

October 27, 2017

To: Commissioner Walt Monegan, State of Alaska Department of Public Safety
Colonel Hans Brinke, Director, Alaska State Troopers, State of Alaska Department of Public Safety
Ms. Kirsten Vesel, Animal Care and Regulation Manager, Matanuska-Susitna Borough
From: Kent Stein, Senior Cruelty Caseworker, PETA
Re: New allegations of cruelty to animals at Willow dog kennel

Your urgent attention is respectfully requested.

Thank you for your recent attention to allegations of neglect and misconduct at a dog kennel reportedly operated by a "Dallas Seavey" and located at 51024 S. Woodland Way in Willow, 99688. We were alerted to new allegations today being made by a handler apparently associated with the operation who has requested anonymity; this individual alleges that the kennel routinely neglects the more than 100 animals in its charge, allowing severely injured and ailing dogs to suffer—sometimes fatally—without veterinary care, including a litter of seven newborn puppies who were allegedly failing to thrive and died over the past month without any intervention and their bodies buried on site; a puppy from a different litter allegedly died this morning. We're told that many of the dogs suffer from diarrhea and vomiting, puncture/bite wounds and ripped ears (including dogs named "Quest" and "Rip"), and that when doghouses become damaged or wet from rain/snow they often aren't promptly repaired and animals are forced to languish in wet conditions for weeks. Reportedly a three-legged dog named "Gott" who suffered a spinal clot during the Yukon Quest and had to have his leg amputated is perpetually chained and struggles to get around. Handlers allegedly frequently pick up dogs by their throats and throw them to punish them for fighting or not lining out. Photos and videos reportedly taken at the kennel within the past month—including several taken within the past two days—have been uploaded and can be viewed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3y8pqypeledq1ad/AADmqk3l2M56sjvmZZdxcnuqa?dl=0>; the video entitled "Location of Dog Grave" denotes the exact location of the alleged burial site of one of the puppies. The other puppies' bodies were allegedly disposed of in unknown locations.

Respectfully, we ask that these allegations be investigated as a matter of urgency, and that the dogs' welfare, along with evidence found at this property and the operator's alleged second property in Talkeetna (to where we are told some of the dogs have and are being moved) be secured without delay. We understand that this second facility is located off Birch Creek Road; we're told if you drive three miles down Birch Creek, passing Paradise Cabin on the left, you'll see an umbrella on the right with a sign on a tree reading "AK Sled Dog Tours" and that if you turn right at this sign, the facility will be approximately 1,500 feet down the road on the right. **We're told that there are currently six puppies suffering from untreated bloody diarrhea at this second property.**

Thank you again for your time and consideration, and for the difficult work that you do. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Stein', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kent Stein, Senior Cruelty Caseworker
Emergency Response Team

PETA