

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

- [Sign In](#)
- [Register](#)



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

- [home](#)
- [news](#)
- [sports](#)
- [opinion](#)
- [education](#)
- [business](#)
- [community](#)
  
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Directory](#)
- [Forum](#)

Search for:

## ‘AWOL’ dog shelter head faces possible termination

By [Tim Gannon](#) | July 20, 2011 in [Featured Stories](#), [News](#)





BARBARAELEN KOCH PHOTO | Lou Coronesi manages the town's Animal Shelter on Youngs Avenue in Calverton.

Embattled Riverhead Town animal control officer and dog shelter head Lou Coronesi will be the subject of a civil service law hearing that could result in his termination or suspension, town officials say.

Mr. Coronesi, who has held his current position since 1999, has long drawn the ire of local animal activists and shelter volunteers, who have publicly asked the Town Board on several occasions to replace him, even though Town Board members say his employment is a personnel issue they can't discuss in public.

On July 6, the board authorized the appointment of attorney Valerie Marvin to conduct what's known as an Article 75 hearing under civil service law. An Article 75 hearing is required before any civil service employee can be fired. Although the resolution to hire Ms. Marvin does not name the employee, it states that the town "authorized the suspension without pay for up to 30 days of the employee, effective the day after the service of the charges upon the employee and pending the hearing and determination of those charges."

Councilman Jim Wooten said Tuesday that Mr. Coronesi is the subject of that hearing and that the town is trying to remove him from the animal control officer position on the grounds that he has missed numerous days of work.

"He's been AWOL," Mr. Wooten said.

The Article 75 hearing was originally scheduled for Monday but has been postponed to another, as yet unscheduled, date.

Police Chief David Hegermiller, whose department oversees the animal control unit, declined to comment, saying it was a personnel issue.

Mr. Coronesi could not be reached for comment. A call was made to his home and to Eastern Wildlife Services, a business for which he is listed as a principal. The latter number was disconnected.

The conflict regarding Mr. Coronesi came to a head in December when a dog named Bruno was euthanized. At the time, Supervisor Sean Walter stated publicly that the dog had bitten a child, but the bite report filed with the county health department said the dog had bitten his 22-year-old owner, who was trying to break up a fight between Bruno and another dog at his home in Wading River. The report described the bite as "three superficial wounds" to the man's left hand.

Mr. Walter would later say he was just repeating information given to him by Mr. Coronesi, whom the supervisor has also publicly defended.

Mr. Coronesi's critics have also cited an incident that occurred in Arizona in 2003, in which Mr. Coronesi was convicted of hunting without a license, possessing wildlife unlawfully and possessing restricted wildlife — all misdemeanors. Those charges stemmed from allegations that he illegally took a gila monster and a very small diamondback rattlesnake.

*tgannon@timesreview.com*

Like



liked this.

### Add New Comment

Required: Please login below to comment.

Type your comment here.

Post as ...

### Showing 1 comment

Sort by Popular now



[Subscribe by email](#)



[Subscribe by RSS](#)



**Allergic2Stupidity** 12 hours ago

In the case of "bruno", anyone with a American Staffordshire Terrier, American PitBull Terrier, American Bulldog, Old English Bulldog, etc... should have the common sense to own a breaking stick for emergency usage, or a hose connected to running water to break up even the potential of a dog fight...

Now, those that raise "fighting dogs" or dogs "bred to fight", well I wouldnt know... for my Pit does not have the chance to get involved with any dog or child or other human to that degree.... However, people should get their facts straight about what breed of dog, what age of the person was involved, how the accident ocured, and whether any corrective action or preventative action was taken.

But then, along with that sad story, the AWOL leader of the riverhead shelter just up and disapeared... gee, what a shock. It's really quite sad when it's the animals and the people that care for them suffer... Then the town has to run an article 75 to assess the situation concerning the AWOL leader and the "private personnel matter"... If this is how we treat our animals, who give us unconditional love whether we have been gone three days or three hours, why is it such a shock that we treat the people of our town the same way?

Like

Reply

### Reactions



**VeraChinese** 17 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

RT @rvhdnewsreview Riverhead's 'AWOL' dog shelter head faces possible termination <http://t.co/AE01w8m>



**rvhdnewsreview** 18 hours ago

From [Twitter](#)

Riverhead's 'AWOL' dog shelter head faces possible termination <http://fb.me/11dCjIZ8c>

Trackback URL

[blog comments powered by DISQUS](#)

**RIVERHEAD**  
**BUICK**  **GMC**

 

NOW PART OF THE  
RIVERHEAD MOTORS FAMILY, OWNERS OF  
RIVERHEAD FORD & RIVERHEAD TOYOTA

1423 Route 58 Riverhead, NY • 631-727-2271



*Where cute is the final word*

320 E. Main Street, Riverhead (across from Aquarium)  
**631-656-0596**

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

## Most Discussed

- [Guest Spot: Here's a better approach to assessing taxes](#)  
2 comments · 3 hours ago
- [Suffolk pol makes sweeping changes to 'puppy mill bill'](#)  
1 comment · 2 hours ago
- [Riverhead man pleads not guilty to raping 11-year-old girl](#)  
8 comments · 3 hours ago
- [Southold Town adopts first-ever noise ordinance](#)  
13 comments · 13 hours ago

community on **DISQUS**



## News-Review Newsletters

Daily & Breaking News

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signup



Click here for  
**TEE  
TIMES**

Check out our  
**Children's  
Directory**  
brought to you by  
**TimesReview**  
*Newgroup*



LIVE JAZZ  
Friday &  
Saturday  
Nights

17 East Main Street  
631-208-3151



CLASSIFIEDS  
**Classifieds**  
*classifieds*  
brought to you by  
**TimesReview**  
*Newgroup*



**Riverhead  
Recreation  
2011  
Summer  
Programs**

- Youth Programs
- Dance Programs  
w/NY Dance Center
- Sports Camps
- Youth Camps
- Adult Programs
- Special Events



## Times Review Publications

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

- [Advertise](#)
- [About Us](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Privacy](#)
- [Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Write the Editor](#)
- [Subscribe](#)

[BlankSlate.com](#)

Copyright 2011 TimesReview Newsgroup All Rights Reserved

## Sign In

Enter your username and password

**Username**

---

# Password

[Submit Query](#)

Forgot Username or Password? [Resend >>](#)

An auto generated password will be sent to your current email

Don't have an account? [Register >>](#)