

**Davidson, Gary**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 12, 2011 9:21 AM  
**To:** Adkins, Paul; Davidson, Gary; Lee, Bill; Phillips, Sharon; Newman, Michelle; Johnson, Ben  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; patricio.balona@news\_arml.com  
**Subject:** Citizen's Complaint

**TO:** Volusia County Sheriff's Office

**FROM:** Teri Holycross

**DATE:** August 11, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Complaint against Captain Chico Mandizha, Captain John Bonnevier and Sheriff Ben Johnson

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While training with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office (VCSO) Bloodhound unit, I witnessed several very disturbing events where Capt. Bonnevier either neglected and/or abused a young Bloodhound named Buster Brown who was donated to the VCSO by the Marion Correctional Institute. Capt. Bonnevier was in charge of Buster's training and took home each night. The Marion Correction Institute donated two siblings, Roxy and Wyatt to TCI at the same time. As a young pup Buster was believed to be the most promising of the three siblings and started out doing a great job but that was short lived. Before long Buster was avoiding even starting a trail because he began to associate working with punishment instead of praise and reward normally used to train a working dog of any discipline.

Things got so bad and uncomfortable that I stopped attending training as often. I tried to go when I knew the Capt. wouldn't be there and I no longer worked my dog's on any trails laid by Capt. Bonnevier because I was afraid his foul attitude would affect my dogs and make them afraid to approach any Target (the person who laid the trail and hides to reward the dog at the end of their trail) and/or the Capt. would get upset over something and abuse my dogs too.

I was about to file a complaint when Howard McBride (retired under Sheriff and volunteer with VCSO) witnessed an abusive episode that he could not ignore and called Sheriff Johnson and told him what he witnessed. I was told the next day Capt. Bonnevier was removed from the Bloodhound unit and told he could no longer deploy Buster Brown on any calls and to find a home for the dog. It is also my understanding that Capt. Bonnevier disobeyed that order and deployed Buster on a call but once again he was given only a verbal warning. It is my understanding that Buster was eventually re-homed to a law enforcement agency in South Carolina.

The following are situations I personally witnessed: The Capt. seldom took the pup out for potty breaks, which is a customary means of potty training any dog. Instead the Capt. would wait until it was time to work Buster on a trail. When Buster would have an accident of course it was the pups fault and the Capt. would yell and carry on. When Capt. Bonnevier would start/work Buster on a trail, the Capt. would talk non-stop telling Buster (get to work, find the man, etc. repeatedly) while the dog was trying to work. The Capt. would jerk Buster around if

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he thought he was off trail, going potty, etc.. Capt. Bonnevier wouldn't carry or provide any water for Buster while working long trails or prolonged trails when the dog was shutting down due to the Capt. When Buster would finally get to the Target, Capt. Bonnevier would jerk/snatch Buster back so hard I'm surprised he didn't snap his neck. The Capt. would do this to prevent Buster from getting any praise or food reward what so ever and yell and scream at the dog jerking /snatching him the whole way back to the vehicle where he would grab Buster by the skin on the back of his neck and back to pick him up and throw him into the metal dog crate. Many times Buster would slide from the force, hitting his head, body, etc. on the back side of the box. Then if anyone tried to give Buster any water, the Capt. would yell at them and tell them the dog didn't deserve any water even in the heat of summer. The last event I witnessed was a trail I laid for Buster that ended on the side of Highway 92. I could see most of Buster's trail and he avoided the start and prolonged finding me because of his association with abuse. When Buster got to me the Capt. snatched him repeatedly, yelling and screaming at the poor dog on the side of Highway 92. I tried to tell him the dog isn't going to ever "find the man" if he never gets rewarded when he does. The Capt. was in such a rage, he didn't hear anything I said to him. When Tim pulled up with the truck, the Capt. Snatched Buster up and threw him in the dog box and turned to Tim and started hollering and screaming at him, all on the side of Highway 92 in plain view for several minutes complaining about what a worthless Buster was. I was so upset, I had to walk away before I said or did something. I walked back to where our vehicles were parked across Highway 92 and told Lynda George what had transpired. The friction and abuse was increasing during training sessions and out of control. Tim said it was getting to be an everyday event and wanted didn't want Lynda and I to stop coming to train with them because the incidents were not as bad when we were present. Tim McGuire and Chris Beatty reported the incidents to their supervisor Sgt. Joey Byrant at the time and he sent the information up the Chain of Command but it too was ignored and swept under the carpet.

I was told one day the Capt. got mad at an intern who had volunteered to help them lay some trails, that he cursed her out and berating her for some time. Needless to say, she never came back to help lay any trails for the unit. The guys said one day the Capt. got mad at Buster because he was afraid of a garbage can and shied away from it, so the Capt. picked Buster up and body slammed him into the garbage can. I don't know what method of training the Capt. Call's this but in my book that is abuse. The final straw for Howard was when the Capt. got mad at Buster and slammed his head into a pole and concrete several times before slinging him in the dog box.

Deputy Chris Beatty, Reserve Deputy Tim McGuire, Correction's Officer Mark Tarantino, Sgt. Joey Bryant and Volunteer Howard McBride witnessed and/or have knowledge of some and/or all of these events during training with the Capt. It is also possible inmates used to lay trails for TPI and VCSO and/or other correction Bloodhound handler's witnessed similar events as well. Chris Beatty and Tim McGuire have both left the Bloodhound unit after numerous struggles they encountered while trying to make the Bloodhound unit work.

Instead of VCSO conducting an official Internal Affairs (IA) investigation, they conducted an in house investigation by Capt. Chico Mandizha to protect Capt. Bonnevier. I was told my name and phone number was provided as a witness for the investigation, however I was never contacted or questioned because they were not looking for the truth or facts, they were looking to make it go away. It must be nice to be ABOVE the law. After speaking with Duke Snodgrass recently he, said when he called to inquire about the incident that he was informed Buster injured himself when he ran into a pole.

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Tim McGuire was told VCSO deputies went to Capt. Bonnevier's home where they helped build kennels in his yard. It is my understanding the Capt. paid for the kennel's so it is unclear if these are his personal kennels or VCSO Kennels. Tim was informed by Lt. Tim Quigley on Thursday, August 11, 2011, that the Sheriff is returning the Capt. to the Bloodhound unit to train and work Lacey and Joker's Wild, two Bloodhounds donated to VCSO by Duke Snodgrass. Tim was also told VCSO is getting another Bloodhound pup for Capt. Bonnevier to train and work. Please NOTE, that Capt. Bonnevier had no previous K9 handler training prior to working with Tim and Chris, he did not listen to any advice given for training Buster and has absolutely no business attempting to train ANY dog much less a dog for a law enforcement agency who may be called upon to find a missing child or person. This is not a game, we are talking about the difference in saving a life or not. While Lacey and Joker are well trained and proven to be very successful that is not going to continue once they encounter abuse as Buster did. I'm not sure if the deputies helping to build the kennels at Capt. Bonnevier's home were on duty working or not but that certainly is something that needs to be determined. Tax payer's in Volusia County like myself do not wish to support such waist. Placing Capt. Bonnevier back in the Bloodhound unit and handing over three dogs to him is like a daycare facility hiring a convicted pedophile and leaving them alone with children. Lacey and Joker need to be removed from Capt. Bonnevier's home and he should not be allowed to handle them in any capacity until an official IA is conducted. When Howard McBride called Sheriff Johnson and reported the cruelty and abuse Buster was receiving at the hands of Capt. Bonnevier, he had an obligation to stop the abuse and prevent any future abuse by that dog and/or any other dogs under the care and supervision of VCSO. The Sheriff failed to remove Buster from Capt. Bonnevier immediately thereby allowing his cruelty and abuse to be swept under the carpet and now he has knowingly placed these dogs in the same danger. This is unacceptable at best and needs to be officially addressed. Lacey and Joker are well trained Bloodhounds who have served Volusia County well. A few months back Joker trailed a woman who attempted suicide by an overdose of pills and was found near death and covered in red ants. Tim McGuire was handling Joker at the time and sustained multiple ant bites trying to get the woman away from the ants and provide her with medical aide. This woman survived due to the training put in to Joker by Chris Beatty and Tim McGuire. These dogs do not deserve to be turned over and ruined by the likes of Capt. Bonnevier. The find and save of this woman sadly went unrecognized and unappreciated. It's sad that saving a woman's life doesn't even warrant a pat on the back.

Having said all this, at this time I would like to file an official complaint against Capt. Chico Mandizha for his actions (or lack of action) in covering up the initial investigation regarding the neglect and abuse Buster sustained, Capt. John Bonnevier for neglecting and abusing Buster and Sheriff Ben Johnson for allowing Capt. Bonnevier to go unpunished for the neglect and abuse Buster sustained, failure to prevent further neglect and abuse to Buster and knowingly placing additional dogs in jeopardy of neglect and abuse.

Sincerely disgusted,

Teri J. Holycross

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[REDACTED] Florida [REDACTED]

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