

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WASHINGTON COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Plaintiff,

DA Case No.: 2025WA000773
Assigned DA/ADA: Barry Braatz
Agency Case No.: 25-7582WCSD

vs.

Court Case No.:



Slinger, WI 53086
DOB: 05/13/1954
Sex/Race: F/W

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Defendant.

For Official Use

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, states that:

Count 1: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

The above-named defendant on Saturday, March 1, 2025, in the Town of Polk, Washington County, Wisconsin, as the person owning an animal, a dog, did intentionally fail to provide the animal with the minimum standards of sanitation, to wit: failed to keep shelter clean of feces, contrary to sec. 951.14(4), 939.51(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than nine (9) months, or both.

Count 2: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

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Count 3: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

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Count 6: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

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Count 7: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

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Count 8: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

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Count 18: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

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Count 21: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

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Count 22: INTENTIONALLY PROVIDE IMPROPER ANIMAL SHELTER SANITATION STANDARDS

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PROBABLE CAUSE:

Deputy Diaz of the Washington County Sheriff's Office reports that on March 1, 2025, he was dispatched to a welfare check at [REDACTED], in the Town of Polk, County of Washington, State of Wisconsin, regarding an elderly female found on the side of the road sitting on top of the trash can. The caller indicated the elderly female was identified as [REDACTED] hereinafter referred to as the defendant.

Upon arrival, Deputy Diaz made contact with the caller. The caller advised that she was driving to Fond du Lac when she observed the defendant sitting on top of a trash can. The caller stopped to see if she was okay. The caller stated she observed the defendant seemed disoriented. The caller then contacted the police to try to get the defendant some resources. The caller stated the defendant advised that she had no power for the last two weeks and that she was very cold because she had no heat. The caller then placed the defendant in the back of her vehicle to warm up until law enforcement arrived.

Deputy Diaz then made contact with the defendant. The defendant advised that she would like to go to the hospital to get help. Deputy Thompson, who was also on scene, contacted Crisis Response Unit (CRU) to meet at the hospital to provide resources and conduct an evaluation of the defendant.

Deputy Diaz reports, emergency medical services (EMS) arrived on scene and asked the defendant questions to verify she was not disoriented and the defendant was able to answer

most of the questions correctly. Deputy Diaz reports the defendant appeared slightly disoriented while speaking with EMS. However, EMS staff checked her eyes and stated that her pupils appeared normal and there was not anything significant they could see with that test. EMS staff stated the defendant did not have a droopy face and had no signs of a stroke. The defendant advised that she did not have power at her house over the last two weeks. The defendant stated she was outside for the last couple of hours sitting on the trash can. The defendant further advised that she had multiple dogs at the residence.

Deputy Pierce of the Washington County Sheriff's Office responded to the hospital to meet with the defendant along with Mental Health Clinician Murack.

Deputy Pierce reports that prior to entering the defendant's hospital room, she noted an odor coming from the defendant's room. Deputy Pierce reports the odor was that of feces, urine, and other odors associated with an unwashed human body. Upon seeing the defendant, Deputy Pierce reports the defendant was very unkempt; her hair was dirty and matted, her clothes were very soiled with what appeared to be feces and there was a very strong odor about her person and clothing. Additionally, Deputy Pierce observed sores that were actively bleeding all over her body.

Deputy Pierce reports she asked the defendant what happened today and the defendant advised that approximately two weeks ago, the power went out at her house and her phone stopped working. The defendant did not explore why this was and assumed that everyone in the neighborhood did not have power. The defendant stated she began to get cold so she went and sat by the road as she believed someone would eventually stop and help her.

The defendant was then asked if she was diagnosed with anything and the defendant stated that she was not. The defendant stated she was healthy; that she had been a nurse for 35 years and knew how to take care of herself. The defendant was asked if she had any help with day-to-day tasks and the defendant stated she did not and that she did everything on her own. Mental Health Clinician Murack asked the defendant what she does in her spare time. The defendant advised that she breeds golden retrievers and currently had 11 puppies and 11 adult dogs at home. The defendant stated she fed the dogs this morning and they had access outside to relieve themselves to they should be okay. The defendant granted consent to go into her house with Humane Society staff to take the dogs to the Human Society for safe-keeping while the defendant was in the hospital.

Deputy Pierce reports she then responded to the defendant's residence at [REDACTED] in the Town of Polk, Washington County, Wisconsin. Deputy Pierce entered the residence through the garage. Deputy Pierce observed the garage to be very full of miscellaneous boxes and other items. There was also what appeared to be smeared feces all over the garage floor. There was one adolescent dog and one adult dog in the garage that came to law enforcement when they arrived. The two dogs were immediately secured in kennels. Deputy Pierce noted that there was electricity to the garage as there were lights on and law enforcement were able to open one of the garage doors with the opener.

Deputy Pierce reports law enforcement then entered the residence through an unlocked door from the garage. Deputy Pierce reports the condition of the home was deplorable. There was standing water on the floor that was actively dripping from the ceiling. There were large holes

in the ceiling and drywall which appeared to be from water damage. All of the higher surfaces were covered in cobwebs and thick layers of dust.

Additionally, there was feces over all surfaces and in the water on the floor. All of the furniture was wet, covered in feces, and falling apart. There were several dog doors where the dogs could go outside to a large fenced area. The temperature inside the home was adequate and a light was turned on in the kitchen. In the outdoor fenced area, Deputy Pierce observed copious amounts of dog feces that the dogs were actively walking through. Deputy Pierce reports there were not any areas inside or outside of the home that were accessible to the dogs that were not covered in fecal matter and other excrement.

Deputy Pierce reports she did not observe any fresh, dry dog food, or bowls of clean water for the dogs. Several of the dogs were eating feces on the floor and drinking the standing water on the floor which was heavily contaminated with feces.

Deputy Pierce reports that eleven adult and eleven adolescent golden retrievers were removed from the home. Deputy Pierce reports that two of the adult dogs presented as being more aggressive and had to be controlled with a pole catch. One of the dogs actively struggled against the pole, causing a mouth injury. Deputy Pierce reports she observed the intake of the majority of the adult dogs and heard an employee of Humane Society report that one of the dogs had an ear infection and eye discharge likely due to an infection. Additionally, several of the adult dogs had very significant matts in their fur, some approximately six inches in length.

Deputy Pierce reports that on March 2, 2025, she received a message from the defendant's sister, CB, who had called with questions regarding her sister. CB advised that the last time she saw the defendant in person was either in December or January, at which time CB had gone to the defendant's house to help the defendant with phone issues. CB advised that the defendant did not allow CB into the house and advised that the mother of the most recent litter was very protective of the puppies and might be aggressive. However, CB advised that the defendant presented as alert and oriented and was able to recall information.

Deputy Pierce reports during the conversation with CB, CB advised that hospital staff told CB that they believed the defendant's confusion was due to malnutrition. CB advised that to the best of her knowledge the defendant had never been diagnosed with dementia or other cognitive impairment.

On March 2, 2025, Deputy Pierce again made contact with the defendant at the hospital. The defendant asked if the dogs destroyed the house in her absence and explained that the dogs get very anxious when the defendant is not there. Deputy Pierce advised the defendant that there was a large amount of feces on the floor and other surfaces. Deputy Pierce reports the defendant became evasive and reiterated that the dogs get nervous when she is gone.

Deputy Pierce reports she asked the defendant if she was aware of the standing water on the floor and the defendant advised that something was overflowing or there was a broken pipe somewhere, but she could not recall where it was or what was overflowing.

Further, Deputy Pierce inquired about the power being out for two weeks. The defendant stated that the power had only been out for a couple days. Deputy Pierce attempted to confirm

that the power was only off for a day or two and the defendant seemed confused by the question and could not provide an answer.

Deputy Pierce tried asking the defendant about what kind of dog food the defendant feeds the dogs but the defendant could not remember. The defendant stated she purchases a dozen 30-pound bags at a time because she goes through a bag in a day and a half. The defendant could not recall where she purchases the dog food.

Deputy Pierce reports she asked the defendant about medical care and treatment for the dogs. The defendant could not advise which veterinarian she sees for routine care. The defendant stated all the adult dogs were up to date on heartworm, flea/tick preventatives, as well as dewormers and distemper for the puppies. The defendant was asked if any of the dogs took medications for individual medical needs, and the defendant stated they did not because they were all very healthy.

Deputy Pierce inquired if the defendant had a breeder's or kennel license and the defendant stated she did not because she did not need one. Deputy Pierce asked if the adult dogs all had current dog licenses and the defendant stated some of the might be licensed but many of them were likely expired.

Deputy Pierce reports she spoke with medical staff who advised that the defendant's providers were of the belief that her confusion was due to malnutrition. The defendant had previously advised Deputy Pierce that she was unable to eat for approximately two weeks due to not having an appetite and throwing up everything she ate.

Deputy Pierce reports that on March 16, 2025, she received information from the Washington County Humane Society that one of the adult dogs seized needed to be euthanized. The Humane Society located a tumor on the inside of the left elbow of the dog that had been covered with matted fur. The Humane Society advised that the dog needed to be euthanized due to its age, and size and location of the tumor.

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 03/25/25
Electronically Signed By:
Barry Braatz
District Attorney
State Bar #: 1098312

Electronically Signed By:
Lieutenant Tim Kemp
Complainant