

April 20th, 2023 – Email complaint from Kyle Badertscher alleging animal abuse, animal density, potential environmental hazards, feral dogs causing property damage and possibly killing neighboring barn animals.

April 25th, 2023 – Discussed complaint with Planning, Todd H at CSU extension office, Scott C with RCEHD, and Dawn Smith with RCSO.

May 3rd, 2023 -Made attempts to contact property owner by phone and email (contact information from Routt County Horse Rescue website) with no response received. Email dated 5-3-2023 saved in documents.

May 9th, 2023 –First letter delivered via USPS and by email. Investigation of Potential Violation.

May 11th, 2023 – Received phone call from Michelle Sommerville regarding Investigation letter. Discussed specifics of Routt County Horse Rescue operation. Confirmed verbally that horse riding lessons were being advertised and performed on property located in the MRE zone. Informed Michelle that I would be continuing discussion with Planning to determine if violations were present.

May 17th, 2023 – Met with Planning staff to discuss case and continue investigation. Review of findings determined that violations may be present as horse riding lessons are not allowed to be performed on property in the MRE zone. Contacted Michelle. Scheduled site visit for 5-24-2023.

May 24th, 2023 – Alan and Dave performed site visit accompanied by the RCSO. Photos saved in documents. Comment saved in CE case dated (5-24-2023) from site visit is pasted below.

“Performed a site visit with Alan and the RCSO to inspect the property. I thanked Michelle for letting us on her property. I explained that the reason for the site visit was to attempt to assist her with compliance and solutions relating to her advertised business of horse riding lessons. I explained that horse riding lessons are not permitted in the MRE zone. I had previously spoken to Michelle and asked her if she had a potentially alternate location to perform the lessons. Michelle made no effort to seek alternate locations and instead pointed to an adjacent parcel, also zoned MRE. I explained that the only zone districts that lessons are permitted through administrative permits are the AC and AF.

Site photos were taken.”

May 25th, 2023 – Sent NOV to property owner by USPS and email.

June 2nd, 2023 – Received confirmation email from Michelle of receipt of NOV and intent to comply by not offering lessons. (Email saved in documents dated 6-2-23) Included in my email response was contact information for Todd H from CSU

June 8th, 2023 – Sent email (saved in documents dated 6-8-2023) to Michelle requesting modification of the Routt County Horse rescue website to reflect compliance plan by not advertising lessons or camps.

June 9th, 2023 – Email dated 6-9-2023 saved in documents. Response from Michelle regarding modifying website.

6-27-2023 – Email and response saved in documents dated 6-27-2023 confirming website modification.

7-5-2023 – Consultation with Kristy regarding keeping the case open as monitoring and enforcing compliance plan was complex.

7-10-2023 – Phone complaint forwarded by Dawn Smith regarding animal abuse witnessed during a horse lesson.

7-18-2023 – Reached out to contact from phone complaint received from Dawn Smith on multiple occasions with no response.

8-22-2023 – Received message from Dawn Smith. A site visit for animal wellness was performed by RCSO and a State AG Veterinarian. Dawn reported horse lesson being performed during the time of inspection. Minors in the lessons had mixed responses when asked whether they were in lessons or riding with their friend Michelle.

8-23-2023 – Sent Cease and Desist order by USPS, email, and attempted hand delivery. Met RCSO on site to post order. Michelle was not present during the time of inspection/posting.

8-31-2023 – Follow up email with Michelle saved in Documents dated 8-31-2023 confirming updated compliance plan.

9-7-2023 – Drive by site visit performed after receiving two phone complaints from Kyle B (neighbor and complainant) Voicemails saved in documents.

9-11-2023 – Certified letter and email sent to Michelle informing her of BCC scheduling to authorize legal action.

9-11-2023 Email response from Michelle saved in documents dated 9-11-2023. Michelle has questions about how she can operate as people ride horses before adopting them or to exercise the horses.