

Andrew MacLean

From: Evan Triehy <evantrihy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 8:44 PM
To: Selectmen
Subject: Ryan and Meghan Tyler

To whom it may concern,

My name is Evan Triehy and I would like to address the “Dangerous Dog” allegations brought against Ryan and Meghan Tyler.

First.

I would like to speak of my personal experience with Ryan and Meghan Tyler as both a client and an employee.

I have known them both for almost five years now. We had moved in the same circles for a while and met through mutual connections. I had ridden in several barns but I had never really found the right one. Until I came to A Touch of Majic Equestrian Center.

Meghan and Ryan have always prioritized a safe and happy environment for learning. And it showed right from my first lesson with with Meghan. Ryan and Meghan have created a space where their students and clients can feel safe asking questions. They have created a space where everyone can not only learn but can have fun while they do!

They not only teach their students and clients to ride but they teach them to be good horsemen and Horsewomen, and to put their horses needs first. They teach them to be good sportsman, and to build their piers up instead of tear them down. They teach their students to respect their fellow competitors. They teach them the value of teamwork, integrity, and accountability.

They have taught me as well as countless others how to ride and care for not only horses but all animals with kindness and compassion. And they teach every single one of these things by example. The practical knowledge I have learned from watching them interact with their animals has been invaluable to me, when it comes to finding and securing jobs in this industry that I love so much! And I know there are many others who feel the same.

Second.

I would like to speak of my personal experience with their wonderful animals. Specifically two of their dogs, who’s behavior towards other canines in the neighborhood has been brought into question.

Brady:

In all my interactions with Brady I have found him to be an extremely friendly and loving animal, with an amusingly short attention span and and penchant for napping the day away.

I have observed him interact with dogs outside of his friends Sadie and Simba. And I have never seen him show any signs of aggression towards them.

He usually just wants to play, which can be misunderstood as aggression to people who don’t know him. He loves to rough house with both Sadie and Simba, and doesn’t always understand why other dogs don’t want to. But in my observations doesn’t have malicious intent towards other dogs. He is just wants to play.

Simba:

I met Simba after Meghan and Ryan rescued him from a shelter. They were his last chance as everyone was afraid of his loud barking, which can admittedly be quite intimidating. They perceived the barking as aggression, so locked him away.

He can be suspicious of new people, and takes a while to trust you. He barked at me when I first met him and I admit I was frightened. But I just stood there and talked to him. And within mere minutes he visibly relaxed, stopped barking and walked up to sniff my hand. He then proceeded to lick my hand, and let me pet him for quite some time before sitting down by Meghans feet.

He spent most of his life before Meghan and Ryan living in a small concrete kennel alone. So his only real experience with other dogs are with Meghan and Ryan's other dogs (Sadie and Brady). His only real experience playing with another dog is with his favorite playmate Brady, who as I have previously mentioned loves to play rough.

I have also seen Simba interact with other dogs on several occasions, one of which could have gone very badly if not for Simba's impeccable behavior. The incident I'm referring to involved a dog belonging to a former and somewhat disgruntled associate of the Tyler's. Meghan and the former associate were having a discussion about the business and Meghan asked me to look after Simba who she had taken down to the barn (on a leash) to see everyone. I wasn't busy so I took Simba's leash and sat down on the floor of the barn Simba lay down next to me placing his head in my lap. The former associate had brought her dog Lena who was in her truck and needed to go to relieve herself. So the former associate and Lena's owner, let her out of the truck. If the former associate/Lena's owner had a leash on her person she did not use it, giving her dog Lena freedom to roam around the barn loose. After urinating Lena came right up to me and Simba and after sniffing us both began to growl and Simba and show signs of aggression. Simba was noticeably agitated but remained next to me. I then asked Lena's owner to please see to Lena, they responded by verbally reprimanding Lena telling her to "leave it" and "come".

Lena obeyed and stayed away from Simba and I for a while, but before long she came back and began to growl and show signs of aggression. I again asked the owner to see to Lena, and she again responded with a verbal reprimand. This happened four or five times more, at which point Lena's owner to "please put Lena back in the truck", which she obliged.

Throughout this incident Simba remained by my side despite Lena's aggressive behavior. While he was admittedly in edge and had moved to an upright sitting position, he listened to me while I patted him and verbally reassured him that he was okay.

In closing I would like to say that in all my years working for and with Ryan and Meghan, I have always known them to be extremely responsible with not just their horses but their dogs as well. Especially Simba, not because he has ever given them any REAL reason not to trust him. But because of how stigmatized dogs like Simba have become in society today! They take extra care with him, not because he is untrustworthy but because all that anyone need to hear about Simba is that he is a German Shepard, for them to decide that he is a dangerous dog who can't be trusted. People don't care about meeting him or his "lap dog"/"cuddle bug" personality...all they need is his breed and size to form their opinion. But not all dogs are created equal, and Simba is one the most loving dogs that I have ever met. All of Ryan and Meghan's dogs are for that matter.

But Simba strikes a special cord with me. Because he has every reason to be all the things people are claiming him to be...but he isn't.

I would trust Simba (Sadie and Brady as well for that matter) with my own nieces and nephews. He loves people and just wants to be loved in return. He truly is an example of the “one in a million rescue story” that you read about on Facebook.

In fact so is Brady! He is also a rescue who just needed the right people to give him a second chance, and he found that in the Tyler family.

Ryan and Meghan love their dogs, but they would never put other people in danger in some sort of self serving notion of heroism. They give their all to their animals but they also know, that sometimes what’s best for an animal is the decision that nobody wants to make. They are animals advocates through and through, but at the end of the day they know of that making tough calls is one of the most important parts of animal advocacy. Because sometimes those are the only choices you have. And because of this I have the utmost faith in their ability to discern whether or not any of their animals or a risk to themselves or others, and make the right decision.

I would also like to add that I have personally seen where the dogs are kelts when Ryan and/or Meghan are not in the house, and the dogs would be able to escape without opposable thumbs. The Tyler’s take the responsibility that comes with their animals very seriously.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I hope this can shed some light on the kind of people and animal owners that Ryan and Meghan are.

Sincerely,
Evan R. Trichy

