

FILED
09-07-2023
Clerk of Circuit Court
Monroe County, WI
2023CM000356

| STATE OF WISCONSIN | CIRCUIT COURT | MONROE COUNTY | |
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| STATE OF WISCONSIN Plaintiff, | Assigned Special prosecutor: DA: KENNETH J HAMM DA Case #: 2023JU000471 ATN: | | |
| vs. | Court Case 2023 -CM - | | |
| ALEXANDER E MAAS 26807 CTY HWY CA TOMAH, WI 54660 DOB: 10/19/1993 Sex/Race: M/W Alias: Defendant. | CRIMINAL COMPLAINT | | <i>For Official Use</i> |

Your complainant, having been first duly sworn, on oath, states that:

Count 1: MISTREATING ANIMALS - INTENTIONAL OR NEGLIGENT VIOLATION

The above-named defendant on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at City of Sparta, Monroe County, WI, Juneau County, Wisconsin, did negligently treat an animal, Canine Kolt, in a cruel manner, contrary to sec. 951.02, 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.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your complainant makes this complaint upon the investigation and report of Investigator Matthew Sutton, whom your complainant has relied upon in the past and found to be truthful and reliable.

On May 16, 2023, Investigator Matthew Sutton of the Vernon County Sheriff's Department was assigned to a special investigation involving the death of canine Kolt, who belonged to the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. Investigator Sutton made contact with Captain Ryan Lee of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department to gather information on the incident in question. Investigator Sutton learned Kolt had a medical emergency at the Monroe County Sheriff's Department in the City of Sparta, Monroe County, on May 10, 2023, and due to resulting medical issues had to be euthanized on May 15, 2023. Canine Kolt was assigned to Detective Alex Maas of the Monroe County Sheriff's Department. Captain Lee indicated that he had started a report into the incident as well as had obtained and preserved the camera footage from the area where the medical emergency had occurred. The emergency had occurred inside the evidence garage bay of the Sheriff's Department and the parking area where Alex Maas had parked his vehicle on May 10, 2023.

On May 17, 2023 Investigator Sutton met with Captain Lee. Captain Lee provided Investigator Sutton with the video evidence he had obtained. Captain Lee also provided Investigator Sutton with additional information. Detective Maas's vehicle was a 2014 GMC Terrain. The vehicle was not equipped with any "hotspot" technology (known as a "hot-n-pop"), which would have

alerted Maas or anyone else that the interior of the vehicle was overheating with a canine left inside of it, in spite of one the Department had purchased that was supposed to be installed. Captain Lee indicated that, according to the video, Canine Kolt had been left inside Maas's vehicle from approximately 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on May 10, 2023. Captain Lee had also learned that, on May 10, 2023, the high temperate outside had been 81 degrees Fahrenheit with sunny conditions and the windows on the vehicle had been left up.

In Captain Lee's report, Captain Lee indicated that at around 4:00 p.m. on May 10, 2023, he was preparing a law enforcement training when he received a frantic call from Detective Maas that canine Kolt was having a medical emergency in the evidence garage bay of the Sheriff's Department. When Captain Lee arrived, he observed canine Kolt as unresponsive and being held under the water faucet by Detective Maas, who was running water over Kolt's body. During this time, Kolt was hot to the touch, had a red tongue, and was taking rapid, shallow breaths. Detective Maas told Captain Lee that Kolt had been in the vehicle for approximately three hours. Detective Maas indicated to Detective Lee that he was taking Kolt to the Sparta Veterinary Clinic, and that he needed to go outside and start the vehicle to cool it down, which led Captain Lee to believe the vehicle had been off. Captain Lee then drove Maas's squad SUV to the clinic while Maas held Kolt. Captain Lee indicated that during this trip, he could feel cold air coming out of the squad SUV's cooling system.

Investigator Maas also reviewed veterinary records he received from the Sparta Small Animal Veterinary Clinic, which is where Kolt was taken upon the discovery of his medical emergency. Investigator Sutton learned that when Kolt was admitted on May 10, 2023, he had an initial temperate of 107.4 degrees Fahrenheit. The Veterinary records also indicated that following the incident, in spite of attempted treatment, due to heat injuries sustained in this incident that Kolt's kidneys were irreparably damaged and shutting down, which is what led to the decision to euthanize Kolt.

On May 18, 2023, Investigator Sutton contacted Dr. Maggie Highland of the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory, which is associated with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Highland is a diagnostic pathologist as well as Section Chief of Pathology with the Wisconsin Diagnostic Laboratory. After discussing the situation, it was agreed that a necropsy would be performed on canine Kolt.

On May 22, 2023, Investigator Sutton and Captain Lee reviewed the video recordings from May 10, 2023, and noted the approximate times of events on May 10, 2023. Detective Maas arrives with his squad car at approximately 11:58 a.m. He initially takes Kolt into the evidence bay, but at 12:00 brings Kolt back outside and puts in back into his squad unit. Maas then appears to open the front door and picked up what appeared to be an evidence box. At 12:02 p.m., and he enters the Sherriff's Department. Detective Maas remains in the Sheriff's Department until 3:56 p.m. when he returns to his squad unit. Between 12:02 p.m. and 3:56 p.m., a number of other law enforcement officers are seen coming and going from the area, none who seem to notice or pay attention to Detective Maas's squad unit. Between May 22 and May 25, 2023, Investigator Sutton contacted the numerous parties who could be seen walking near Detective Maas's squad vehicle on May 10, 2023. None of the witnesses recalled if the engine on the squad was running or not or if the windows were down.

On May 23, 2023, Investigator Sutton took custody of the remains of canine Kolt from the Small Animal Veterinary clinic in Sparta and transported them to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic laboratory, where a necropsy was performed by Dr. Highland.

On May 26, 2023, Investigator Sutton contacted Alex Maas by phone. Maas indicated he had been instructed by his Attorney not to speak with law enforcement, and the interview was terminated at that time.

On June 22, 2023, Dr. Highland completed her necropsy report and forwarded it to Investigator Sutton. In her report, Dr. Highland noted the severe changes in Kolt's kidneys, and noted that this was consistent with the diagnosis and conclusion of the veterinary clinic. Dr. Highland noted no other infectious or neoplastic disease was identified in her examination.

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 09/07/23 Electronically Signed By:

Electronically Signed By:

JOSHUA M ANDREASEN

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1112890

Lt. Hoag

Complainant