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## Photo flap at Riverhead Town Animal Shelter

By [Tim Gannon](#) | March 23, 2011 in [Featured Stories](#), [News](#)

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BARBARAELEN KOCH PHOTO | Volunteers have for years clashed with staffers at the Riverhead Animal Shelter on Youngs Avenue

Riverhead Townscape, the nonprofit group that sponsors the annual Country Fair and takes on beautification projects throughout town, may be doing just such a project at the Riverhead Town Animal Shelter.

But the plans got off to a rocky start over the weekend, according to Councilman Jim Wooten.

“There’s a policy at the shelter that volunteers can’t take pictures of dogs in the shelter,” Mr. Wooten said. The policy apparently stems from an incident several years ago where pictures of dogs there were used in publishing negative things about the shelter, he said.

“So fast-forward three or four years to this weekend,” Mr. Wooten said.

Townscape member Vince Taldone, who is also a shelter volunteer, was at the shelter on Sunday with a friend who is a professional photographer. He wanted photos of the shelter so that Judy Jacunski of Townscape could combine them with various landscape designs and come up with a rendering to present to the Townscape board, the councilman said.

Mr. Wooten said Mr. Taldone had previously alerted the town that he was working with Ms. Jacunski to come up with a landscape design idea, and from that, Townscape might donate plantings and also use the design to help beautify the shelter area.

But when Mr. Taldone and the photographer went to take pictures of the shelter building Sunday, the kennel attendant on duty called animal control officer Lou Coronese, and was told not to allow pictures, Mr. Wooten said. When the photographer continued taking pictures, the attendant called the police.

“And then two police cars came screaming down there,” Mr. Wooten said. Mr. Taldone also had called Mr. Wooten, who said he then called the police department and straightened the matter out.

“The police backed down and realized it was much ado about nothing,” Mr. Wooten said, adding that this is an example of why he feels the town should have a shelter director running the facility, rather than an animal control officer who answers to the police chief.

*tgannon@timesreview.com*

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**Curious Owl** 4 weeks ago

Another fine example of the government in this town at work....If there is nothing wrong going on in the shelter, why not take pictures and maybe some of those poor puppies could get adopted....

1 person liked this.



**Woof** 1 month ago

What a dysfunctional town government we have, can't even run a dog shelter. You can put them to sleep but can't take their pictures. Two police cars to the shelter, but none to be found while two burglaries are taking place in beautiful downtown Riverhead. If this was a Laurel & Hardy skit, it would be very funny. Unfortunately this is real and Mr. Walter appears to be our own special stand-in for the Stan Laurel role. Can you guess who our Oliver Hardy would be?

1 person liked this.



**RonHaririEsq** 1 month ago [in reply to Woof](#)


Of course, as distinguished from our Town Board, Laurel and Hardy were just actors playing stupid.

Like Reply

 **LAURIE D** 1 month ago


This shelter has been a topic for a lot of years. Lets get on to the big stuff and spend more time on removing a Dysfunctional Board.

1 person liked this. Like Reply

 **Gpeace** 1 month ago


What the ..%^&^\$###\$%^.....????? This is ludicrous ..... Hello Riverhead is any body there?

1 person liked this. Like Reply

 **LAURIE D** 4 weeks ago [in reply to Gpeace](#)


LIGHTS ON NOBODY HOME.....

1 person liked this. Like Reply

 **ludikris** 1 month ago [in reply to Gpeace](#)

yeah yeah check it g.p it was a slight miscommunication dont get your collar all tight you know what im saying , chill out dog !

Like Reply

 **Gpeace** 1 month ago [in reply to ludikris](#)

Please explain then....

Like Reply

 **dumpwalter** 1 month ago

With daily thefts on Main Street and gangs and drug dealers overtaking our Town, its great to see that our Moonlighting Supervisor a/k/a Police Commissioner Sean Walter has allowed his management skills to rub off on the Police Force.

Maybe Dim Jim can ease tensions by singing the pit bulls to sleep?

Two squad cars to arrest a cocker spaniel?

If only Officer DWI was actually looking for criminals--not staking out Ladies Night.

Like Reply

## Reactions

 **LandscapeLove** 1 month ago

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Photo flap at Riverhead Town Animal Shelter: Mr. Wooten said Mr. Taldone had previously alerted the town that he... <http://bit.ly/g2LvMc>

 **claudiabegal** 1 month ago

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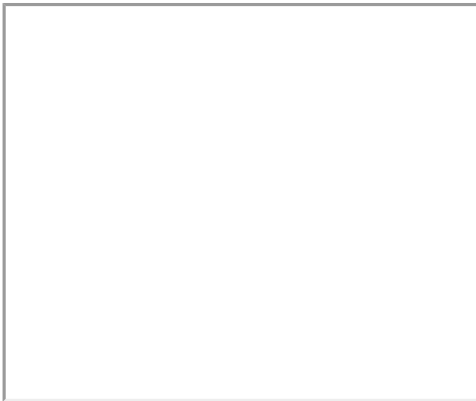
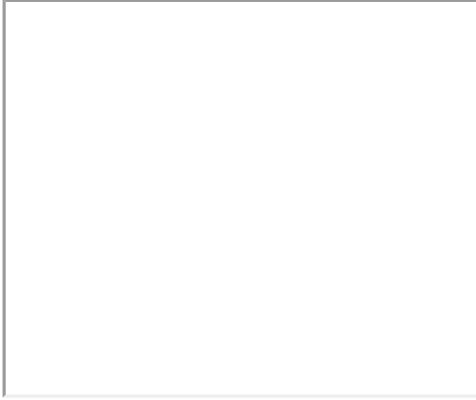
**JakethePoundDog** 1 month ago

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