office, and presented each with the Follow the Money document. We all spoke for about 15 minutes, and each one went back into Sarge's separately to follow up with, presumably **Erica Phillips**.

Deputy Collins indicated that there would be a document available in the Sheriff's office at 9:00 am the next day. I sure wanted a copy of that. I left the parking lot, as I figured the deputies were not going anywhere until I left.

The following is the page of information that Fred Strohm printed out for me...

Name: Wagner
months

Breed: German Shepherd Dog

Age: 0 years, 5

SEP 19 2019



Gender: Male
Spay/neutered: No
Weight:
Date of Birth: 4-4-2019
Microchip Number:
Brand:

Vaccination History:

Bordetella
Date Given: 2019-09-04
Serial Number:
Vet Clinic: Haywood County Animal Shelter
Comments:

DA2P
Date Given: 2019-09-04
Serial Number:
Vet Clinic: Haywood County Animal Shelter
Comments:

Bordetella
Date Given:
Serial Number:
Vet Clinic:
Comments:

DA2P Booster
Date Given:
Serial Number:
Vet Clinic:
Comments:

Rabies
Date Given:
Serial Number:
Vet Clinic:
Comments:

Medication History:

HEARTWORM PREVENTATIVE
Date Given: 2019-10-11
Vet Clinic:
Comments:

Frontline Plus
Date Given: 2019-09-11
Vet Clinic: Sarge Medical Team
Comments:

Ivermectin
Date Given: 2019-09-11
Vet Clinic: Sarge Medical Team
Comments:

Strongid / Pyrantel Wormer
Date Given: 2019-09-04
Vet Clinic: Haywood County Animal Shelter
Comments:

Medical Tests History:

Medical Procedures History:

Microchip
Date Needed: 2019-09-23
Date Done:
Vet Clinic:
Comments:

Spaying/Neutering
Date Needed: 2019-09-23
Date Done:
Vet Clinic:
Comments:

This document shows the dog's new name, and date to receive a Microchip and get Neutered. I did not get any information relating to who was going to get this dog, although it was not going to be TJ Ramey.

I wanted to get a copy of the Adoption Contract, and the IRS Form 990's for the past 5 years, but I guess the Sheriff's Deputies distracted me.

The following is a copy of the Operations Report from the Sheriff's Office obtained 9/20/2019.

SEP 20 2019 OPERATIONS REPORT

1. AGENCY	Haywood County Sheriff's Office	2. PERSON RECEIVING COMPLAINT	D5 - Joshua Watts	3. DATE/TIME RECEIVED	24 HR. CLOCK	5. TIME ARRIVED	7. CASE NUMBER
				09/19/2019	12:34	12:36	
8. NATURE OF INCIDENT	Trespassing - Civil Disturbance						
9. LOCATION OF INCIDENT	256 Industrial Park Drive, Waynesville, NC 28785						
10. VICTIM COMPLAINT ACCUSED VEHICLE	LOCATION CODE		REPORTING ZONE	DISPATCH ZONE/SECTION			
	Waynesville		Waynesville	1500-1			
	PATROL ZONE/GRID		OTHER ZONE/BEAT				
	West						
11. ACTION TAKEN	<p>On September 19, 2019 at 1234 hours, I, Deputy Watts of the Haywood County Sheriff's Office, were dispatched to 256 Industrial Park Drive in reference to a civil disturbance. I, Deputy Collins, and Deputy Crocker, arrived on scene at 1236 hours and observed Monroe Miller speaking with Sarge's employees. He had an inquiry in reference to Terry Ramey's son not receiving a canine after a request at adoption, and some other operational procedures. Mr. Miller finished his civil conversation and I advised him he is not allowed back on Sarge's Property, per employee [REDACTED] trespassed him in my presence and he was added to the trespass log. We resumed patrol at 1305 hours.</p>						

Some portions have been redacted prior to my getting this copy, although the complainant is most probably **Erica Phillips**, the woman who could have spit nails she was so angry.

There were three (3) Deputies:

- Watts
- Collins
- Crocker

The call was made in reference to a civil disturbance. The response time on these deputies was very quick, like the cops in Jack Reacher. For the most part, Deputy Watts was standing at the door almost the entire time I was with Fred Strohm. Deputy Collins accurately described the event:

“Mr. Miller finished his civil conversation ...”

There was no civil disturbance. That [expletive deleted] **Erica Phillips** was plenty upset about my piece on Follow the Money, so she filed a false police report to keep me from coming back. In doing so, she was interfering with emergency services, taking three Deputies out of service for no reason at all. Charges should be filed against **Erica Phillips**.

At the very least, I deserve a public apology from Sarge’s Board of directors for her actions.

Board

Paula Gatens

Secretary

She moved to Waynesville in early 2002 with her husband John and their two German Shepherd Dogs following a 15-year career at an international oil company. Currently, Paula & John share their home with two Shiloh Shepherds, Lambeau and Stella. They have been proud supporters of Sarge’s since its inception and enjoy participating in the annual Dog Walk. She is happy to be a member of the Sarge’s Board in order to get more involved in helping the animals of Haywood County.

Jed Lambert

President

Dr. Jed Lambert is a dentist at Smoky Mountain Dentistry, where he practices with his wife, Elizabeth Ferguson. He has been a member of Sarge’s for the past nine years and a board member for the past five years. Dr. Lambert has two Great Pyrenees and two cats, along with six alpacas, five goats, two cows and a llama.

Felisha Yon

Secretary

I grew up with the love and passion for animals. I bought The Dog House in 2015 after working there all my life (no joke I was a week old). My family has always enjoyed fostering and adopting animals in need. Currently I have four rescued dog babies, one breeder dog baby, a horse and also have two kids Kendall and Kiah. I enjoy going on family hikes, and bike rides.

Ron Kroot

Board Member

I have been fortunate enough to live in western North Carolina since 1996. Married 52 years and have two boys and four grandchildren. I've been in varied businesses during my working years. I enjoy my affiliation with Sarge’s and I have met a variety of interesting people and find that people that have a compassion for animals usually make very good friends. We consider our animals our furry children, and the mountains our forever home.

Jason Ottie

Board Member

Jason is married to his beautiful wife Jessica and has two kids, Jonah and Julia who are Youth for Sarge’s volunteers. Jason has been a volunteer with Sarge’s since 2013. Jason works full time at Western Carolina University for the College of Engineering & Technology as the Systems Specialist. When Jason isn't working on a computer or caring for a dog, he spends his free time with family hiking, biking and kayaking in our beautiful area.

Carrie Moreland

Board Member

She is a Chicago native who retired to this area with her husband 11 years ago. She has always loved animals, growing up with 6 cats, and am now a proud mom to Wally and Isabella, both of whom were adopted from Sarge’s. She volunteers for Sarge’s and is looking forward to serving this wonderful organization on the board.

Jim Ray

Vice President

Born and raised in Haywood County, I love both the mountains and the pace of life here. I am retired from my business developed to manufacture and distribute tactical knives and rescue tools. My connection to animal rescue began with Sarge’s in 2008, and much of my focus has been on transport operations, facility upgrades, and fostering. My wife, Katie, and I have had the pleasure of fostering scores of great dogs, most of them coonhounds (to see many of them, go to Katie’s Youtube channel 4dogsandafoster). We also have a Maremma Sheepdog, two Redbone mixes, a Plott Hound, and a Black and Tan Coonhound of our own. The progress Sarge’s (and the entire Haywood County rescue community) has made since the early years has been amazing. Our Board, our staff, and our volunteers are deeply appreciative of the support our friends and neighbors continue to provide.

Steve Hewitt

Treasurer

Steve was first elected to Sarge’s Board of Directors in 2008. By then Steve and his wife, Connie, had officially moved from Indianapolis to their Haywood County vacation home. This was a big change from their home in downtown Indianapolis where Steve had worked for 25 years with Eli Lilly. Back then the Haywood County Animal shelter took in just over 4,000 animals. Sarge’s evolving mission to end the euthanasia of adoptable, healthy dogs and cats at the Shelter seemed more like Mission Impossible. But some things are possible given a lot of hard work and the cooperation of local animal welfare groups with the County Shelter. In 2017 the Shelter intake had been reduced by more than half and over 90% of the animals were finding homes. Steve is still on the Sarge Board as Treasurer and still finding homes for cats and dogs. The Hewitt’s, doing their part to keep the momentum going, have 4 cats and one recently adopted, 10 year old hound –