

# Farm

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of escaping. The two dogs, Buddy, an Alaskan Malamute and Demi, a Siberian Husky, were not recommended for adoption or rescue. It was noted that while at the shelter one of the animals, Demi, 'exhibited aggressive behavior, not safe to open the cage.'"

The owners are subject to a civil suit, Allen continued.

"This was explained by animal control in their discussions with the owners and is noted in the report," she said. "The report has been forwarded to the school district as they own the physical property as well as the animals. We, the Friends of Loma Vista Farm, purchase the animals, provide for ongoing care and are dedicated to having a safe and secure environment for our animals, community and visitors. We will work in conjunction with the district to make this happen."

The dogs were secured on site following the late-night attack that seriously injured a goat and a sheep at the

sanctuary visited by thousands of school children annually.

The owner, identified by one of the dog's embedded chips, relinquished the animals "shortly after the incident," Allen said.

It's no surprise to the Loma Vista veterinarian that the dogs were euthanized.

"Once dogs do something like this, there's a high incidence they will do it again," said Dr. Claudia Sonder from Napa Valley Equine.

The dogs, Sonder continued, "worked as a team with a pack mentality," with one going for the neck of the animals and while the other attacks the back side.

"It's a natural predator/prey thing. They (the dogs) are hard-wired into these species, the through breeding, they've veered away from some of that behavior," Sonder said. "In fairness to the dogs, it's a dog being a dog. Certain breeds have strong predator history."

Though it was touch-and-go on a goat, "Dedee," and a sheep, "Lucy," "the injured animals are doing really well. They're healing great," said Sonder.

The prognosis is "excellent" for the injured animals, said Sonder.

The goat "was close to a life-ending injury," with a bite puncture on her neck, Sonder said. A similar wound nearly killed the sheep.

"I think all of them will make a full recovery," Sonder said. "They may have a residual fear of dogs, but I don't expect it to be long-term."

The horses, a thoroughbred and a Shetland pony, were unharmed.

"I think they did a good job protecting themselves," Sonder said.

The Loma Vista animals may take some time to regain the trust of any canines, the veterinarian said.

Fortunately, the vet continued, "They don't tend to lose trust for humans after an incident like this," adding that they might not trust her "because treatment is painful and repetitive."

Three young alpacas have been purchased and are expected to arrive soon.

Allen said she appreciates all the support the nonprofit has received following last holiday season's vandalized which curtailed Christmas tree sales and the dog at-

tack.

"We've always thought of the farm as a jewel in the midst of a hustling, bustling metro area," Allen said. "We've appreciated it just for that reason."

Though Loma Vista Farm "has had life-long supporters," the reaction to the dog attack "showed how much the community, both near and far, loves and values Loma Vista," Allen said.

This Saturday's pasta fundraiser at the Florence Douglas Center has been sold out for a month, with an April 1 comedy and music benefit for the farm at the Empress Theatre. A GoFundMe campaign with a \$20,000 has raised \$18,255.

Much of the fundraised money is earmarked for Loma Vista Farm security and animal habitat. The area suspected where the dogs entered have been reinforced, Allen said.

"We're evaluating a possible change in the alpaca area with an improved barn," Allen said.

For more information, visit [lomavistafarm.org](http://lomavistafarm.org).

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