

We have 230 guests online

## Animal rights activists want ani

LAST UPDATED ON THURSDAY, 06 JANUARY 2011 13:06  
 WEDNESDAY, 05 JANUARY 2011 07:26

WRITTEN BY DENISE CIVILE

0 Like

A euthanized pit bull at the Riverhead Town Animal Shelter has sparked r activists of the town's animal control policies and its animal control officer.

Animal rights activists Pat Lynch, of New York City and Gail Waller, of Gle dog being destroyed last month, arguing that the action was unnecessary Coronesi.



Coronesi has a criminal rec dismissal from the animal c public comment portion of y

Over Supervisor Sean Walt session of the board, Waller Game Department, which c possession of wildlife and u

According to the report, Cor game officers saw him putti found three tarantulas and the vehicle Mr. Coronesi wa

Coronesi later pleaded "no

"This has a direct bearing on his ability to serve the town as a public empl

After the meeting both the supervisor and Riverhead Police Chief David H Hegermiller, has been a Riverhead Town Animal Control Officer "since 19 about Coronesi's record in Arizona.

"Everything is cleared up. I fully trust his ability to deal with animals, espec

"Lou has my support 100 percent," Walter said in an interview. "He did soi

### Local Weather

### Upcoming Events



## Riverhead NY

14°F

Clear

Humidity: 75%

Wind: N at 0 mph

Sun



27°F 5°F

Mon



16°F 13°F

Tue



37°F 29°F

Wed



34°F 26°F

JAN Jan.23, 2011 2:00.PM - 2:30.PM

**23** Piano Plus Concert Series

JAN Jan.23, 2011 6:00.PM - 9:00.PM

**23** Slow Food Dinner

JAN Jan.24, 2011 10:00.AM - 10:40.AM

**24** Preschoolers: Spanish Adventures

JAN Jan.24, 2011 3:00.PM - 6:00.PM

**24** Vision screening

JAN Jan.24, 2011 4:00.PM - 4:30.PM

**24** Children: Busy Bees Stories & Crafts

JAN Jan.24, 2011 6:30.PM - 9:00.PM

**24** Knitting: Fiber Arts Workshop



<a href="#">Police Blotter</a>	<a href="#">Obituaries</a>
--------------------------------	----------------------------

[Police seek two men who used counterfeit \\$100s at Riverhead WalMart](#)  
[Felony DWI charge in Riverhead after police chase](#)  
[Two wanted in computer theft at Walmart](#)  
[DWI arrest in Riverside Jan. 16](#)  
[21-year-old Flanders man charged with DWI after crash](#)  
[01-11 Riverhead Police Report](#)

[Chuck Adams, 55](#)  
[William J. Magerkurth, 83](#)  
[Janice G. Smith, 64](#)  
[Lucy A. McKay Kelly, 84](#)  
[Frederick H. \(Rick\) Terry II, 44](#)

<a href="#">Today's Poll</a>	<a href="#">Blogs</a>
------------------------------	-----------------------

**What do you think of the job done by the town's highway crews during snowstorms?**

*They do a great job.*

*Not great, but they do the best they can and it's good enough.*

*They need more men and equipment even if it means higher taxes.*

*The department needs new management.*

[Saturday Night...Dead](#)  
[What makes Riverhead...Riverhead](#)  
[Thiele: Dr. King's Legacy continues to inspire](#)  
[Before my career as a school business official ends](#)  
[Reconnect the disconnect](#)

2003," Walter said.

But it's not over for animal rights activists and shelter volunteers, who say they argue, animals not receive proper veterinary care or the socialization

Bruno, the pit bull euthanized Dec. 21, is a case in point, according to the shelter from the day he was surrendered by his owner to the day he was k Hansen of Rocky Point, who questioned the board at its Dec. 21 meeting ;

"This dog bit a child," the supervisor responded.

Walter said the dog's owner, who surrendered the dog to the shelter, state

"But the child was taken to the hospital," Walter said. "The hospital contac former owner and the shelter. The animal taken to vet. The vet said the ar dangerous. The animal was euthanized," Walter said.

"We followed the policy to the letter," he said.

But the account of the dog's bite history given by the supervisor at the Dec which was obtained by RiverheadLOCAL.

The health department report indicates that the dog bit his 22-year-old ow him and another dog. The owner suffered three "superficial lacerations" to

"The policy requires a finding that a dog is both dangerous and beyond re

"I'm not the bad guy here," Walter said at yesterday's board meeting. "I'm

In an interview last night, Walter said he was "sickened" to learn recently t veterinary care. Shelter volunteer Vince Taldone, of Riverhead, said at a r town facility that had heartworm and a variety of preventable illnesses.

"That's ridiculous," he said.

"We have never had a vet come to the shelter on a regular basis," Walter asked his secretary, Carol Sclafani, who happens to be a licensed veterini: for maintenance services.

"I'm hoping by the second meeting in January, we'll be appointing one," W increased dog license fees adopted by the Town Board at yesterday's me

The supervisor also said he also plans to have Sclafani spend at least a h would do."

Councilman James Wooten, the Town Board liaison to the animal shelter, which the town has twice solicited proposals. Each time, the only respons animal rescue group, whose members have long been at odds with Coron proposal.

Wooten told RiverheadLOCAL in October, after the second RFP deadline RSVP, that he couldn't support awarding a contract to run the shelter to th

Be afraid, America. Be very afraid.  
EPCAL: A lesson in what not to do  
Who's your Bill Bodkin?

"I'm not sure they're organized enough to take this on," Wooten said of the contentiousness in the past. It's a very tenuous relationship. I don't know if he said.

### Find us on Facebook



RiverheadLOCAL.com

Like

3,223 people like RiverheadLOCAL.com



Josh



Jeff



Ted



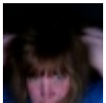
Donald



Hannah



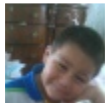
Joseph



Sandy



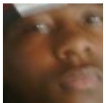
Kim



Mario



Ava



Andrew



Harvey

Facebook social plugin



0

Like

## Comments (16)

...

written by tanya doherty, January 09, 2011  
right on "what next"... I totally agree.

...

written by Pit Bull lover, January 07, 2011  
We have got to get rid of this guy. Sean Walter stop trying to cover up for this guy town employee taking care of our shelter. Dispicable...

...

written by RB, January 06, 2011  
Take a look at the volunteer weekly log very few if anyone shows up. RSVP are the wonderful experiences with the shelter maybe you need to be there more often. Be

...

written by A previous dog walker..., January 06, 2011  
A few years ago I was a volunteer dog walker at the shelter. I went through all the from the very first day that I was not welcome. The way the employees behaved w anything but walking some poor dogs while I walk anyway for exercrise. I always needed to get the dogs out of the kennel for me. Normally, people say hello, wave right passed them on a weekly basis- but not there. I felt like I did something to an

---

polite and seemed to really care about the dogs but I learned some time ago that he doesn't work there anymore. Other than him it was clear that I, a dog walker, was not welcome. Then I heard the dog walking was discontinued.

---

...  
written by The whole story, January 05, 2011

I am writing from experience when I say that if the Town of Rvhd has dogs that have shown any type of aggression or have bitten anyone temperament tested to the fullest. A Highly, Highly Qualified Veterinary Hospital has been very fair with these exams, they love animals as the best for them. Louie is not the Man to blame here, he does not make the final decision. There are steps to take to make sure dogs are euthanized "just because".

---

...  
written by warner, January 05, 2011

first let me start by saying that ive known and had the pleasure to work with louie for many years!he and the staff at the shelter worked v make it better than yrs past.unfortunatly animal control officer is not a popular job,but popularity is not in the description public saft all of you know the shelter comes under the direct supervision of the police dept.whats next going to ask the chief who also does a great think not!you people need to get real.you people hinder the work at the shelter and interfere with louie doing his job and want him fired a respect when you go there,you deserve none.if all of your wallets are as big as your mouths you should take over lock stock and barrel,t and wont!as far as the 2003 incident none of the animals were hurt and as sean said he did what he had to do end of story.as stated ear 100% for the animals and does a great job!!!keep up the good work louie!!

---

...  
written by Leeann Hansen, January 05, 2011

I myself have adopted two pitbulls from this shelter and they have been the best dogs that I have ever have and both were healthy the p volunteer there are kind and loving to the animals. I do realize that accidents happen and being a pitbull lover that I am I would be extrer were my dog put down. But the shelter as a whole cant be blamed for 1 mistake when they have done and continue to do such good and total support.

---

...  
written by time wasted, January 05, 2011

I for one am tired of all the fighting about who is right and who is wrong!!! There are rules and regulations that the town runs on if you do with it sorry they try not to adopt out dogs that will cause harm to people. People are sticking up for an animals with bite historys that the never met. He was NOT a nice dog he was a BAD dog the vet agreed so he was euthanized period end of story! RSVP would adopt out animal to a small child if it meant they made an "adoption". RSVP you are the same group who adopted out a small dog who bit the new then accused them for being careless owners because they tried to put a leash on it to take it for a walk..... terrible people i know!!! Conr much to say about the town but if anyone really knew you or better yet ever entered your home would most likely call the ASPCA on you is discusting and you have soooo many animals i bet you don't even know the real # and your floors are covered in feces and urine why focus on runing your own animal shelter over there and let the town worry about their shelter. Half the members on the animal advisory board don't even go up to the shelter to volunteer but yet they have a say and seem to know everything....how strange don't you think?? on the dogs up there that are in need of a good home and not the ones that are unable to be saved. There are many dogs out there and opinion deserve a better shot at a home than any sketchy bite dog! Use your time and political pull for the good old dogs out there in sea new home and stop fighting with the town and its employees.

---

...  
written by Really??, January 05, 2011

The town really has criminals working for them?? hhhmmmm

---

...  
written by Mrs. C., January 05, 2011

I just adopted a dog from the Southampton Animal Shelter. Apparently, the shelter had many of the same problems that the Riverhead S until it was taken over by a private foundation. The shelter is among the best that I have ever visited. The animals are all healthy, vet che tested for various diseases. The shelter is well lit, clean beyond belief and they screen potential adopters before releasing a dog. I think Riverhead officials should really consider allowing a private foundation to take over the shelter. Maybe even visit the Southampton facilit how it is being run. Ask how the shelter works with the animal control officers. Find out how the orgnization and shelter are run. Do a littl

---

...  
written by alonzo, January 05, 2011

Wow and another double wow.. We seem to be concerned about homeless animals more than we are about the local homeless people right here in the town of Riverhead. People come from out of town to tell us how to take care of the animals that are in the shelter. These people should be concerned as to where these animals came from in the first place and then go to those who gave the animals to the shelter and ask them why they had a pet dog or cat. Did they give them up because they can't afford them any longer. If these animals are part of the family would they give up a child if they couldn't afford that child the same way they that the pet is given up? It is very good of those who have a concern for homeless animals. My wish for this New Year is to have the same concern for the homeless humans as those who get P.O. treatment of the stray or homeless dogs. Do we have a shelter for the stray or homeless humans where they get fed at least twice a day and a bed as well?

---

...

written by Councilman Wooten, January 05, 2011

It is amazing to me how little thought or fact go into comments on this blog. The Town is governed by Ag and Markets Law to provide the care and collection of stray dogs. Policies are in place, and with the limited staffing provided, Riverhead runs a good shelter. The real problem is coordinating a good volunteer program that would assist in the socialization and walking of the animals. Coordinating with rescue groups and non-profits to find homes. The real conflict is when as a municipality you take possession of a questionable dog with a bite history. The shelter because of its duty to protect the public, has policies in place that deal with evaluation by animal control and a licensed vet to determine if the dog should be available for adoption. A behaviorist is brought in if a consensus can't be reached. We have made great strides in our shelter in the last 10 years, I have been proud to serve as a liaison to the animal advisory board, which I am sorry to say Angela you used to be a part of, I believe I only saw you once in the last three years. I will agree that the structure and management has to be seriously looked at if the shelter continues in the public sector. Thank you for your insights and your continued good work on the school board. You should know I am not the type of person. Thank you for your endorsement, although I haven't been approached by anyone else, it's nice to know you care.

---

...

written by What next?, January 05, 2011

Sounds like the animals at the shelter get treated the same way Sean's office treats the employees in the town...unless you are a chosen one

---

...

written by Angela DeVito, January 05, 2011

Regarding Mr. Wooten's concerns about RSVP. If the organization met the bid specifications and a second bid garnered no bites, the town would go to RSVP. What needs to be made available to the public is the rubric used to evaluate the merits of the RSVP bid- then all can see why a community-based organization failed to meet the requisite specs. As the decision has been finalized the documents should all be available for review- nothing is "draft" anymore. Making kissy-face with the Town- that is not a necessary ingredient for successfully running the animal shelter. What is necessary is the ability to provide the state-mandated services, ensure humane treatment of all animals at the shelter, build public confidence in the shelter, increase adoptions, and hire staff with appropriate skill sets. The questionable relationship with Town egos is just a reflection and mirrors. Mr. Wooten should know better than that- but oh yes, he is in the running for the 2011 supervisor race!

---

...

written by Angela DeVito, January 05, 2011

Although Carol Scalfani may be a vet tech, that is not the basis of her employment with the Town of Riverhead. Where is Matt H., the CSEA president, on this matter? But, oh my, all [Scalfani, Walter, and Coronesi] are republicans- maybe that is why no hue and cry was raised at an evening's meeting. Unless of course Ms. Scalfani is relinquishing 1/2 of her political appointment's salary and acting on a volunteer basis raises another whole can of worms and Mr. Coronesi will most probably involve the Town in another costly PERB action as the vet tech is a CSEA bargaining unit work and Ms. Scalfani is a M/C employee not a CSEA represented employee. Mr. Coronesi has been the center of attention since his first day with Riverhead; more time and money has been spent on this one individual than any Town employee in the past decade. To move forward, cut his line to employment, and create an animal shelter that not only meets the expectations of Town residents but the intent of State law.

---

On another note, it is certainly the mark of a Town that just cannot get it right, when even the simplest of items, the mandate to take care of abandoned animals cannot be easily implemented. The saga of the Town's continued mismanagement of its animal shelter is almost 20 years at this point- just a bit more than the inability to do anything at EPCAL. Perhaps in the 2011 elections, Town residents will stop their silly habit of electing popular names and handshakes and take the first step towards responsible government by choosing officials with both credentials and competencies!

---

...

written by connie farr, January 05, 2011

Denise,

Thanks for the article. I wish we could get rid of this guy. It's funny how in order to be a volunteer at the shelter, you have to pass a police background check for animal abuse. I

guess it doesn't matter if you work with for the town. How could he have been cleared! Also we need to be able to find out what he did with and white pit he took in Nov or Dec as no one saw the dog again. It should have had that 7 day wait before adoption and Lou claims it was a dog though he was never seen by anyone. ?????? I'll try to find out more info. Thanks for not mentioning the Parvo as the vet never took tests treated the dog. So who knows what he had? Why don't you come to the Monday animal meeting?

Thanks Connie

LOVETHELOCAL 😊😊😊

---

## Write comment

Name

Email

Comment

---

[smaller](#) | [bigger](#)

I have read and agree to the [Terms of Usage](#).

security image ...

dnwaf

Write the displayed characters

ADD COMMENT

---

Powered by Azrul's Jom Comment for Joomla!