

State of Minnesota
County of Dakota

District Court
1st Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2018-01167
Court File No. 19HA-CR-18-2183

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Summons

vs.

CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL DOB: 10/08/1992

PO BOX 130310
Saint Paul, MN 55113

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Torture or Cruelty to Pet or Companion Animal) (Death or Great Bodily Harm)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.7, with reference to: 343.21.9(d)
Maximum Sentence: 0-2 Years and/or \$1,500.00 - \$5,000.00
Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did willfully instigate or in any way further any act of cruelty to any animal or animals, or any act tending to produce cruelty to animals, and the violation resulted in death to a pet or companion animal, to wit: Cat 24-P9 ("Jackie Chan").

COUNT II

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter, to wit: Cat 9-P2 (unknown name).

COUNT III

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter to wit: Cat 10-P62 (unknown name).

COUNT IV

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Cruelty)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.7, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$0.00 - \$300.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did willfully instigate or in any way further any act of cruelty to any animal or animals, or any act tending to produce cruelty to animals, to wit: Cat 18-P28 ("Lily").

COUNT V

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter, to wit: Cat 19-P15 (unknown name).

COUNT VI

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter, to wit: Cat 23-P97 (unknown name).

COUNT VII

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter, to wit: Cat 31-P36 (unknown name).

COUNT VIII

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Cruelty)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.7, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$0.00 - \$300.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did willfully instigate or in any way further any act of cruelty to any animal or animals, or any act tending to produce cruelty to animals, to wit: Cat 32-P93 ("Lancelot").

COUNT IX

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter, to wit: Cat 33-P31 ("Arya").

COUNT X

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter, to wit: Cat 63-P80 ("Tillie").

COUNT XI

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL, did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter, to wit: Cat A13765494 ("Georgie").

COUNT XII

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter, to wit: Cat A19589350 ("Coco").

COUNT XIII

Charge: Mistreatment of Animals (Deprive of Food, Water or Shelter)

Minnesota Statute: 343.21.2, with reference to: 343.21.9(a)
Maximum Sentence: 0-90 Days and/or \$300.00 - \$1,000.00
Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 04/27/2018 to 05/09/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18000740

Charge Description: On or about April 27, 2018 - May 9, 2018, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL did deprive any animal over which the person has charge or control of necessary food, water, or shelter to wit: Cat A38532306.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On July 26, 2017, CAYCEE LYNN BREGEL, DOB 10/08/1992, hereinafter defendant, created a corporation with the Secretary of State entitled "Minnesota Foster Cats and Kittens," with an address of 3815 250th Street West, Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota. On September 23, 2017, the defendant signed an amendment with the Secretary of State to change the articles of incorporation by renaming her non-profit organization to "Minnesota Animal Rescue," (MAR) this was filed on September 25, 2017. In July of 2017, the defendant started to receive animals as a foster partner from the Animal Humane Society (AHS) – specifically from July 20, 2017 through February 23, 2018 – 145 animals were transferred to the defendant – 144 cats and 1 dog. AHS partners with foster non-profit organizations that receive IRS 501(c) (3) status. On January 23, 2018, the AHS sent a letter to its non-profit foster partners, including the defendant, explaining changes to their procedures and requiring current foster partners to attend an orientation and sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

On March 2, 2018, the defendant signed the AHS's MOU. The AHS MOU indicates that the following is required: "Source and destination organizations will be transparent about all known medical/behavioral needs of each animal to ensure the best care and placement." It further requires, "The source organization will provide known medical and behavioral history to the designation organization before or at the time of the transfer." Furthermore, "Source and destination organizations understand and trust that each partner will work to make sound decisions and provide the best medical and behavioral care for each animal." Additionally, the defendant is to abide by all local, state, and federal regulations and only transfer animals "to other organizations that are qualified to humanely and adequately care for and find placement for them."

On April 27, 2018, the Dakota County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to the area of 3815 250th Street West, Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota, on a report of numerous dogs and cats inside the residence. It was also reported that there was a pig loose from this property. When law enforcement arrived, the defendant was located. The defendant stated that she owns "Minnesota Animal Rescue," and that there were six dogs and twelve cats in the house. She was going to move the animals to the rescue facility at 949 8th Street, Farmington, as soon as she could.

On April 28, 2018, the sheriff's department was again dispatched to the same area on a report that

the pig was loose again. The deputy contacted the defendant, and the defendant stated that she would “take care of the pig.”

On May 9, 2018, at approximately 11:49 a.m., the sheriff’s department was again contacted about a loose pig near the location of 3815 250th Street West, Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota. Upon law enforcement arrival to the residence, T.S., the property owner, was located. T.S. indicated that he was renting the property to the defendant. T.S. had recently learned that the sheriff’s department had been recently dispatched to the property on three prior occasions. Law enforcement had contacted the defendant, and she agreed to respond to the property.

While outside of the residence, the deputy was able to smell an overpowering odor of animal urine and feces coming from inside of the residence. Additionally, the officer heard dogs barking inside of the house. T.S. was extremely concerned about the state of his property. T.S. knocked on the door and no one answered. T.S. entered the property by himself. He was inside the residence for five to ten minutes. T.S. reported that the environment inside the residence was unhealthy. Additionally, T.S. noted that he did not observe food and water for the animals and the cats were “skin and bone.” The deputy on the property was then dispatched to another call and left the property. On May 9, 2018, at 4:00 p.m., two deputies responded to the property because they were called about the pig on the loose again. When the deputies arrived on scene, Keith Streff, an agent with the AHS arrived on scene. According to Agent Streff, on May 9, 2018, he was contacted by a citizen regarding concerns she had about animals at 3815 250th Street West, Farmington, and as a result of this complaint he went to the property.

At some point on May 9, 2018, the defendant arrived on scene. She gave officers and the AHS agent permission to enter the residence. Upon initial entry, law enforcement observed 20 to 30 uncaged cats and five to eight dogs running around the residence. The residence had an overwhelming odor of urine and feces. The floors, walls and windows were covered in animal excrement. It appeared to the deputy that the animals had lacked appropriate care for over a week. Agent Streff noted that the conditions inside the home were so poor that the home may be condemned.

While on the premises on May 9, 2018, law enforcement located animals that were buried in the backyard in shallow graves. Carcasses of deceased cats were located scattered across the back yard area.

After this initial entry to the home by law enforcement, L.K. entered the defendant’s home. When L.K. entered she indicated that the condition of the home was “horrific,” as her eyes watered and the smell

was noxious. L.K. stated that “nothing should be living in that kind of situation.” L.K. stated that there was not food in the house. L.K. brought in tins to place food in for the animals. L.K. placed food at the top of the stairs and near the front door. L.K. reported that it appeared that the cats had not been fed or given water for several days. Additionally, she stated that there was “feces everywhere.” L.K. also noted that the litter boxes were “soaked” with urine. L.K. stated that many of the cats appeared “emaciated.”

On May 10, 2018, law enforcement and Agent Streff arrived at 3815 250th Street West, Farmington, to execute a search warrant. Additionally, a representative from the Dakota County Public Health Department was on scene to inspect the residence. Upon inspection, the representative from the Public Health Department issued a condemnation order for the home.

On May 10, 2018, at 3:30 p.m., law enforcement equipped their bodies with protective equipment and executed the search warrant. Law enforcement observed the following during the execution of the search warrant: (1) an overwhelming noxious odor of animals, urine and feces; (2) feces and garbage on all the floors within the house; (3) deceased animals in freezers and refrigerators; (4) numerous cats; (5) dogs; (6) approximately 35 deceased cats stored in the garage in various stages of decomposition. On May 10, 2018, AHS located: (1) 43 living cats; (2) 64 deceased cats; (3) 1 living guinea pig; and (4) 5 living dogs.

On May 11, 2018, law enforcement and Agent Streff executed a search warrant at the defendant’s rescue business at 949 8th Street, Farmington, Dakota County, Minnesota. The following animals were located: (1) 9 living cats; (2) 7 puppies; and (3) 1 living adult dog. The cats were inside of a wooden enclosure; the puppies were in a small wire enclosure and the adult dog was roaming in the back room. The enclosure containing the puppies contained a large amount of feces.

The living animals went to the AHS for evaluation. The following animals had notable findings:

- Cat 9-P2 (unknown name) was diagnosed with the following major problems: feline leukemia; ear mites; fleas; an upper respiratory infection; and underweight. The cat was classified as very thin (2 out of 9 on their scale of body condition). While Cat 9-P2 was in the care of the AHS, he gained 1.3 pounds.
- Cat 10-P62 (unknown name) was diagnosed with the following major problems: ringworm; a mild upper respiratory infection; dental disease, external parasites and he cat was classified as very thin (2 out of 9 on their scale of body condition). While Cat 10-P62 was in the care of the AHS, he gained 1.3 pounds.
- Cat 18-P28 (“Lily”) was diagnosed with the following major problems: feline leukemia; severe upper respiratory infection; ringworm; fleas; and emaciated (1 out of 9 on body condition scale). On July 24, 2017, Lily was transferred to MAR due to skin concerns that could not be managed in the shelter. On July 17, 2017, a feline leukemia test was conducted and she was negative. On or about May 10, 2018, Lily tested

positive for feline leukemia. Lily was found at the defendant's residence living freely with feline leukemia positive and negative cats. Additionally, Lily lost 0.5 pounds from July 2017 to May of 2018. While at the AHS she gained 2.2 pounds in the first 16 days at AHS.

- Cat 19-P15 (unknown name) was diagnosed with the following major problems: feline leukemia; severe upper respiratory infection; and underweight (3 out of 9 on body condition score). While at AHS, this cat gained 0.7 pounds despite her illness.
- Cat 23-P97 (unknown name) was diagnosed with the following major problems: feline leukemia; fleas; severe upper respiratory infection; and underweight (2 out of 9 on body condition score). During the time at AHS, the cat gained 1.1 pounds. However, the cat was euthanized to relieve suffering.
- Cat 24-P9 ("Jackie Chan") was diagnosed with the following major problems: internal parasites – giardia, coccidia, hookworms; fleas; severe upper respiratory infection; and emaciation (2 out of 9 on body condition score). Additionally, Jackie Chan's left eye was "popped out" of its socket. Her right eye was covered in scarring and inflammation. Both eyes were matted shut with a thick yellow, purulent discharge. Due to the appearance of both eyes, this condition was present for a considerable amount of time. On December 29, 2017, Jackie Chan weighed 7.75 pounds, on May 10, 2018, she weighed 4 pounds. Upon arrival at the shelter she gained 1.5 pounds in the first 12 days. Her left eye was removed and the right eye would have likely been removed; however, she was euthanized due to the severity of her condition.
- Cat 31-P36 (unknown name) was diagnosed with the following major problems: severe upper respiratory infection; very thin (2 out of 9 body condition score); fleas, ear mites; otitis; flea allergy dermatitis; and juvenile gingivitis. The cat gained 1.6 pounds in 20 days.
- Cat 32-P93 ("Lancelot") was diagnosed with the following major problems: moderate upper respiratory infection; underweight (3 out of 9 body condition score); fleas, ear mites; feline leukemia. Lancelot was not a healthy weight and recovery was questionable given the severity of the upper respiratory infection combined with weight. On May 24, 2018, Lancelot was euthanized due to his health issues.
- Cat 33-P31 ("Arya") was diagnosed with the following major problems: mild upper respiratory infection; and underweight (3 out of 9 body condition score). In the 3 months, Arya was at MAR she lost 5.3 pounds. There was no medical issue to explain the weight loss.
- Cat 63-P80 ("Tillie") was diagnosed with the following major problems: moderate upper respiratory infection; matted fur; diarrhea; and internal parasite – giardia. MAR adopted Tillie on December 16, 2017 and on November 31, 2017, she weighed 14.7 pounds. Upon return to the AHS on or about May 10, 2018, she weighed 10 pounds. She lost 4.7 pounds in MAR's care.

Necropsy exams were conducted on three of the cats: (1) Animal ID: A13765494 ("Georgie"); (2) Animal ID: A19589350 ("Coco"); and (3) Animal ID: A38532306 (unknown name). The cause of death of these 3 cats was unable to be determined after postmortem examination. However, the most striking finding with all 3 cats was the complete absence of contents in their stomachs and small intestine, and minimal fecal material. The doctor who performed the necropsies opined that it would take approximately one week for a cat's intestinal track to completely become void of food.

Upon investigation, deputies learned T.S. rented the property to the defendant starting in February of 2017. Initially, it was rented to the defendant and her wife, S.R. Prior to police intervention, S.R. moved out of the residence and no longer lived there. In May of 2018, T.S. received a rent check in the amount of \$1,350, signed by the defendant.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Matt Wayne
Sergeant
1580 Hwy 55 Highway
Hastings, MN 55033
Badge: 152

Electronically Signed:
08/28/2018 12:49 PM
Dakota County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Kathryn M. Keena
Assistant Dakota County
Attorney
1560 Hwy 55
Hastings, MN 55033-2392
(651) 438-4438

Electronically Signed:
08/28/2018 11:32 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on **October 1, 2018 at 9:00 AM** before the above-named court at 1560 W Highway 55 Dakota County Judicial Center, Hastings, MN 55033 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

- Execute in MN Only* *Execute Nationwide* *Execute in Border States*

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: August 28, 2018.

Judicial Officer Richelle Wahli Electronically Signed: 08/28/2018 12:59 PM
District Court Judge

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

<p>COUNTY OF DAKOTA STATE OF MINNESOTA</p> <p>State of Minnesota Plaintiff</p> <p>vs.</p> <p>Caycee Lynn Bregel Defendant</p>	<p><i>LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE</i> <i>I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this</i> <i>Summons upon the Defendant herein named.</i></p> <p>Signature of Authorized Service Agent:</p>
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