



Animal Control Investigates Dog Related Poisoning *No Individual Identified Actively Targeting Animals*

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-May 22, 2023-After information began circulating on possible dog poisonings, Steamboat Springs Police Department's Animal Control investigated the situation and found no individual is actively targeting animals.

"No individual is actively targeting dogs and no poison has been found within the Rita Valentine Dog Park," said Police Commander Rich Brown. "Once we were aware of the situation, we wasted no time in working through the investigation to determine if something nefarious was in the works."

At this time, no information has been identified that any of the poison was found in Rita Valentine Park. However, bait was used in an adjacent neighborhood to battle a vole infestation, which the area is experiencing due to a long and snowy winter.

With no intention of harming pets, some residents used this method as a way to rid their property of voles. A dog found a block which appeared to have been transported due to other animals such as magpies, racoons or foxes picking up the block and moving them to other locations within the immediate area.



After speaking with a number of witnesses, Animal Control determined one dog in a nearby neighborhood was sick from ingesting this poison and another dog was seen chewing a similar green brick. Both dogs have been treated and are responding well. Four other dogs underwent preventive measures because they were in the same area or associated with the two sick animals.

"This incident is a strong reminder there can be unintended consequences with our actions," commented Animal Control Officer Jennifer Good. "While an isolated instance, this is a good reminder to any resident considering using this method to deal with rodents to follow all safety requirements and utilize a bait station. Better yet, contact a pest control professional."

Rita Valentine Dog Park remains open to the public and their pets. ACO reminds pet owners to keep their animals within sight while out. If your pet shows any signs of poisoning or was seen getting ahold of one of these blocks, contact or visit your veterinarian immediately.

To report an animal issue, contact Routt County Dispatch non-emergency, 970.879.1144. The earlier a call or issue is reported, the faster SSPD and ACO can respond and begin working on the matter.

-WeServeTheCity-

Contact

Mark Beckett, Police Chief, 970.879.4344 or [email](#)

Rich Brown, Commander, 970.879.4344 or [email](#)

Jennifer Good, Animal Control Officer, 970.879.1144

Michael Lane, Communications Manager, 970.871.8220 or [email](#)