March 7, 2022
Yellowstone County
Justice Court

STATE OF MONTANA

By: Grim, Whitney

CR-910-2022-0000098

Judge David Carter

Ingrid A. Rosenquist (22-32125) **DEPUTY YELLOWSTONE COUNTY ATTORNEY**

P.O. Box 35025 Room 701, Courthouse Billings, Montana 59107-5025 Telephone: 406/256-2870 Attorney For Plaintiff

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RECORD OF BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA, CAUSE NO. CR2022-Plaintiff,

JUDGE DAVID A. CARTER

COMPLAINT

MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW,

vs.

Defendant.

The undersigned Deputy County Attorney of Yellowstone County, Montana, states: before the filing of this Complaint, the above-named Defendant, in Yellowstone County, Montana, on or about March 3, 2022, committed the offenses of:

COUNT I: AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (FELONY) (Punishable of up to 2 years in jail and a fine not to exceed 2,500.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), knowingly or purposely killed or inflicted cruelty to an animal with the purpose of terrifying, torturing, or mutilating the animal; to wit: the Defendant, knowingly or purposely shot dog #12 in the head and rear causing injury and suffering in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-217(1) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT II: AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (FELONY) (Punishable of up to 2 years in jail and a fine not to exceed 2,500.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), knowingly or purposely killed or inflicted cruelty to an animal with the purpose of terrifying, torturing, or mutilating the animal; to wit: the Defendant, knowingly or purposely shot dog #11 in the stomach causing injury, suffering, and

eventual death in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-217(1) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT III: AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (FELONY) (Punishable of up to 2 years in jail and a fine not to exceed 2,500.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), knowingly or purposely killed or inflicted cruelty to an animal with the purpose of terrifying, torturing, or mutilating the animal; to wit: the Defendant, knowingly or purposely shot dog #14 in the muzzle causing injury, suffering, and eventual death in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-217(1) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT IV: AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (FELONY) (Punishable of up to 2 years in jail and a fine not to exceed 2,500.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), knowingly or purposely killed or inflicted cruelty to an animal with the purpose of terrifying, torturing, or mutilating the animal; to wit: the Defendant, knowingly or purposely shot dog #17 in the neck causing injury, suffering, and eventual death in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-217(1) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT V: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR) (Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by failing to provide an animal in the person's custody with food and water of sufficient quantity and quality to sustain the animal's normal health; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently failed to provide an older male Great Pyrenees with food and water of a sufficient quality and quantity to sustain the animal's normal health in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (c)(i) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT VI: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR) (Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by failing to provide an animal in the person's custody with food and water of sufficient quantity and quality to sustain the animal's normal health; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently failed to provide dog #7 with food and water of a sufficient quality and quantity to sustain the animal's normal health in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (c)(i) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO COUNT VI: COUNT VII: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

(Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by carrying or confining an animal in a cruel manner; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently confined dog #7 by a chain that was too tight around the neck causing the cords of dog #7's coat to grow around the chain in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (c)(i) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT VIII: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR) (Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by overworking, beating, tormenting, torturing, injuring, or killing the animal; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently shot dog #28 while it was chained in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (a) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO COUNT VIII: COUNT IX: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR) (Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by carrying or confining an animal in a cruel manner; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently confined dog #28 by a chain that was too tight around the neck in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (c)(i) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT X: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR) (Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by failing to provide an animal in the person's custody with food and water of sufficient quantity and quality to sustain the animal's normal health; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently failed to provide several horses with food and water of a sufficient quality and quantity to sustain the animal's normal health in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (c)(i) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT XI: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR) (Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by failing to provide an animal in the person's custody with food and water of sufficient quantity and quality to sustain the animal's normal health; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently failed to provide nursing bitch #1 and puppies with food and water of a sufficient quality and quantity to sustain the animal's normal health in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (c)(i) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT XII: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR) (Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by failing to provide an animal in the person's custody with food and water of sufficient quantity and quality to sustain the animal's normal health; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently failed to provide nursing bitch #3 and puppies with food and water of a sufficient quality and quantity to sustain the animal's normal health in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (c)(i) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

COUNT XIII: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR) (Punishable of up to one year in jail and a fine not to exceed 1,000.00)

The alleged facts constituting the offense are:

That the Defendant, MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW (born in September of 1987), without justification, knowingly or negligently subjected an animal to mistreatment or neglect by overworking, beating, tormenting, torturing, injuring, or killing the animal; to wit: the Defendant, without justification, knowingly or negligently shot pregnant dog #4 while it was chained in Yellowstone County, Montana; all of which is in violation of §45-8-211 (a) Montana Code Annotated (2021) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Montana.

DATED: March 7, 2022

Scott Twito, Yellowstone County Attorney

/s/ Ingrid A. Rosenquist Deputy County Attorney

STATE OF MONTANA) ss:
County of Yellowstone)

The undersigned, being first duly sworn or affirmed on her oath, deposes and says: That she is qualified and acting on behalf of the Yellowstone County Attorney, and that she has read the foregoing Complaint and attached Affidavit, knows the contents thereof and the matters, facts, and things therein stated are true of her knowledge, except those things stated on information and belief, and that as to those she believes it to be true.

Scott Twito, Yellowstone County Attorney

/s/ Ingrid A. Rosenquist
Deputy County Attorney

Ingrid A. Rosenquist (22-32125)

DEPUTY YELLOWSTONE COUNTY ATTORNEY

P.O. Box 35025

Room 701, Courthouse Billings, Montana 59107-5025

Telephone: 406/256-2870 Attorney For Plaintiff

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RECORD OF BILLINGS, YELLOWSTONE COUNTY, MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA.

Plaintiff.

CAUSE NO. CR2022-

VS.

JUDGE DAVID A. CARTER

MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW,

Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT

The undersigned Deputy County Attorney of Yellowstone County, Montana, duly sworn or affirmed on her oath that the information below was provided by sworn law enforcement officers during their investigation as documented evidence in support of the Complaint filed in this matter and reviewed to ensure by information and belief that the above-mentioned Defendant, in Yellowstone County, Montana, on or about March 3, 2022, committed the offenses of:

COUNT I: AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (FELONY)

COUNT II: AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (FELONY)

COUNT III: AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (FELONY)
COUNT IV: AGGRAVATED ANIMAL CRUELTY (FELONY)

COUNT V: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

COUNT VI: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO COUNT VI:

COUNT VII: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)
COUNT VIII: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE TO COUNT VIII:

COUNT IX: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

COUNT X: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

COUNT XI: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

COUNT XII: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

COUNT XIII: CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (MISDEMEANOR)

The Court is informed that the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) investigation revealed the following:

On March 3rd, 2022, ACO Bailey Smith with the Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a dog at large on the 700 block of Bender Road, Yellowstone County, Montana. ACO Smith met with the Complainant L.M. who stated that three large white dogs that appeared to be Great Pyrenees had entered her property and began to harass her horses. L.M. stated that this was not the first time this had occurred, and she was concerned with the safety of her horses. L.M. stated that she believed the dogs were from the property across the street.

ACO Smith was familiar with the property across the street due to an animal welfare call that she conducted on January 16th, 2022. The 34.6-acre property is comprised of dilapidated sheds, camper, Quonset huts, pens, and over grazed pastures with no running water and minimal electricity. Access to the property is from Bender Road which sits above the property. On January 16th, ACO Smith had met with the owner of the property, Carrie Bigelow (Carrie), and observed numerous dogs. Carrie had informed ACO Smith that her deceased husband, Marvin Dunster, had operated a livestock guardian dog (LGD) kennel prior to his death and that she had taken over the breeding operation. The driveway to the property is gated and Carrie stated that she always closed and locked the gate when no one was on the property.

On March 3^{rd,} 2022, ACO Smith saw that the gate was open and drove onto the property to look for someone to discuss the loose dogs with. After parking her vehicle, ACO Smith observed a parked truck and started walking around the property, calling out to announce her presence.

As ACO Smith tried to find the owner of the truck, she observed numerous deceased dogs, a deceased horse, as well as litters of puppies, some running loose, and adult dogs chained up in poor condition. In the Quonset hut, she saw a human hand that appeared stiff and after getting no response to her announcing her presence several times, entered the hut to check on the condition of the individual. Upon getting within eye shot of the individual later identified as MICHAEL JAMES BIGELOW, the Defendant herein, ACO Smith saw him peering at her before sitting up.

ACO Smith stated that she was there to discuss the loose dogs and observed that Bigelow's appearance was much disheveled with his clothes and skin appeared to be covered in dirt and his hair appeared dreaded due to lack of washing. Given her observations of the property, ACO contacted Detective Captain Paris and informed him of her observations. Detective Captain Paris requested ACO Paris to have Bigelow exit the property and they would draft a search warrant for the property.

Bigelow agreed to leave the property and parked alongside the road while law enforcement waited for a search warrant to be granted. Upon the granting of a search warrant, the Yellowstone County Sherriff's Office entered the property with several officers walking down the driveway and others accessing the property on a side by side 4-wheeler. Detective Richter took overall property photos with Detective Captain Paris with Detective Charbonneau and the other officers inspected the animals, both alive and dead, on the property with Detective Charbonneau taking individual photos of the animals and other evidence. Dr. Stacey Wetherhelt with Montana Mobile Vet had been requested to assist in determining the condition of the animals on the property and arrived approximately 1.5 hours after officers began executing the search warrant.

The first dog observed was Dog #1 who was lying on the side of the hill alongside the driveway. Dr. Wetherhelt noted that Dog #1 was an approximately one-year-old bitch that had been shot in the head. After examination, Dr. Wetherhelt gave Dog #1 a body conditioning score (BCS) of 1 out of 9 with 1 being extremely thin and 9 being obese. Dr. Wetherhelt noted that a 4 or 5 would be ideal and that the majority of the dogs that had been shot were an ideal weight. She opined that all were extremely thin. Carrie later informed officers that Bigelow had shot Dog #1 from the road as he could not get close to him.

Dog #2 was located in a pasture alongside the driveway. Dog # 2 was an old Idaho Shag that was frozen to the ground and had been shot in the side of the head. Dr. Wetherhelt opined that Dog #2 had been in good weight prior to being shot.

Dogs #3 and #4 were found shot side by side. Dog #4 was chained. Dog #3 was an approximately one year old LGD that had been shot in the side of the head. Dog #4 was a pregnant Anatolian bitch that had been shot in head and had a BCS of 1. There was no food or water aside from mud puddles that #4 had access to prior to being shot.

Dog #5 was found deceased a short distance for Dogs #3 and #4. Dog #5 was an approximately 6 months old Anatolian that was frozen to the ground and was suspected as being shot. Dog #5 had a BCS of 1.

Dog #6 was found near the sheep pen that was in a wire cage with no access to food or water. Dog #6 was estimated to be a 6-month-old Anatolian who had an adequate body condition.

Dog #7 was an adult Komondor, a large Hungarian herding breed whose coat grows in cords similar to dreadlocks. Dog #7 was chained with the chain entangled with wire. The dog's coat had grown around the chain and the chain was tight around the neck. Dog #7 had no access to water where it was chained and no food was present. Dr. Wetherhelt gave Dog #7 a BCS of 2 and recommended that Dog #7 be seized so that the dog's coat condition be addressed. Officers had to cut the coat to remove the chain. Dog #7 was removed and subsequently groomed where it was discovered that Dog #7 had fleas and balls of mud caught in the coat between his paws that were affecting the foot.

Dog #8 appeared to be a crossbred LGD that was found deceased underneath a chain-link kennel panel. Upon lifting the chain-link panel, Dr. Wetherhelt was able to examine him. Dog #8 had a BCS of 3 and had been shot in the head.

Dog #9 was another adult Komondor. Dog #9 was chained around a pole with the chain wound tightly around the pole with limited ability to move about. Dog #9 had no access to water where it was chained and no food was present. Dr. Wetherhelt gave Dog #9 a BCS of 4 and recommended that Dog #9 be seized so that the dog's coat condition be addressed. Dog #9 was removed and subsequently groomed where it was discovered that Dog #9 had a significant flea infestation and whose coat was is worse condition that #7 with the coat in the rear matted with fecal matter that almost concealed his anus.

Dog #10 appeared to be a Great Pyrenees bitch that might have been pregnant and had been shot in the side of the head. Dog #10 had a BCS score of 2.

Dog #11 appeared to be a Great Pyrenees bitch that might have been pregnant and had been shot in the stomach. Dr. Wetherhelt stated that Dog #11 did not die quickly and might had bled internally giving the appearance of being pregnant. Dr. Wetherhelt said that Dog #11 would have been conscious as this bleeding eventually ended her life. Dog #10 had a BCS score of 2.

Dog #12 appeared to be a crossbred LGD that was located in a fenced enclosure that had no food or water present. Initially officers believed that Dog #12 was deceased when first observed as he was laying against a tree in the enclosure with what appeared to be significant head trauma. However, as Detective Charbonneau approached Dog #12 he observed him to be blinking and breathing. It was apparent to the officers that Dog #12 was in need of immediate medical and likely humane euthanasia. As soon as Dr. Wetherhelt arrived, she was immediately driven to the enclosure of Dog #12. At that time, Dog #12 had gotten up and moved away from the tree. Dog#12 was observed to be carrying his head at an awkward angle and had an additional wound in his loin area.

As Dr. Wetherhelt and officers approached Dog #12 he laid down. Dr. Wetherhelt observed that Dog #12 was dull, obtunded, and in pain. Based on the condition of Dog #12, it was determined that euthanasia was the humane course of action. Euthanasia was accomplished by using pentobarbital sodium/phenytoin sodium injections. Upon the passing of Dog #12, he was examined by Dr. Wetherhelt. Dr. Wetherhelt carefully opened the caked matter on the head that revealed a wound encompassing the entire head of the dog. The skull and spinal column appeared to have been hit by a bullet causing pain and the awkward angle in which Dog #12 had been carrying his head. This gunshot injury essentially "scalped" the skin on the head of Dog #12. Another wound was found on the left flank and a larger wound found by the tail that appeared to be entry/exit wounds for a gunshot. The entry wound on the flank had started to granulate in. Dr. Wetherhelt opined that these wounds would not inherently kill Dog #12 but would cause it great pain. Wound was determined to be older than a week given the status of healing despite infection. Dog #12 had a BCS of 1.5. Beside the fence of Dog #12's enclosure officers located a 30/30 shell.

Dog #13 was estimated to be and approximately one-year-old Anatolian male that had been shot in the head. Dr. Wetherhelt gave Dog #13 a BCS of 1.

Dogs #14 and #15 were found in what appeared be a burn pit were garbage was thrown. Dog #14 was an LGD that showed evidence of decomposition. Dog #14 had been shot in the muzzle breaking bone. Dr. Wetherhelt stated that Dog #14 would have been conscious as he bled out. Dog #15 was found placed above Dog #14 in the burn pit and was a LGD bitch that was approximately one-year-old. Dog #15 was shot in the eye. Both Dog #14 and #15 were given BCS scores of 1.

Dog #16 was an approximately three-year-old LGD bitch that had an indeterminate wound that was possibly a gunshot wound to the pelvis/abdominal area. Dog #16 had been chewed on by other dogs/animals.

Dog #17 was an older LGD dog with a BCS score of 3.5. Dog #17 had been shot in the neck and as with Dogs #11 and #14, Dr. Wetherhelt stated that Dog #17 would have been conscious as he bled out.

Dog #18 was a deceased puppy found with its dam, an Anatolian bitch that was in a pen with her three puppies. The dam had a BCS of 1 and was observed guarding Dog #18, the deceased puppy. There was no

water in the pen and no adequate food. There appeared to the skin of a deer in the pen that the puppies were observed chewing on. Due to the condition of the bitch, Dr. Wetherhelt recommended that the bitch and her puppies be removed from the property to get proper care. The dam was very concerned about leaving her deceased puppy so officers removed the deceased puppy and placed it with its dam and littermates during transport.

Dog #22 was another deceased puppy that was found under two filthy mattresses laying on the ground of a small shed. Also in the shed was an old sofa. The dam of this litter was running loose and appeared to be eating on the carcass of a deceased horse located outside of the shed row. Dr. Wetherhelt noted that the dam had two very enlarged teats which raised a concern of mastitis. Initially officers observed three puppies running loose and hiding occasionally under the couch. However, as investigators were on the property, they observed cries coming from the shed row and realized that there was at least one puppy stuck between the wood paneling and metal siding of the shed row. Used a drill and pry bar, officers were able to remove the paneling and discovered two additional puppies. Dr. Wetherhelt recommended that the dam and five puppies be removed from the property to be cared for during concern for the two puppies that had been stuck between the panels of the shed.

A third litter was found in a fenced enclosure that ran alongside the enclosure where Dog #12 was located. The dam had a BCS score of 1.5 and no food or water was present in the enclosure. The dam had six puppies and based on the body condition of the dam, Dr. Wetherhelt recommended that the dam and puppies be removed from the property to receive proper care and feeding.

Immediately outside of the fence enclosure of the litter above was an older male that appeared to be a Great Pyrenees. There was no food or water within reach and Dr. Wetherhelt observed that this dog had stool was soft and green and filled with hair. This dog had access to a plastic shelter but no bedding. Dr. Wetherhelt gave this dog a BCS of 1 and noted that it appeared to have severe muscle wasting on the rear legs. Due to this dog's condition, Dr. Wetherhelt recommended that he be removed from the property to receive proper care.

Another older LGD was observed by officers and Dr. Wetherhelt. As this dog was loose, it could access water and food was left out by officers prior to leaving. Dr. Wetherhelt visually gave it a BCS of 4. This dog appeared to be eating on a carcass as his head and muzzle was stained red.

There were several other LGDs of various ages and sex that were either in fenced in pastures or running loose. These dogs appeared to have better body conditioning and access to some water although no food was found out on the property.

Also present on the property were five live horses and one horse carcass. The live horses were all in one corral and all were given a BCS of 1. There was water present but no food. Two of the five horses appeared to last year's foals and appeared to be still nursing. The deceased horse had a parrot mouth and had hooks/points on the teeth that should have been filed as Dr. Wetherhelt noted that these hooks/points would make eating painful and slow for the horse so that this horse was unlikely to get enough food if other horses are present. Dr. Wetherhelt believed that this horse was likely a BCS of 1 at time of death and likely was a source of food for some of the loose dogs as it had been partially consumed.

There was a cow and calf in a corral that appeared to be in good condition. Food was available in the feeder, but the water tank had a large ice block in it that prevent access to the melted water.

There was a small flock of sheep in a pen that was a mix of rams, ewes, and last year's lambs. There was no food in the pen and the water tank was empty. Dr. Wetherhelt estimated that the sheep had an overall BCS of 1 and noted that the small pen was not healthy for the sheep. Dr. Wetherhelt also noted that the sheep appeared to have blood and blisters around their mouths that she suspected was a zoonotic disease called Orf. While Dr. Wetherhelt stated that this virus usually runs its course and eventually goes away, the animals need to be carefully observed as a severe infection can make it too painful for the animal to eat.

During the execution of the search warrant, Bigelow returned and parked alongside Bender Road. Bigelow was drinking Coors beer and Detective Johnson smelled the odor of Marijuana coming from his person. Bigelow was highly agitated and was screaming profanities at everyone including his mother, Carrie. Bigelow made several comments along the lines of "If they would been here yesterday I would shot them all" and "if the come back on my property, I am going to shoot them." Given that Bigelow had three long guns in his flatbed truck, it was very concerning to officers as he had an ideal vantage point to fire on investigators who were executing the search warrant. Bigelow was determined to have outstanding warrants and was taken into custody on the warrants and Aggravated Animal Cruelty.

After Bigelow was taken into custody, Carrie removed the long guns from his truck and placed them in her vehicle. When it was determined that one of the long guns was a 30/30, Carrie gave it to officers to be placed into evidence due to 30/30 casings found by Dog #12's enclosure. Carrie subsequently drove the flatbed truck down the driveway and parked it. On the bed of the truck were multiple bags of livestock feed and two 50-pound bags of dog food. Dr. Wetherhelt stated that 100 pounds would last approximately one day with the amount and size of the dogs on the property. Noteworthy was that only a handful of empty dog food bags were found on the property. Also present on the bed of the truck were several open bottles of Coors beer and a glass Marijuana pipe.

After the deceased animals were collected and the dogs recommended by Dr. Wetherhelt to be removed from the property were transported to another location, officers distributed hay brought to the location by Sheriff Linder and the dog food/livestock feed that had been on the bed of Bigelow's truck. Officers assisted Carrie by placing a large water container on the bed of the truck so that she could go get water for the animals that remained on the property.

Since being jailed, Bigelow has made several calls to his mother where he has repeated his threats of violence against law enforcement including that he will "fucking lob bullets at them", "You will be shot motherfucker", and that it bothers him more to shoot the dogs than it would to shoot "them fucking deputies out there." Bigelow also was concerned that his mother got his wallet and "pot" out of his truck. Bigelow

did not ask about who was caring for his animals while he was in custody.

The investigation continues.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: March 7, 2022

/s/ Ingrid A. Rosenquist
Deputy County Attorney

WITNESS LIST

Personnel, Yellowstone County Sheriff's Office, Billings, Montana

ACO Smith

Detective Sergeant Fritz

Detective Johnson

Detective Charbonneau

Detective Captain Paris

Detective Richter

Detective Donahue

Detective Burke

Deputy Jam

Deputy Marketon

Evidence Technician Grantham

Property Officer

Personnel, Montana Mobile Vet, Billings, MT

Dr. Stacey Wetherhelt

Personnel, Loveable Pets, Billings, MT

Personnel, Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter, Billings, MT

Personnel, City/County Dispatch, Billings, MT

Personnel, Yellowstone Valley Animal Shelter

L.M.., c/o Yellowstone County Attorney's Office

Carrie Bigelow, c/o Yellowstone County Attorney's Office

Any witness disclosed in discovery, including reciprocal discovery

Any witness disclosed by Defendant