

City of

# HURST TEXAS

POLICE DEPARTMENT



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: May 1, 2014

Issued by: R. Winstanley

Time: 12:00 Noon

Topic: UPDATE: Molly the Pot Belly Pig

### INVESTIGATION UPDATE:

Animal Services investigation has clarified investigative information from previously released information.

During the initial stage of the investigation the person representing themselves as temporarily "pig sitting" Molly for the owner, has now been identified as the actual owner of Molly. We believe that Molly has been kept in Hurst since January of this year, contrary to the City of Hurst Code of Ordinances: Livestock.

The initial attack of Molly actually occurred during the early evening hours on Monday, April 29, 2014, and the owner knew of the attack at that time. The owner attempted to treat Molly's laceration and wounds with over the counter medication, anti-bacterial ointment.

There is still some contradiction of information from Molly's owner and a witness/rescuer about the attack; where it occurred and what action was taken. However, we believe this to be factual. Molly escaped from her yard into an adjoining neighbor's yard during the early evening hours on Monday. A pit bull dog residing at the next house to this adjoining yard, jumped over, around or under the fence (which was in disrepair) into the yard Molly was in and began to viciously attacked Molly. The resident, whose back yard the attack was occurring in, heard Molly's squeals and saw the pit bull had Molly by her head and neck and was thrashing Molly around violently. This resident grabbed a wooden shovel handle and after great effort was able to fend the attacking pit bull off Molly, subsequently rescuing Molly from serious injury or death. Molly's owner, aware of the attack, responded soon afterwards and took Molly home. This incident was not reported to Police or Animal Services. The rescuer is requesting anonymity and does not wish to participate in the investigation any longer.

The following early morning hours of Tuesday, April 30, 2014, is when Molly was reported wandering the area of the 1000 block of Calcutta Drive and taken into our care. Officers were unaware of the previous day's unreported attack.

Later that Tuesday afternoon, April 30, at approximately 1:00 PM, the offending pit bull again escaped his enclosure with a companion Labrador and began to run at large through the neighborhood. The pit bull was reported to Police and Animal Services as attempting to attack other dogs in the area and did in fact attack another dog in a residential back yard in the 900 block of Zelda Drive, which also happens to be Molly's residence yard. Animal Services responded and located the pit bull and the Labrador at large in the area. However, the pit bull and lab returned to their residence a few doors down and crawled under the fence (also in disrepair), back into the back yard when the responding Animal Services officer attempted to capture them.

As a result of Animal Services diligent investigation over the past several days;

The owner of the pit bull has voluntarily surrendered the pit bull to Hurst Animal Services for final disposition and was issued two Notices to Appear for the Dog at Large violation. The pit bull's companion Labrador, which was not deemed to be dangerous, was relocated by the owner, unknown as to where by us at this time.

Molly's owner, recognizing that it is a violation of the Code of Ordinance for Molly to reside in the City, and that the mounting medical bills for Molly's treatment are escalating daily, as well as the owners inability to properly care for Molly's basic needs, has voluntarily surrendered Molly to Animal Services for our continued care. The owner did contribute some funds towards Molly's medical costs.

Animal Services will continue the investigation and consideration of additional charges are pending.

Molly continues to receive excellent treatment for her wounds; multiple lacerations and puncture wounds about the head, face, ears and neck at the veterinarian hospital. In addition to her wounds, Molly's overall health is of concern. Molly is experiencing digestive issues and the medical staff is seeking additional medical assistance for diagnosis and treatment. Molly's skin is in an overall degraded state and the medical staff is addressing this also. In spite of all this, Molly continues to have a sunny disposition while undergoing treatment.

Molly is available for media visitation today, with Hurst Animal Services, at the following location and time:

**VCA Bedford Meadows Animal Hospital**  
**2209 Harwood Road**  
**Bedford, TX 76021**  
**May1, 2014 at 2:30 PM**

Hurst Animal Services does maintain a continuous donation fund account to help the many animals in our care just like Molly who are in need of care beyond the basic needs we can provide. If anyone is

interested in assisting with a donation for Molly and the other animals in our care now and in the future, please contact Hurst Animal Services directly at 817-788-7126 for further information. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated.

For additional information, please contact:

Richard Winstanley

Assistant Chief

817.788.7129

For donations: Hurst Animal Services, 891 Cannon Drive, Hurst TX, 76054. 817.788.7126