

- [TimesReview](#)
- [Suffolk Times](#)
- [Riverhead News-Review](#)
- [Shelter Island Reporter](#)
- [North Shore Sun](#)

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [RSS](#)
[Subscribe](#) | [Contact Us](#)



BOTOX[®] One Day Sale!
Plump Up The Volume
Monday, January 24 9am-5pm

\$10/Unit
BOTOX

EastEnd *by Dr. Judy Emanuele*
PLASTIC, RECONSTRUCTIVE & HAND SURGERY, P.C.
631.369.0490 • 1267 East Main Street • Riverhead



- [home](#)
- [news](#)
- [sports](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [education](#)
- [real estate](#)
- [business](#)
- [community](#)
- [lifestyle](#)

Search for: _____

Search

‘Animal lover’ barred from Riverhead dog shelter

By [Tim Gannon](#) | January 10, 2011 in [Featured Stories](#), [News](#)





SOUTHAMPTON PRESS COURTESY PHOTO | Pat Lynch, shown in 2007 with a rescue dog she had adopted, successfully sued Southampton Town after she was banned from the town's animal shelter. She's now not allowed on the Riverhead shelter property.

Pat Lynch has now been banned from two East End animal shelters.

A self-described animal lover, Ms. Lynch, of Southampton, who successfully sued Southampton Town after she was banned from volunteering at its shelter years back, was just notified by Riverhead Police Chief David Hegermiller that she is now banned from volunteering at the Riverhead Animal Shelter.

“Your services as a Riverhead Town Animal Shelter volunteer have been terminated effective immediately,” the chief wrote to Ms. Lynch Friday, Jan. 14. “You are also no longer permitted to be on the animal shelter grounds.”

The letter gives no reason for the ban, but comes days after Ms. Lynch questioned Riverhead Supervisor Sean Walter’s public explanation that a dog from the shelter named Bruno was euthanized because it bit a child. Ms. Lynch subsequently obtained a copy of the county health department’s report on the bite from Councilman Jim Wooten. The report shows that the dog did not bite a child, but bit its 22-year-old owner, who was breaking up a fight between it and another dog. The bite wounds were described as “superficial.”

Ms. Lynch subsequently made that report public by giving it to the News-Review.

Asked Monday to elaborate on the decision, Chief Hegermiller said, “She was not an asset to the shelter and her services were no longer needed.” He added there were several factors that went into the decision, but that he was not going to release them until he first speaks with Ms. Lynch.

“I was banned because of what I said about Bruno and the so-called bite he gave to a child,” Ms. Lynch said. “[Supervisor] Walter was furious because it made him look bad. And I have no regrets giving [the News-Review] the paper Jim Wooten got for me. “It needed to come out,” she said.

Supervisor Sean Walter said he had nothing to do with Ms. Lynch being banned, saying it was entirely the chief’s call. Mr. Wooten said the suspension was due to Ms. Lynch’s suggestion at a public meeting that dogs at the shelter may have the disease parvo, which town officials say is untrue.

Ms. Lynch and other shelter volunteers have been critical of the town's running of the shelter and, in particular, of animal control officer Lou Coronese.

Last week's letter was not the first the police chief has sent Ms. Lynch. She said that on Dec. 13, Chief Hegermiller sent her a letter accusing her of acting "inappropriately" toward Mr. Coronese on two occasions, one in an alleged Nov. 24 confrontation at the shelter and the other pertaining to "unfounded allegations" she made about him at a Nov. 15 shelter advisory meeting in Town Hall.

Ms. Lynch says she has a witness to refute the Nov. 15 allegation, and denies getting into a confrontation with Mr. Coronese. She says there are no witnesses to the alleged Nov. 24 incident.

At the same Jan. 4 Town Board where Ms. Lynch publicly questioned the circumstances surrounding Bruno's death, Gail Waller of Glen Cove, who says she has donated thousands of dollars to help shelter dogs, also made public a 2003 arrest of Mr. Coronese in Arizona for illegally taking a gila monster, which is an endangered species.

The women have called for Mr. Coronese's firing.

Ms. Lynch was a television reporter for NBC news for 17 years and for CBS news for another 10 years, and won two Emmy Awards for investigative reporting at NBC. In 2004, she was banned for volunteering at the Southampton Town animal shelter and filed a federal lawsuit, claiming her first amendment rights were being violated. In 2007, the court ruled in her favor, initially awarding her \$251,000 but later reducing the award to \$50,000.

Since then, Southampton Town's animal shelter has been taken over in part by a private, nonprofit organization, although the animal control function is still run by the town. Ms. Lynch said her application to volunteer at that shelter was denied last year, and she has subsequently filed another lawsuit, which is still pending in the courts.

She insists she has no intention of suing Riverhead Town.

Mr. Walter said on Tuesday that it was Mr. Coronese who told him Bruno bit a child.

"I'm only as good as the information given to me, and in this case, it wasn't too good," Mr. Walter said.

Mr. Wooten said he has requested that the Town Board undertake a disciplinary hearing to determine where the misinformation came from and why there was such urgency to euthanize the dog, despite a Dec. 15 report from Mr. Coronese saying the dog showed great improvement, and another report from him the next day saying it should be euthanized.

Mr. Walter had no comment on that, saying it is a personnel issue.

tgannon@timesreview.com

Tags: [Riverhead Animal Shelter](#)

5 people liked this.

Add New Comment

Optional: Login below.

Type your comment here.

Post as ...

Showing 5 comments

Sort by **Popular now** [Subscribe by email](#) [Subscribe by RSS](#)



Alonzo 1 week ago

WOOF WOOF I'm an animal lover too and I can't understand the logic of those who claim to be animal lovers when they either abandon or release their pet to a shelter. Go after the owner of the pet instead of the shelter

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



EyesOpen 1 week ago

A so-called animal advocate in my area has posted this article as an example of an individuals first amendment rights being violated for speaking out against a shelter. But this animal advocate, a president of a local humane society and 501(c)3 organization did the same thing to officers of his own organization when they spoke out about financial responsibility within the organization. The response to this was that it was a volunteer organization and if you didn't agree with operations you can vote with your feet and leave. When the officers made a stand, they were removed from the premises by local law enforcement.

I did not post this to advocate for the shelter. I do not condone shelters that make little to no effort to help the animals they are charged with. I posted because the individual that wanted to use this as an example for his cause should be aware that people who live in glass houses should not throw stones. Anyone that supports local non-profits should ask about finances and how they are allocated and who is in charge of them. Ask to see annual reports and tax information.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Jessica Marie 1 week ago

Shows how much of a liar Sean Walters really is, and shows what kind of person Lou Coronesi is too!

Freedom of speech !!!

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Jessica Marie 1 week ago

Now get Sean Walter fired PLEASE and sue the town of riverhead!!

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Connie 1 week ago

My home town is rapidly becoming a beacon of hatred, not person against person but some town ELECTED officials against animals. Our dog pound has gotten away with the random killing of dogs for too long. We the people are supposed to be driving this bus. Let's get moving.

Like

Reply

Reactions



shargem69 1 week ago

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

Riverhead News Review- 'animal lover' banned from shelter <http://t.co/fONxMcP> via @AddThis



hannahalex 1 week ago

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

Go Pat Lynch! She's kicking animal services butt right by my LI hometown. <http://bit.ly/fu3IxG>



SallyBarnett 1 week ago

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

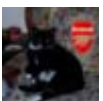
'Animal lover' barred from Riverhead dog shelter | Riverhead News ...: Ms. Lynch was a television reporter for N... <http://bit.ly/dVqHVh>



rvhdnewsreview 1 week ago

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

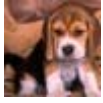
Pat Lynch, who successfully sued Southampton Town when she was banned from its shelter, has been banned from the... <http://fb.me/M7YQ2Pnv>



MrTibbsatAP 1 week ago

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

RT @DogCharities: 'Animal lover' barred from Riverhead dog shelter: "Your services as a Riverhead Town Animal Shelter Volunteer ha... <http://bit.ly/guF75P>



DogCharities 1 week ago

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

'Animal lover' barred from Riverhead dog shelter: "Your services as a Riverhead Town Animal Shelter Volunteer ha... <http://bit.ly/guF75P>



NK_REVOLUTION 1 week ago

From [Twitter](#) via [BackType](#)

<http://fb.me/IrTkaC03>

Trackback URL <http://riverheadnewsreview>

[blog comments powered by DISQUS](#)

Giorgio's
IN EXCLUSIVE BAITING HOLLOW

Annual *Valentine's*
Dinner Dance

Saturday, February 12, 2011 • 7-11pm

Four Hours of Premium Open Bar,
Dancing and D.J. by Long Island Sound
(After Hour Bar Available)

\$62.95++ Per Person
(6.625% NY State Sales Tax, 18% Gratuity)

www.giorgiosli.com 631.727.6076

Riverhead Ford Lincoln-Mercury
Call Us Now: (631) 727-2200
1419-23 Old Country Road, Riverhead, NY 11901

- [People](#)
- [Recent](#)
- [Popular](#)

Most Discussed

- [We want to know: What is your favorite LI winery?](#)
135 comments · 38 minutes ago
- [Riverhead Town to purchase Second Street firehouse](#)
7 comments · 11 hours ago
- [FD averts disaster in Mattituck barn fire](#)
3 comments · 9 hours ago
- [Town Hall Notes: Southold will force garbage carters to sort recyclables](#)
18 comments · 10 hours ago



News-Review Newsletters

Daily & Breaking News

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Signup

Lyrical Children's
Pre-School & Learning Center
Open House on Jan 29th from 1 - 4 PM



A-1 Auto Body, Inc.
781 Route 25A, Rocky Point
631.209.2039



Five Star
CONSTRUCTION
No Job Too Small
(631) 909-2589
Lic. & Insured

Brick Cove
Marina
SOUTHOLD
Winter Storage
(631) 477-0830

R.W. MULLIGAN

Cutchogue **(631) 734-2200**
Riverhead **(631) 727-7555**
Shelter Island **(631) 749-2200**


COOPERAGE INN
2218 Sound Ave., Baiting Hollow
631-727-8994
www.cooperageinn.com

LEGAL

Contact Riverhead
Allstate Agent
Elizabeth Hanlon
now.

 **Allstate.** 

BlankSlate.com

- Copyright 2010 Times/Reviews
- All Rights Reserved
- [Advertise](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Terms and Conditions](#)

- [Contact](#)
- [Write the Editor](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

- **TimesReview Publications:**
- [The Suffolk Times](#)
- [Riverhead News-Review](#)
- [Shelter Island Reporter](#)
- [North Shore Sun](#)
- [Wine Press](#)