

NEWS **EXCLUSIVE**

Wag walker under investigation for animal cruelty after dog dies

By Gabrielle Fonrouge

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A worker for the **embattled dog-walking app Wag** is under criminal investigation for animal cruelty after a **beloved Yorkshire Terrier was killed on her watch**, The Post has learned.

The walker, identified as “Hannah,” took Angela Composto’s pooch Bella, 8, out for a routine walk back on Oct. 20 and was caught on camera returning the pup “nonresponsive and limp” in her arms, according to a Miramar Police Department incident report from Florida obtained by The Post.

“[Hannah] then leaves Bella in her bed to suffer and die,” an investigator on the case wrote in the report.

Composto, a 52-year-old Long Island native, told The Post her life “will never be the same” after trusting Wag with her dog.

In the minutes, weeks and months following Bella’s death, Hannah gave a series of conflicting stories of what actually happened to Bella — first to Composto, then to Wag and then to her attorney who provided a statement on her behalf to the cops, the incident report states.

Around 8:18 a.m. on the day Bella died, Composto received an update after the walk saying the stroll went “great” and included a picture of Bella and her sister Chloe with their tongues out and tails wagging, according to Composto and the police report.

The update noted Bella was “startled” when Chloe chased after a bird but both pups were back in their crates and Hannah would “stay a while” to make sure Bella was okay, the incident report states.

But Hannah did not stay a while as she’d promised, and was captured on Composto’s Ring camera leaving approximately six minutes later at 8:24 a.m., the report says.



Bella, the yorkie

About an hour later, a Wag representative called Composto to tell her Bella had fallen and Hannah was “currently at the home” even though she was seen leaving an hour earlier, the report says.

Composto, citing her surveillance system, told them that was impossible and another walker was sent to the house to check on the dog — and discovered Bella dead inside of her crate at about 10:17 a.m., the report states.

Bella is among [at least 15 other dogs](#) the self-described “Uber for Dogs” [has lost or killed](#) since 2015, according to records kept by The Post.

In February, two months [after The Post first reported the death](#), the Miramar PD opened a probe into the incident and got in touch with Hannah and her attorney, Sherri Romano, who insisted the death was an “accident” in a prepared statement.

But investigators aren’t buying it.

“The statement given to this detective had many questions. It says the dog took a fall. Then it says the dog was jolted. In the statement it says when Hannah got back to the residence with both dogs, she realized the terrier was injured. However the video shows Hannah panicked trying to open the door and carrying a motionless dog back to the residence,” an investigator wrote in a supplemental case report.

“The investigation revealed that [Hannah], who had the care and custody of Bella, took two dogs on a walk. [Hannah] brings the dogs back from their walk with Bella injured and motionless. Hannah gives no explanation of the injuries that would be consistent with the necropsy report of cause of death,” the report goes on.

A copy of that report, conducted by the University of Florida and viewed by The Post, found Bella’s head and neck were bruised, her skull was fractured and there was likely a “short time frame from injury to death.”

“The observed injuries are consistent with injury due to blunt force trauma and is the cause of death,” the examiner wrote in the report.

The Miramar PD’s investigation has been turned over to the State Attorney’s Office.

Susan Chana Lask, Composto’s lawyer [who’s brought a series of lawsuits against Wag](#), said Bella’s death is “cruelty at its worst.”

A spokesperson from Wag said Hannah was suspended from the platform after a “thorough investigation.” Hannah’s attorney did not immediately return a request for comment.

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