

MONTANA EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CASCADE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF: THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 77 WEXFORD LANE IN CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA 59404. THE PROPERTY BELONGS TO PAMELA J. POLEJEWKSI. THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY IS S06, T20 N, R02 E SESWSE MK 5. THE PROPERTY IS A TOTAL OF 10 ACRES OF RURAL LAND WITH MANY BUILDINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS LOCATED THEREON AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) A BROWN SINGLE WIDE TRAILER WITH A SHINGLE ROOF AND WHITE TRIM;
- (2) A JAYCO RV THAT IS OFFWHITE IN COLOR WITH RED OR PINK STRIPES;
- (3) A PROWLER 5TH WHEEL TRAILER THAT IS WHITE IN COLOR;
- (4) MULTIPLE SHEDS AND BARNES; AND
- (5) TWO HORSE TRAILERS

APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANT

STATE OF MONTANA)
 : ss.
 County of Cascade)

Sergeant Jake Tri of the Cascade County Sheriff's Office, upon being first duly sworn under oath, and based on the following facts within his personal knowledge and the collective knowledge of the deputies of the Cascade County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement officers hereby deposes and says as set forth herein. Based on the following facts, Sergeant Tri has knowledge and reason to now believe that there is probable cause to believe that the following offenses have been committed in the County of Cascade, Montana:

CRIMINAL CONTEMPT, a Misdemeanor, in violation of M.C.A. § 45-7-309.

The facts supporting this application are as follows:

Sergeant Tri is a detective sergeant with the Cascade County Sheriff's Office who investigates all manners of crimes occurring in Cascade County, Montana. Sergeant Tri has training and experience in investigating various crimes including misdemeanor and felony offenses.

On or about May 6, 2020, at around 5:13 p.m., Deputy O'Neill and Deputy Whitsitt responded to a call to a structure fire at 77 Wexford Lane in Great Falls, Montana. A trailer of some sort had completely burned to the ground and some animals had perished in the fire.

They saw goats, dogs, and horses running loose inside the property. O'Neill then contacted the owner of the property, Pamela J. Polejewski, as she was removing animals out of her Prowler Camper Trailer which was near the fire. O'Neill then began assisting Pamela in the removal of her animals which included kittens, puppies, dogs and a ferret. The inside of the camper was filthy and smelled of animal urine. There were blankets, tarps and empty dog food bags covering the camper floor. During the removal of the animals, O'Neill noticed a dog head between the blankets, tarps and bags. O'Neill asked Pamela about the dog and she told him the dog was dying and very heavy. O'Neill then saw Pamela remove a sickly-looking dog from the camper that had fluid coming from its head.

Pamela explained that the structure that burned was her "barn" which was a trailer home converted. Pamela said she smelled smoke but thought it was her neighbor's fire until she saw a lot of smoke coming from her barn. Pamela went to the barn and began removing dogs and feral cats that were inside. She dropped her phone in the "barn" and was unable to locate it so could not call 9-1-1. A neighbor

who arrived on scene called 9-1-1 for her.

Pamela was asked if she had any lead ropes and/or halters they could use to catch the loose horses, but she did not. She was asked if she wanted the Department of Livestock Inspector to assist her with the horses that were loose on the property, to which she replied no. Photographs were taken of the scene. While this was being done, law enforcement noticed a cage full of kittens, multiple small fenced areas with dogs, more dogs running loose on the property, and goats running loose on the property. The cage full of kittens appeared to have so many kittens they barely had any room to move around. The floor of the cage was not visible due to the number of kittens present.

Law enforcement saw many dogs in multiple makeshift kennels throughout the property. The kennels were not suitable for the dogs to live in. The fences were held together with baling string and stacked pallets, most of which were falling down. Some had dog houses, but it appears most were covered in shredded tarps with holes torn in the tops that did not provide adequate shelter. Garbage was piled against the kennels, in the kennels, and on the ground spread out across the property. It did not appear the dogs had food. There were bones that were picked clean spread around the property and in some of the kennels. There were water buckets, but some did not have water in them. Some of the kennels had so many ripped tarps piled over them and stacked with old tires, wood pieces, and a metal chair, it was unclear where the dog living in the kennel was. Some dogs had hay scattered on the ground as a floor, but most of the dogs were living in mud from the rain.

Multiple ducks and geese were in the same type of environment as the dogs in makeshift fenced areas with a plastic pool with no water in it. No feed for the waterfowl was seen. Goats were running loose, along with 3 horses that were not in a corral. 2 horses were in a corral made of fallen down pallets and baling string. The horses in the corral could not get to the water trough. On the northwest corner of the property were 7 more horses. There was a makeshift metal building that did not look accessible for the horses to shelter themselves from the elements.

The property had multiple extension cords strung across the wet ground that appeared to be connected to an electrical box and power pole next to where the fire started. Duck enclosures made of mesh wire, ripped tarps, and other objects were extremely close to being burned in the fire. The firefighters were able to spare the ducks. It was clear to law enforcement that the property was one involving animal hoarding. Pamela has a long history of animal hoarding in Cascade County.

A search warrant was obtained for the property on May 7, 2020. Detective Krause was named primary investigator and the property was searched with the assistance of other personnel from CCSO, veterinarian Dr. Manzer, and personnel from the Great Falls Animal Shelter. The property is a total of 10 acres of rural land with many buildings/outbuildings located thereon as follows:

- (1) Brown with blue skirting single-wide mobile home with a red back door, believed to be the personal residence of Pamela J. Polejewski.
- (2) A white "Prowler" 5th wheel travel trailer with faded teal colored stripes on the sides.
- (3) A green horse-trailer.
- (4) A cream/tan trailer.
- (5) A metal corrugated carport/shelter.
- (6) A metal and wood lean to.
- (7) A smaller white corrugated metal shelter.
- (8) A green roofed metal corrugated shed.

- (9) A wood and chain-link corral that looks like old dog pens.
- (10) A red older trailer house with a metal door and white X's down one side with a green and white shed adjacent.
- (11) Assorted dog/animal houses.
- (12) Assorted sheds.

Dr. Manzer found a mini horse on the Northwest end of the property whose feet had not been cared for and were so long that they had curled, causing deformities to the horse. The horse also had a swollen nose.

Inside the Prowler trailer Dr. Manzer located a deceased bloated dog with a necrotic mouth. There was also a cage containing 5 kittens. There was a potbellied pig and 4 puppies running around in their own feces. Dr. Manzer stated that the trailer confinement was cruel to the animals as there was no food or water, the animals were confined with the dead dog and an overabundance of fecal matter, and they were unable to escape the trailer.

Sergeant Kadner saw an adult dog removed from inside the Prowler that had a severely disfigured face due to an infection. Dr. Manzer elected to immediately euthanize the dog to end its suffering. It was determined that all the animals needed to be seized so that they could be evaluated and receive proper care.

When Krause and others entered what appeared to be the personal residence of Pamela they were confronted again with the smell of urine and feces. Inside were 10 dogs, one of which was locked in a kennel without water or food. They discovered a tortoise that was sideways in a cage leaning on the wall. The animal appeared very dry and did not appear to have food or water. Upon examination it was found by veterinarian Dr. Gilligan that the tortoise suffered injury to its shell and injuries to its legs, likely due to the cage.

In a bedroom was a ferret in a kennel with no food or water. In the bathroom was a cockatiel and 2 parakeets. Another kennel was in the bathroom containing a multi-colored adult cat with what appeared to be swollen eyes. The cat had no bedding, food or water. It was later learned that the cat had no eyes. Many of the other cats/kittens were suffering from eye infections that if left untreated can result in the loss of the eye(s). In the back bedroom a caged rooster with torn back tail feathers was located, as well as two with feral cats that were not contained.

In all there were 172 animals discovered and seized from the property as follows:

- 46 dogs
- 6 puppies
- 13 cats
- 6 kittens
- 14 goats
- 9 horses
- 1 pony
- 1 mini horse
- 29 chickens
- 17 waterfowl
- 12 rabbits
- 3 turkeys
- 3 adult pigs
- 3 small pot-bellied pigs
- 1 tortoise
- 1 ferret
- 1 cockatiel
- 2 parakeets
- 1 fish
- 4 ducklings

Those animals that appeared most endangered left the property immediately with the Animal Shelter designees and included approximately 25-30 animals of varying species. Following the search and seizure of the animals, the property was released back to Pamela on May 12, 2020.

Pamela claims to run a no kill non-profit 501.c.3 corporation named “Hooves Paws and Claws”, an animal sanctuary. However, records indicate this entity was involuntarily dissolved by the Montana Secretary of State in December of 2018.

CONTINUATION

Based on the above-information, Pamela Polejewski was charged with Aggravated Animal Cruelty, a Felony, and four counts of Cruelty to Animals which included one Misdemeanor count, and three Felony counts in CDC-20-310 on May 14, 2020. One of her conditions of release requires that she “shall neither own, nor possess any animals of any species during the pendency of this action.”

On January 31, 2024, Patrick Fox at 603 Ulm Vaughn Road in Cascade County, Montana, called in a report to the Cascade County Sheriff’s Office. Patrick’s property lines up with Pamela’s property on the northside. Patrick spoke with Deputy Seder. Patrick reported that he and his wife heard dogs barking from Pamela’s residence for three hours before he called law enforcement. Patrick reported that the dog howling was occurring for a few days prior to Patrick making the report.

Deputy Seder drove to the residence and could see a light on the inside of Pamela’s trailer. Patrick indicated the light came on the prior week and was on 24 hours per day and that he would see Pamela at the property.

On February 23, 2024, Sergeant Harris was off duty and shopping at Wal-Mart on 10th Avenue South in Great Falls. Sergeant Harris observed Pamela in a self checkout line with two bags of animal food. Sergeant Harris is familiar with

Pamela and was aware of Pamela's bail conditions which require her not to possess animals. Sergeant Harris notified Sergeant Tri of his observations.

Shortly thereafter, Sergeant Tri went to Wal-Mart and observed video footage which showed Pamela purchase two bags of cat food. He also obtained the receipt for Pamela's purchase, which indicated Pamela had purchased in total 41 pounds of cat food, and 14 pounds of cat litter.

Sergeant Tri reached out to Patrick. Patrick stated that Pamela was on the property this week and observed her driving her black Ford F-150 on toward the property. Patrick stated that since the initial report, he had not heard any additional barking, however, Patrick said he was not actively listening for barking and that he had been welding a lot lately which is loud.

Patrick stated that he did hear Pamela screaming "come back" repeatedly within the last three weeks. Patrick described Pamela's statements as sounding like Pamela was trying to call an animal that had gotten loose. Patrick stated that he had not seen any animals on the property, but he also said that he "couldn't see a rhinoceros" if it was on the property because of the way the garbage was situated on the property. Patrick stated that when the property was original searched back in 2020 that at that time he could not see any animals either due to the setup of the property. Patrick stated that the red trailer probably contained animals, because there was a lot of activity at that trailer.

After Sergeant Tri recovered the receipts, Detective Smith of the Cascade County Sheriff's Office conducted surveillance on 77 Wexford Lane. He observed Pamela carrying a large bag on the property, which appeared to be heavy. He also

observed Pamela discard five plastic containers, which appeared to be empty cat litter containers. These containers appeared to be different than the ones she had purchased at Wal-Mart earlier in the day. He also observed Pamela discard two large trash bags into her truck.

Detective Smith also observed a cat on top of the shed while conducting surveillance on the property on February 23, 2024.

Based on the foregoing facts and circumstances, and Sergeant Tri's experience as a law enforcement officer, and his formal training as a law enforcement officer, Sergeant Tri has reason to believe the below-listed items and evidence related to the above-referenced offense(s), facts, and circumstances, may now be found in the above-described residence, outbuildings, and conveyances:

1. Animals to include dogs and cats;
2. Animal food; and
3. Cat litter.

Based on the foregoing facts and circumstances and Sergeant Tri's experience as a law enforcement officer and his formal education and training as a law enforcement officer, Sergeant Tri has reason to believe that the above-listed items and evidence related to the above-referenced offenses, facts, and circumstances may now be found in or about the above-described residence, outbuildings, and conveyances.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing facts, I, Sergeant Tri, believe that probable cause exists to believe that the above-referenced offenses have been committed in Cascade County, Montana, and that probable cause exists to believe that the above-described articles, items, and things which may constituted

evidence, contraband, articles, or may be fruits of, or related to, or connected with the above-described offenses, facts, and circumstances may now be located at, in, or about the above-described places, locations, and premises.

WHEREFORE, the undersigned affiant requests that a Search Warrant be issued out of the above-entitled Court commanding and directing Sergeant Tri and any law enforcement or peace officer under his direction to search the above-described locations, places, and premises for the above-described items, articles, and things, and if found, to seize them in the manner provided by law.

The undersigned hereby declares under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 23rd day of February, 2024.

Jake Tri

Sergeant Jake Tri
Cascade County Sheriff's Office

Sworn before me on this _____ day of February, 2024 by Sergeant Tri of the Cascade County Sheriff's Office.

DISTRICT JUDGE

MONTANA EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CASCADE COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF: THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 77 WEXFORD LANE IN CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA 59404. THE PROPERTY BELONGS TO PAMELA J. POLEJEWSKI. THE LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY IS S06, T20 N, R02 E SESWSE MK 5. THE PROPERTY IS A TOTAL OF 10 ACRES OF RURAL LAND WITH MANY BUILDINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS LOCATED THEREON AS FOLLOWS:

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SEARCH WARRANT

TO: SERGEANT TRI OF THE CASCADE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND ANY OTHER PEACE OFFICER UNDER HIS DIRECTION

PROOF BY AFFIDAVIT having been made this date before me by Sergeant Tri that he has knowledge and does believe that there is probable cause that the following offenses have been committed:

CRIMINAL CONTEMPT, a Misdemeanor, in violation of M.C.A. § 45-7-309.

That he has knowledge and does believe that the following items are located in the above-described residence, outbuildings, and conveyances:

1. Animals to include dogs and cats;
2. Animal food; and
3. Cat litter.

YOU ARE THEREFORE COMMANDED at any time of the day or night, within ten (10) days to make an immediate search of the above-described residence, outbuildings, and conveyances for the items described above, to take and carefully

keep the same, and to make return of said Warrant to me showing all acts and things done thereunder, with a particular statement of the items seized, if any, and make an inventory to the Court according to law, and if no items are found, your return shall so state.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL FEBRUARY ____, 2024.

DISTRICT JUDGE