**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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BBB Warns of Online Puppy Scams Using Fake Amarillo Address

BBB has received several reports from consumers across the country who have lost money to an online puppy scam listing an Amarillo address. The company operates under several names and websites. Websites frequently change and new websites pop up, with the same Amarillo address.

Mail to the address has been returned by the post office marked “vacant, unable to forward.” A local phone number listed on the website consistently rings busy.

The following names are being used and new ones are frequently added.

Fon Pomeranian

Atong Pomeranian Puppies

Difone Dachshunds

Difone Pomeranian

Kadane Dachshund

Kadane Pomeranian

Vafey Dashshund

Vafey Pomeranian

“Consumers should think twice about sending money before they have an opportunity to meet the pet in person,” said Janna Kiehl, BBB President. When spending money online or offline, make BBB your first contact. “We can provide information to help you make a decision and tips to prevent becoming a victim."

BBB Amarillo’s investigation was triggered by a report from a woman who was asked to send $300 for a deposit on a puppy before shipping. Fortunately, she did not send the money and instead called BBB to investigate further.

While this is what we want consumers to do before they spend money, several others who have not checked first, have become victims.

A gentleman from California was looking for a puppy for his granddaughter and sent $1,000 in gift cards. He did not receive the puppy (Willing to speak to the media).

A Michigan woman paid $700 with a gift card for a puppy. The puppy never showed up and she is unable to contact the breeder.

A woman from Tennessee sent $550 before finding out it was a scam.

An Iowa woman said the company told her they were located at the Amarillo address being used for the above companies. She did not purchase a puppy. (Willing to speak to the media).

A Virginia woman contacted the company for information and was asked to send $1,100 by an online payment app. Fortunately, she suspected a scam and refused to send the money.

Many other calls to BBB from consumers who have attempted to do business with these websites have come with warnings for other consumers. Complaints to BBB Scam Tracker continue to come in on these sites.

The BBB is investigating two additional online puppy scams claiming Amarillo addresses, Sonia Frenchies and Sundown Maltese Farms. All three companies currently have an F rating, BBB's lowest rating. Reports from around the country claim the same type of losses for consumers.

BBB recommends you meet your pet in person before you pay. Although the seller states you can pick up the puppy in person, they target consumers out of the area they claim to be in, in order to avoid in-person visits.

BBB suggests:

Contact your local animal shelter to adopt pets you can meet first.

Do a reverse image search of the pets you see on a website. Look for the same photos on various sites. Look at the background in the picture to see if it matches the local terrain.

Read and share the [BBB's Scam Studies](https://www.bbb.org/all/scamstudies%20) on pet scams. Pet scams are one of the most prevalent online scams and target all ages with an unusually high number of victims targeted being in their late teens and 20s.

If you have experienced a pet scam, whether or not you have lost money, BBB wants to hear from you. Report it on [BBB's Scam Tracker](https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker). BBB team members can help you report the scam if you are unable to. Call 806-379-6222.

Your personal information will not be public and you will help BBB and other consumers.

Report the scam to:

* **Better Business Bureau** - [BBB Scam Tracker](https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker) to report a scam online.
* **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)** - [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/) to file a complaint online or call 877-FTC-Help.
* **Petscams.com** - [petscams.com/report-pet-scam-websites](https://petscams.com/report-pet-scam-websites/) tracks complaints, catalogues puppy scammers and endeavors to get fraudulent pet sales websites taken down.
* **Your credit card issuer** – report the incident if you shared your credit card number, even if the transaction was not completed.