

District Attorney General's Response on Morgan County Pet Crematory Situation

Kingston, TN --- In response to the recent case in Morgan County, District Attorney General Russell Johnson says that, "Our office has received numerous inquiries, as has local media, from individuals expressing concern that they either contracted directly with Cameo Farr and her Elliott Pet Services for cremation of the family pets or that they used a veterinarian that may have contracted with Farr and Elliott Pet Services.

These folks are requesting that we somehow determine whether or not their family pet may be among the hundreds of pet remains that were discovered buried in several pits or the mass grave on Farr's property in a remote area of Morgan County.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is the entity that permitted the Elliott Pet Services pet crematory and monitored its activities. The permit was renewed by TDEC as recently as November 2012 through December 2017. According to information released to our office by TDEC and obtain through our presence observing the excavation of the pet remains we have learned the following:

The site consists of hundreds of animal remains buried en masse in a large or several connected pits. It appears from the advanced decomposition of much of the remains that large numbers of the animals could have been buried well over a year or more. TDEC was unable to determine any identification of the excavated remains. What they excavated consisted of several tandem dump truck loads that were taken to Chestnut Ridge landfill to be reburied. TDEC is in possession of limited paperwork from Cameo Farr and her business.

We emphasize that this is TDEC's investigation and their case. We have been in contact with their General Counsel and plan to meet with their attorney and investigator next week to discuss their findings and determine whether they are going to initiate any citations for violations that may or may not require our involvement as criminal prosecutors.

Separately from TDEC we have an investigator who is being assisted by a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in interviewing neighbors, former employees of Elliott Pet Services and other persons with information trying to determine what (beyond the possible environmental law violations), if any, criminal charges might be charged.

We have received many requests to 'scan for microchips', look for pet collars, etc. on the carcasses. TDEC officials handling the excavation have assured us that it was impossible due to the advanced stage of decay to make these determinations. Collars, tags, etc. had obviously been removed. Most of the remains were skeletal remains. Microchips would have fallen to the bottom of the pits into the mud and muck of decaying non-skeletal remains. Moreover, the overwhelming, noxious smell of the operation created a bio-hazardous situation for workers such that scanning for microchips would have been impossible, much less fruitless.

We are advising folks to mail us: 9th District Attorney General, Attn: Pet Crematory Case, PO Box 703, Kingston, Tennessee 37763 or email Assistant District Attorney Alyson Kennedy at

her email address of: akennedy@9thdag.com a narrative of their involvement with this situation, including copies of any and all paperwork, documents, etc. plus witness information as to veterinarians and others involved in any transaction. If and when we determine the scientific and financial viability of testing ashes delivered to individuals as being from their pet we will reach back out to those who have contacted us and let them know how we and or they can possibly proceed”.

Finally, for those of you who have additional concerns, the attorney for Cameo Farr and Elliott Pet Services is Kevin Angel who can be reached at: (865) 483-3411; via e-mail at angelassociates@bellsouth.net or via regular mail 166 Fairbanks Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37836

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