

On [Jun 13, 2015](#), at 2:25 PM, joe gannon <jmgannon@gmail.com> wrote:

FACTUAL:

I became aware through conversations with Hinesburg P.D. and Animal Control Officer Waite of two recent dog bite incidents in Hinesburg. Details as follows:

RESIDENCE: 2195 North Road, Hinesburg.

DOG OWNER: Alicia Marshall, Gary Marshall.

BITE DOG NAME:

- "Tank". Male. 1 Year old Pit Bull Mix (mostly Pit Bull by appearance). Approx 50lbs

OTHER DOGS IN RESIDENCE:

- "Tim" Male. 3 yrs. Bulldog / Pit Bull mix Approx 100lbs
- "Theo", Male. 5 months. Stafford Terrier / Pit Bull mix Approx. 30lbs.

INCIDENT #1: [5/28/15](#). Victim: Connor Gobeille, Visitor to residence. Bite to elbow.

INCIDENT #2 [6/11/15](#). Victim Makenna Lavalette. Visitor to residence. Severe injuries facial and arm.

NARRATIVE.

On [today's](#) date I visited the residence and met with the family, primarily with Alicia. I explained my concern as T.H.O. of a continuing threat to both the public and members of her family due to the recent behavior of their dog "Tank".

Alicia was appropriately engaged and helpful in discussing the recent incidents and forthcoming with both rabies certificates and a plan to prevent any future occurrences. Due to a previous undocumented incident of Tanks "fence jumping" and possibly growling at a neighbor, Alicia had erected a 6 foot fence which seems sufficient to contain the dogs, although I'm no expert on how high a determined breed could jump.

Alicia also discussed her plans, arranged through Richard Armstrong DVM, to modify and control Tank's behavior. This is a difficult topic for her since Tank was owned by Alicia's deceased son "Joseph", who died in a motor vehicle crash recently.

I suggested to Alicia that she muzzle Tank at all times in public, and if anyone not from the family is visiting the residence. She said she already had a muzzle for the dog, and also a plan to stop any further bites worked out by Dr Armstrong's recommended behavioral specialist, Jill Halstead. Alicia was kind enough to give me a copy of the behavioral modification plan, which I have available if anyone wants to see it. It does seem well worked out with instructions on segregating Tank from any visitors. I also suggested additional signage at the residence so visitors who stopped by un-announced would be warned against just entering before Tank is secured.

WORKING CONCLUSION:

There is a high probability that without rigorous precautions, Tank will bite someone again. However Alicia seems to be taking the situation very seriously and her family seem well aware of the problem and motivated to stop any further incidents. Whether Tank can in fact be re-trained out of aggression is way beyond my judgement, but I wouldn't be too hopeful. Normally, a dog that shows this level of aggression is a candidate for euthanasia (or at least relocation), but given the emotional aspect of it being their dead son's dog, this doesn't

seem likely. If that advice were given to them, it would best come from an animal behavioral expert or a trusted vet, not from any kind of "authority" figure.

FOLLOW UP:

I will follow up with Alicia and see how the program is working, and also if containment is a problem. I will also contact Jill Halstead directly and see if she will give us a read on the dog's likelihood to bite again. So far, I have a good working relationship with the family.

STATUS: Pending.

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Joe Gannon

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