Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
11/19/2021

State of Minnesota
County of Mille Lacs

District Court
7th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0480051017
Court File No. 48-CR-21-2244

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOHN GERALD STRECKER DOB: 01/06/1948

34142 100th Avenue
Onamia, MN 56359

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Summons

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: Overwork/Mistreat Animals-Torture
Minnesota Statute: 343.21.1, with reference to: 343.21.9(d)
Maximum Sentence: Up to 2yrs incarceration and a fine of up to $5,000
Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/08/2021

Control #(ICR#): 21010699

Charge Description: On or about November 8, 2021, in the County of Mille Lacs, Minnesota, John Gerald Strecker did intentionally, unlawfully and unjustifiably injure, maim and kill the dog, Pudding. The dog, Pudding, was the pet or companion animal of another person.

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STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On or about November 13, 2021, a Mille Lacs County Deputy responded to a report of a dog having been slain by a neighbor. The deputy spoke with Female-1, the owner of the dog, regarding the incident. This occurred in the area of 33xxx block of 100th Ave in Mille Lacs County, state of Minnesota.

Female-1 stated that she had two dogs: a three-legged brown and white dog and a 'brownish-red' dog. The name of the dog with reddish fur was 'Pudding'. The dog, Pudding, had been with the female for several years. Female-1 stated that both dogs had gotten out of the house earlier in the week. The deputy learned that this occurred on Monday, October 8, 2021 at around 3pm. The son contacted Female-1 and informed her that the dogs had gotten loose.

After speaking with her son, Female-1 contacted her neighbor, JOHN GERALD STRECKER. The land next door is owned by JOHN GERALD STRECKER (01/06/1948) and his wife. Female-1 indicated that she contacted STRECKER to let him know the dogs had gotten loose. STRECKER informed her that he had already seen them. He described them as three dogs: two white dogs and a brown dog.

At approximately 4:15p, Female-1 stated that she left work to help her son look for the dogs. Her son had been walking around looking for the dogs. On her way home, Female-1 drove around the area before going to her residence. Just after 4:30pm, while still in the car, Female-1 called her son and spoke to him. The son was out on the deck while speaking to his mother on the phone.

At that time, they both heard a gunshot. Female-1 indicated that she could hear it through the phone. The son stated that it came from the direction of STRECKER's residence. After hearing the gunshot, Female-1 called STRECKER on the phone when she got home.

Female-1 asked STRECKER if that was him shooting his gun. STRECKER stated that he had fired his gun. He was asked by Female-1 if he had seen her dogs. STRECKER stated that he saw a dog but he didn't recognize it. He told her that he did not believe it was her dog as it was white but appeared to have all four legs. STRECKER was familiar with Female-1's dogs. STRECKER did not say anything about shooting a dog.

After 4pm, the brown and white dog returned to Female-1's residence but the other dog, Pudding, did not come home. Female-1 indicated that she contacted the owner of the parcel, JOHN STRECKER, about the gunshot. She asked STRECKER if he knew if her dog had been shot. STRECKER informed her that he did shoot his gun but did not say anything about shooting a dog.

On Tuesday morning, Female-1 contacted STRECKER to ask permission to search his property for her dog. STRECKER agreed and met up with her. While speaking to him, Female-1 described the dog's red collar several times. STRECKER took her to his deer stand and pointed out to Female-1 where he had seen the three dogs running. STRECKER indicated that he had seen them but did not know where they had gone after he had seen them. They looked around and then went with him to check out some other deer stands on his property. After finding nothing, Female-1 ended the search for the day.

Before leaving the property, she talked to STRECKER and his wife both of whom indicated that they would keep an eye out for the dog in case it returned to their property. While talking about pets, STRECKER indicated that he had shot his own dogs for running wild on his property. He did not admit to having seen the reddish-brown dog or to shooting it.

Female-1 spent Wednesday through Friday putting together flyers and distributing them with her family. She indicated that they looked for their dog on their property and STRECKER's property. They did not find the dog nor did they receive any information about the dog's whereabouts.

That Friday evening Female-1 was upset and speaking to STRECKER about losing her dog. At that time, STRECKER admitted to having shot the dog on November 8 and burying it. When Female-1 asked him why he shot the dog, STRECKER stated that it was out running while he was in his deer stand and that he would shoot any dog out there while he was hunting deer. STRECKER claimed that he did not recognize her dog but he recognized the description of the red collar.

Female-1 informed STRECKER that she wanted her dog's body back to bury her. STRECKER indicated that he would help her excavate the dog. He had buried the dog near the house using his Bobcat.

On Saturday, the next morning, Female-1, family and friend showed up to excavate Pudding from STRECKER's yard. Using his Bobcat, STRECKER began to dig up the ground but his wife informed him that he was digging in the wrong spot. They eventually were able to retrieve Pudding's body from STRECKER's property. Photos were taken and the dog's red collar was clearly visible.

After speaking with Female-1, the deputy spoke with JOHN STRECKER and his wife. STRECKER admitted to the deputy that he had shot Female-1's dog. The deputy asked STRECKER multiple times why he did not tell Female-1 that the dog was dead. The deputy pointed out that Female-1 was looking for the dog all week and speaking with him about her efforts.

STRECKER indicated several times that he did not tell her because she never asked him directly if he had

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shot her dog.

STRECKER changed his statement more than once regarding whether he knew whose dog he had shot that day. Eventually, he began denying he had done anything wrong. STRECKER indicated that he would shoot at any dog that was running near him when he was deer hunting. He stated that he was allowed to do that. STRECKER stated that he had shot other dogs including his own for running around during hunting season. He stated several times that there was no point to a dog that ran off from time to time.

Later, after the deputy explained further about it not being lawful to shoot dogs near deer after July, STRECKER stated that he did not care about the law. STRECKER stated that he would continue to shoot any dog that was out when he was deer hunting.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 609.49., intentional failure to appear for duly scheduled court appearances may result in additional criminal charges, and in addition to any arrest warrant that may otherwise be issued by the Court.

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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

Ron Kinde
Lieutenant
640 3rd St SE
Milaca, MN 56353
Badge: 5130

Electronically Signed:
11/19/2021 12:08 PM
Mille Lacs County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Erica Lee Madore
225 6th Ave SE
Milaca, MN 56353
(320) 983-8305

Electronically Signed:
11/19/2021 11:59 AM

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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).

[X] SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court 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: November 19, 2021.

Judicial Officer Matthew M. Quinn
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 11/19/2021 01:23 PM

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

COUNTY OF MILLE LACS
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

John Gerald Strecker

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Summons upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

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DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name:	John Gerald Strecker
DOB:	01/06/1948
Address:	34142 100th Avenue Onamia, MN 56359
Alias Names/DOB:	
SID:	
Height:	
Weight:	0lbs.
Eye Color:	
Hair Color:	
Gender:	
Race:	
Fingerprints Required per Statute:	Yes
Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:	No
Driver's License #:	H688011806622 (MN)
Alcohol Concentration:	

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STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	11/8/2021	343.21.1 Overwork/Mistreat Animals-Torture	Felony	M8196		MN0480000	21010699
	Penalty	11/8/2021	343.21.9(d) Torture or cruelty to pet or companion animal- Death or Great Bodily Harm	Felony	M8196		MN0480000	21010699

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