

Support HF2627

My name is Lasaija Kleis. I live in Brooklyn Park, MN. In January of 2024 I purchased a Golden Retriever from Four Paws and a Tail, in Blaine Minnesota. I named my dog Juliette. According to my paperwork, she was born on 10/11/2023 from Pleasant View Kennels. Pleasant View Kennels is located in Utica, MN. Utica is located in Winona County, MN.

In January 2024, I lost my job. This was hard on me financially, but this gave me more time to spend with my dog Juliette. I was committed to raising her and taking care of her. Juliette was very sick. She had stomach issues and would go to the bathroom 20 times a night. I was in contact with 4 Paws and a Tail about the issue and they said I needed to take her to Murray Animal Hospital in Blaine MN. Murray Animal Hospital was not helpful in treating Juliette. Eventually I went to Prior Lake Pet Hospital. The vet there looked at all of my paperwork. The vet determined that Four Paws and a Tail had failed to properly give Juliette all of her shots and that she had parvo. The vet said that Juliette would need a \$3000 surgery. I had already spent \$600 on vet bills, and this had only been a couple of weeks since purchasing Juliette. I called Four Paws and a Tail and spoke with the manager. She was very rude and the owner, Michael Swanson, would never speak to me.

I returned Juliette to Four Paws and a Tail. They refunded me the money for what I paid for her, but did not pay me the \$600 I spent in vet bills. I don't know what happened to Juliette. Did Four Paws and a Tail give her to a rescue organization? Did they sell her? What did they do?

Needless to say, I have still been very upset about all of this and have followed what Four Paws and a Tail has been doing. I did listen to the testimony of Four Paws and a Tail owner Michael Swanson when he testified to the Minnesota Senate on March 9th, 2023. **This date is important and shows that Mr. Swanson has not been honest with where he is getting his dogs from.** Mr. Swanson stated that, "once in a while, [I get] Golden Retrievers from Utica, Minnesota, **who I have also just recently dropped as a breeder.**" (you can listen to the testimony of this here and this statement starts roughly around the 1:18:30

mark: https://mnsenate.granicus.com/player/clip/10779?view_id=2&meta_id=45336&redirect=true).

As you can see from my paperwork, I purchased Juliette in January of 2024 from a Golden Retriever breeder in Utica, MN. **THIS IS AFTER** Mr. Swanson testified to the Minnesota Senate stating that he had dropped this breeder. As I previously mentioned, Utica is in Winona County Minnesota. I raise this because the breeding conditions are **so bad there**, the County Board has banned any future commercial dog breeders (https://www.winonapost.com/news/winona-county-votes-to-ban-future-dog-breeders/article_8696913e-7eb3-4bd4-9d81-a6fb8cffe517.html#:~:text=After%20nearly%20a%20decade%20of,future%20commercial%20dog%20breeding%20kennels.)

In conclusion, my dog Juliette was sick because of negligence on Four Paws and a Tails part. The breeding community where she came from in Utica in Winona County is horrible and the County Board has banned any future dog breeders. **Four Paws and a Tail has not been honest about this.** Please support HF2627.

Thank you,

Lasaija Kleis