One February 23, 2019 Metro Animal Care and Control (MACC) received a complaint about the welfare of animals located at McGavock High School (MHS), part of the Animal Science class. The complaint stated the animals were not being properly cared for to the point multiple animals had died. I, MACC Lead Field Officer Cory Wells, responded to this call at approximately 10:53am. Due to it being a Saturday no one was at the school. I was able to locate two alpacas, a white duck, and emu inside fenced area. I made contact with Mrs. Lumpkins by phone who agreed to meet me at the located later in the day.

I arrived back on scene at MHS at approximately 1300 hours and met with Mrs. Lumpkins. She showed me into the small animal room where I located chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs, a ferret, a cat, and gerbils. There were multiple animals without water or with filthy water. There was no rabbit, guinea pig, or gerbil food on the property and they were being fed sweet feed (livestock feed). The cages were filthy and several smelled strongly of feces/urine.

Mrs. Lumpkins then showed me to the barn area where I located goats, alpacas, bull, sheep, emu, duck, and canine. None of the livestock had grazing and were not provided with hay. The sheep was very underweight and the emu had feathers missing and skin was flakey around eyes and mouth. The canine was locked in a barn stall without water and was being very aggressive. Mrs. Lumpkins explained the canine belongs to Mr. Wall. While talking with Mrs. Lumpkins the animals got into the area where the hay was and all began to eat.

I spoke with Mrs. Lumpkins at length about the lack of proper food/water, the cleanliness of the cages, and overall care of the animals. She admitted that multiple animals had died while in their care and that 2 Alpacas had died and believed to
have been from over feeding by the students. I explained a follow up would be done during the week and I would be checking for the violations at hand to be corrected.

On February 28, 2019 at approximately 1046hrs I arrived at MHS to conduct a follow up and made contact with Principal Robin Wall (Wall). I explained the reason for my visit and the conditions I had found over the weekend prior and my concerns.

Mr. Wall went with me down to the animal area where we met with Lumpkins. I located all of the same livestock in the same conditions as previous (no hay, sheep underweight) with the exception there was one less alpaca. Lumpkins stated that when they arrived this morning to school that the alpaca was down so she called a vet out who put the animal down and was transporting it to Kord Lab for testing. She stated while the vet was there he looked at all of the other animals and gave them a clean bill of health. I asked if he looked at the sheep since it was so underweight and she stated no that the sheep didn’t belong to the school but a student. I explained while that may be the case the sheep is still in the care of the school currently so they are responsible for it. They went on to tell me the sheep belongs to “Michelle Leon” who is currently being investigated by the school for theft of one of the small animals and so they haven’t pushed the sheep issue with her just yet.

Next we went into the small animal area where I located the same animals as before. A total of 11 chickens had no water present in the cages and one of them didn’t even have a water bowl. The ferret cage was filthy and it had no food. The ferret is underweight and has thinning hair. Rabbits were still being fed sweet feed and the guinea pig had some other type of feed but Lumpkins couldn’t tell me what it was as she stated it belongs to a student and not the school. There is still no timothy or alfalfa hay for the rabbits or guinea pig. Lumpkins went on to explain that animal care (feeding/cleaning/etc) it rotated between classes and that today was 4th blocks job to clean and care for the chickens and that’s why they were out of water. I explained while I understand that we still can’t have animals going all day without proper care just so that 4th block can do it. She went on to explain that’s how she grades her class and if 1st block gave the chicken’s water on 4th blocks day to care for them then 4th block wouldn’t get a grade for the day. I explained maybe revisiting how she gives grade because currently she is in violation of cruelty laws when animals are going without water, etc.

Lumpkins stated she had ordered rabbit food and it would be in today. The gerbil cage had been cleaned but was still over crowded. I asked what block was in charge of the ferret care for the day and she stated 1st block (currently in 2nd block). I asked if it was 1st blocks day to care for the ferret then why the cage was filthy and the animal without food. Lumpkins had no answer for me.

I spoke with Lumpkins in great detail about what has to be done to come into compliance and that while I understand this is a class room and students are the
primary caregivers, at the end of the day she is the adult in charge and it’s legally her responsibility to ensure everything is care for properly.

Mr. Wall asked that I send him an email with a list of all concerns/violations and he would keep a check on the department. I explained I would send that email but I also would be doing random follow ups to check on things and that moving forward each violation found could be a citation. I issued one environmental citations today for the overall conditions (8.12.030). I explained to Lumpkins and Wall that all animals needed water at all times, cage clean, proper food, and vet care for the sheep and ferret.

Once I left MHS I followed up with the student’s parents who were said to be the owners of the sheep. The mother stated she was asked by her daughter if they could help Lumpkins out by transporting the sheep from the farm to the school. The mother stated she was never contacted by the school or had any communication with them about the sheep but that her daughter asked her if they could transport it for the school and she did.

Once returning to MACC I sent a follow up email to Wall with all concerns/violations listed.

On March 15, 2019 Officer Hillary Fox, MNPD School Security, called in stating there was multiple animals on the property of MHS without water. MACC Officer Brittney Sebolt responded. Upon her arrival Officer Fox had already provided the animals with water but stated she had photos of the animals without water and would be happy to provide those as proof if needed.

March 19, 2019 at approximately 1051 hours I arrived on scene at MHS and made contact with Wall who walked with me to view the animals. We stated in the small animal area where I located chickens and rabbits. There were multiple animals without food/water and one rabbit had food but the bowl was attached to the gate above the animals head so it couldn’t reach its food. I asked about the ferret and Lumpkins stated she didn’t provide vet care to it but instead gave it away. We then went to the barn area where I located all of the same animals as before minus the sheep which was signed over to rescue. When I passed by the barn area (going to the office) there was no hay out for the animals. When doing the inspection where had been hay placed out for the animals (within the last 15 min or so).

I went over the issues and violations still at hand and the fact that I’ve warned and educated multiple times now and still we have violations. I tried to talk with them about way to correct the issues at hand. I issued one environmental citation to Lumpkins for failure to provide vet care and animals without water. Lumpkins did show me where she had ordered proper food/water containers for the chickens
and stated they gave the guinea pig away. Wall informed me he met with MPS Board yesterday and they are working on getting a new vet.

April 10, 2019 the ferret was returned to the school and vet care was provided and records send to MACC.

April 29, 2019 follow up with Dr. Brewer, Mr. Wall, Ms. St. Louis, Lumpkins, Ashely Harrington, and Chelsea House, all animals reported in good body conditions and have proper food/water.

November 5, 2019 I arrived on scene at MHS and made contact with Mr. Wall who set me up with “coach” (Dean of Science and Law Building) to go do the follow up as Wall was in the middle of something.

Coach and I arrived in Lumpkins class room and he explained I was there to do a follow up. Lumpkins stated now wasn’t a good time and she was teaching. Coach explained to her he didn’t think she had an option and I just needed to do a follow up on the animals. Lumpkins refused to allow me into the animal area. Coach radioed Wall who stated I had permission to perform the follow up and Wall also told that to Lumpkins. Lumpkins still refused to allow me in the animal area and told me I needed a warrant. I explained due to this not being her property and being Metro property and me having permission from the principal that I did not need a warrant and simply needed to perform a follow up. I explained in the time she has spent telling me no I could have completed the follow up and been gone. She still refused.

I stepped outside and made contact with Harrington who stated for me to have coach or Wall escort me into the animal area to perform the follow up. Coach radioed for Wall to come down to the class room. Coach and I waited in the hallway on Wall. Wall arrived with MNPD officer and escorted me into the animal area. As we were entering the small animal area students were walking out (same students that were previously sitting in the class room) and stated “it’s all clean for you now”. Inside the small animal area I located chickens, ducks, rabbits, and a cat. Rabbit cages were filthy and had a strong smell of feces/urine. One of the rabbit cages had urine leaking out the bottom and down into the rooster’s cage. The same rooster with rabbit urine running into his cage had no water.

In the barn area a student was clean up and providing food/water to the animals. I located goats, chickens, and an emu. All water containers are filthy and need cleaning, there is no hay out for the goats to eat and no sign of proper emu feed. Goats are body condition score of 6-7/9. The emu is a body condition score of a 1-2/9. There is little to no fat or muscle reserve on the bird’s body.

Email sent to Mr. Wall after visit with list of issues that need to be addressed.
November 13, 2019, current temperature 24F with last night getting down to 18F, arrived on scene at MHS with MACC Director Lauren Bluestone, MACC Field Supervisor Ashely Harrington, and Dr. Elise Jones Williams, DMV of Stable and Stock Veterinary Services. We made contact with Wall who escorted us to the animal area. Upon entering the small animal room we noticed students currently sweeping up the floor. Located 8 chickens and 3 rabbits total in the small animal room in cages. Rabbit kennels are filthy and urine stained. Black rooster on bottom (same as previous visit) does not have water and still have rabbit urine running down the back of his cage. There is proper cat and rabbit food in the room but the chicken food container is empty and there is a small back of Dumor Cracked Corn Purple, which is supplement and not a daily diet for chickens but is currently being fed a their daily diet. The rabbits only had pellet diet, no hay or blocks were in the cages or seen on the property.

Went to the barn area where we located 3 goats, all appear overweight. There is no eatable hay out for the goat and no grazing. There are multiple water containers that all have been frozen over and appear to have recently been broken up for the animals to drink. The containers are filthy. The goat food container is empty and the goats were currently trying to eat little pieces of food off the ground from under the container.

Inside the chicken coop are 9+ chickens and 3 white ducks. Harrington witnessed students provide them with water just moments before and all of the fowl rushed the water and began to drink as if they have been without water. The pool for the ducks to swim in didn’t even have enough water in it to cover the bottom but what is present is frozen. There is cracked corn present for feed but no proper chicken or duck food present. There is no heat source present in the coop for the fowl and temps are below freezing.

The hay storage is improper and all of the hay is not eatable at this point due to either being wet or having animals gotten into it and defecated on it and nested in it.

The emu is no longer on the property. When I questioned Lumpkins about it she stated it died and then refused to tell me how she disposed of the body. I asked if she had provided vet care to the emu and she stated no.

After speaking with Dr. Jones, Bluestone, and Harrington I asked Wall to radio for MNPD to come down to the animal area. While waiting on MNPD we asked that Lumpkins stay out of her classroom and Wall watch the students. MNPD Officer Jeanbaptiste showed up a short time later and I explained the issues at hand and requested his assistance in issuing a citation to Lumpkins. Jeanbaptiste escorted Lumpkins and us to his office on MHS property where he gathered info and issued a citation for cruelty to animals to Lumpkins.

End of Report