

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you this morning. I will be brief, intending on less than 4 minutes.

If I may, before I address why I am here, I would like to convey to the board how deeply apologetic and devastated I feel over the incident on May 5 which led to the victim, Jennifer, being bitten by my two dogs, Buddy Boy and Angie Girl, after I lost control of their leashes.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the Appleton Police Department including Officer Ceballos, who initially took my statement and LCSO Fillebrown, who made the determination that my dogs were dangerous, a decision I accept. And finally, I would like to thank Dr. Sepers, who was courteous and informative, as were they all.

WAIVER

I am doing everything I can to fully meet all the requirements pertaining to all applicable Appleton statutes related to dangerous animals. However, I respectfully seek a waiver pertaining to Appleton Code, Division 2 (Dangerous Animals), Section 3-132 (Harboring Dangerous Animals), (d) Confinement, (1), which fully states, *“Except when leashed and muzzled, all dangerous animals shall be securely confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel that is located on the premises of the owner or caretaker and constructed in a manner that does not allow the animal to exit the pen or kennel on its own volition.”*

With that in mind please direct your attention to the attached photos marked 1 through 5. Surrounding our backyard is a very sturdy, cement anchored 6-ft high polyvinyl fence built to code in 2018 by Valley Custom Fence of Appleton. It begins at the back door of our home where Buddy Boy is sitting in Photo 1. That gate now has a lock on it, and Buddy (and Angie) must now wear a muzzle and be leashed in our yard. As depicted in Photo 2, the fence continues along the side and back of the yard to the rear of the garage. However, as seen in Photo 3, along the near side of the driveway there is a stretch of forty-four feet from the front of the garage to the northeast corner of the house where the yard becomes completely enclosed but is served instead by a now inadequate 3-ft high fence and gate.

I propose two options for the board to consider, both of which I hope you will agree will meet the criteria for preventing either animal from exiting on their own volition, and thereby both will then be allowed to enter the yard without the need for a muzzle or leash.

OPTIONS

- A) Replace the shorter fence with a 6-ft high fence identical to that presently installed around most of the yard along with a locked gate.

- B) Install a large sturdy steel anchored 14-ft wide locked gate, again 6-ft high (see Photo 4 – printed from the Valley Custom Fence Website) to span across our driveway (Photo 5) from the northeast corner of our house to the 6-ft high polyvinyl fence on the far side of the driveway. Per Valley Custom Fence, additional full or partial 6-ft high polyvinyl fencing sections will be added as needed on both sides of the gate to close any gaps.

It is my belief, and I hope the board will share that belief that both options fully meet the standard set forth within the aforementioned Appleton Code ... (d) Confinement, (1), and that our backyard will act as “... *a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel that is located on the premises of the owner or caretaker and constructed in a manner that does not allow the animal to exit the pen or kennel on its own volition.*”

Approval of both options would give me flexibility based on cost. Valley Custom Fence can install either option within about four weeks after I sign the contract.

Thank you for listening and for your consideration in this matter.

Ryan Janz
May 13, 2026







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