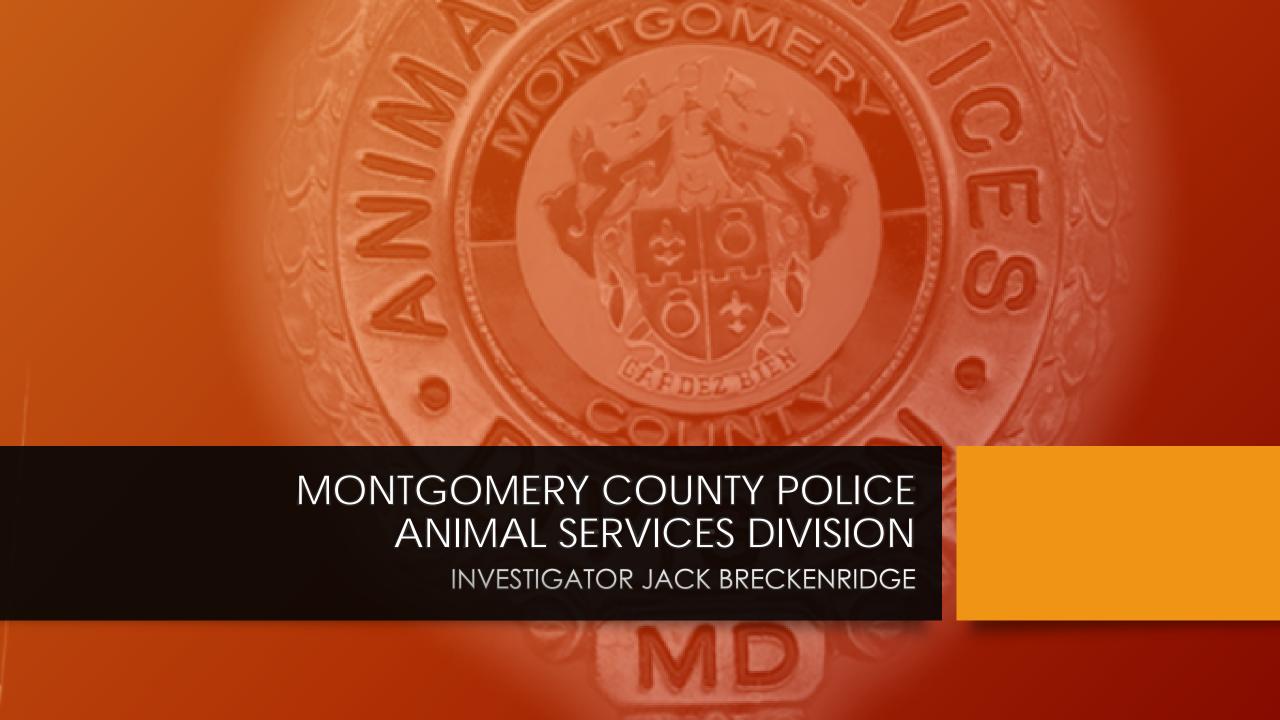


# VETERINARY PRACTITIONERS IDENTIFYING AND REPORTING ANIMAL CRUELTY AND ANIMAL FIGHTING



#### ASD'S INTENT

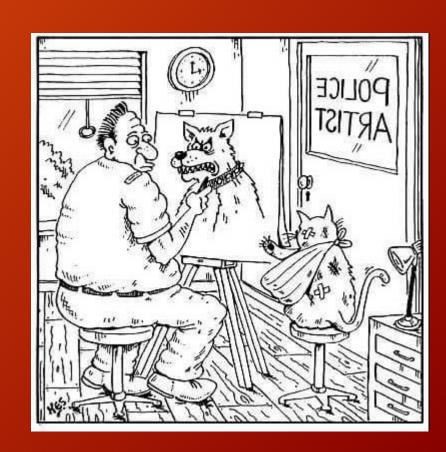
- WE INVESTIGATE ALL REPORTS OF ANIMAL CRUELTY, NEGLECT OR FIGHTING.
- WE WILL NOT REVEAL YOU AS THE COMPLAINANT UNLESS ITS REQUIRED. WE WILL INFORM YOUR CLIENT OF THE MANDATORY REPORTING LAW.
- WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS THE CASE PROGRESSES SO THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF WONT HAVE "SURPRISES" FROM THE SUSPECT(S) AND TO BUILD YOUR SKILLS IN IDENTIFYING ANIMAL CRUELTY, NEGLECT OR FIGHTING.

#### ASD'S INTENT

- OUR GOAL IS TO BUILD A CASE ON YOUR REPORT USING ASD STAFF VETERINARIAN'S AND NEVER BRING YOU TO COURT. NO PRIVATE PRACTICE VETERINARIAN HAS TESTIFIED IN THE PAST TWO YEARS.
  - PROSECUTOR'S PREFER ASD VETERINARIAN'S BECAUSE:
    - THEY'VE RECEIVED TRAINING TO PROVIDE COURTROOM TESTIMONY
    - YOU DON'T HAVE TO CLOSE YOUR PRACTICE TO COME TO COURT

### What is an investigation?

- We are not automatically going to seize all the animals
  - Seriously, we're not



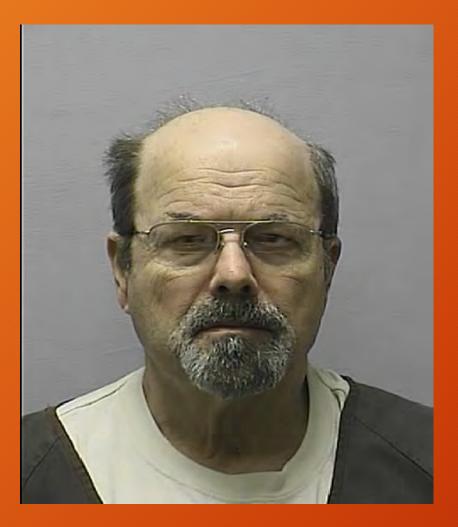
### What is an investigation?

- Determine if a crime has occurred
- How are we going to do this?
  - Talk to the person who made the report
  - Talk to the animal owner
    - What do we tell them?
  - View the animal



#### A crime has occurred!

### Gain compliance through:



- Talking with the owner
- Providing resources
- Directing behavior
- Enforcement
  - Citation
  - Criminal charge
  - Seizure

# The legal process

# Criminal versus Civil

#### THE LEGAL PROCESS - CRIMINAL

- "BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT"
- •POTENTIAL FOR CUSTODIAL ARREST OR DCS (FLIGHT RISK AND/OR PRIOR CRIMINAL HISTORY)
- MISDEMEANOR 90DAYS/\$1000, FELONY 3 YEARS/\$5000
  PER OFFENSE (LESSER INCLUDED)
- DISTRICT VS CIRCUIT COURTS

#### THE LEGAL PROCESS - CIVIL

- "MERE PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE"
- •NO CUSTODIAL ARREST
- NOT INCARCERABLE
  - MOST OF THE TIME
- •MAXIMUM \$500 FINE
- ORDER FOR ABATEMENT
  - Can be held in contempt of court



#### SUBPOENA'S FOR RECORDS

•THE RECORDS YOU NORMALLY PROVIDE BUT WITH PROOF THAT YOU WERE COMPELLED TO PROVIDE THEM.

•OFTEN ELIMINATES THE NEED FOR THE VETERINARIAN TO TESTIFY, CAN BE ATTESTED BY THE CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS (OFFICE/PRACTICE MANAGER) IF CHALLENGED.

# Rescue Gone Wrong

Gregory Lawrence, DVM

### Dec 31, 2015 - Response

- Officers were conducting a bite investigation
- Bite occurred 3 days prior at adoption event
- Black and white Papillon mix named "Chase"
- Led to a "rescue" organization operated out of a single family home



### Dec 31, 2015 – Officers Arrive

- No answer at front door
- Suspect appeared from the side of the house
- Asked for proof of rabies vaccination
  - Boxes of records stacked floor to ceiling in her car
  - Eventually produced a rabies certificate

### Dec 31, 2015 - Interview

- When asked how many dogs..."about 20"
- Denied that "Chase" was inside the house
- When asked to inspect the house to confirm that "Chase" was not inside, Suspect responded "No one would be allowed inside her house without a warrant."

#### Dec 31, 2015 - Red Flags

- Loud persistent barking from inside house
- Rabies certificates at separate location than animal
- Significant amount of fecal material in yard, driveway, and on suspect
- Made excuses for why she could not produce emails of rescue group in question
- Strong odor of feces from house and suspect

### Jan 01, 2016 - ASD Responds

- Search warrant served at 6:38 pm
- Expected about 20-30 dogs
- Found 66 dogs
- House condemned



### Front door



### The Family Room



### The Family Room







### The Dining Room



### The Kitchen





### Not as helpful as you might think



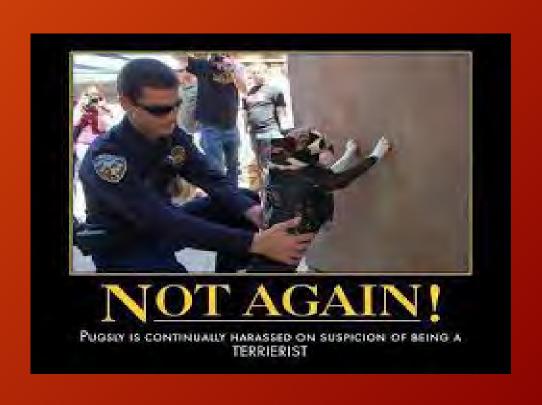


#### **Initial Concerns**

- Safety of both staff and animals
- Transport
- Housing
- Document and preserve evidence

### Safety of both staff and animals

- About 20% of animals were unsecured when door was breached
- Unknown temperament
- High stress situation
- Unsafe conditions in the house
  - Urine and fecal material everywhere
  - Air quality
  - Tripping hazards
  - Mold



### Transport



6 animal control vans

• 3-8 dogs per van depending on size

# What do we do now?

### Ride-On Bus



### Housing

#### Biosecurity

- Unknown medical and vaccination history
- Approximately 25% of dogs with clinical signs of URI

#### Where?

- Overnight doubled our dog population at the shelter
- Closed off entire green dog ward just for this case
- Time of year helped

#### Document and Preserve Evidence

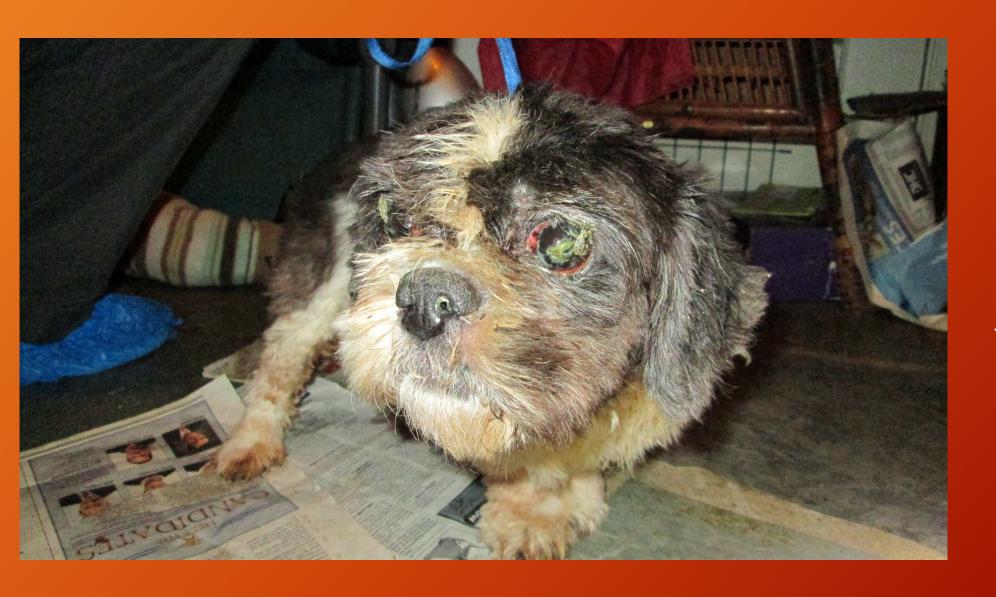
Animals are both evidence and victims

Document then treat unless life threatening

Preserved both Hard Copy and in Chameleon

### Intake

- Examination
- Photographs
- Diagnostics
  - CBC/Chemistry/T4
  - Urinalysis
  - Fecal floatation
  - Radiographs
  - Other diagnostics based on exam
- Administer Preventatives



Jamison



Jonah



# Romona



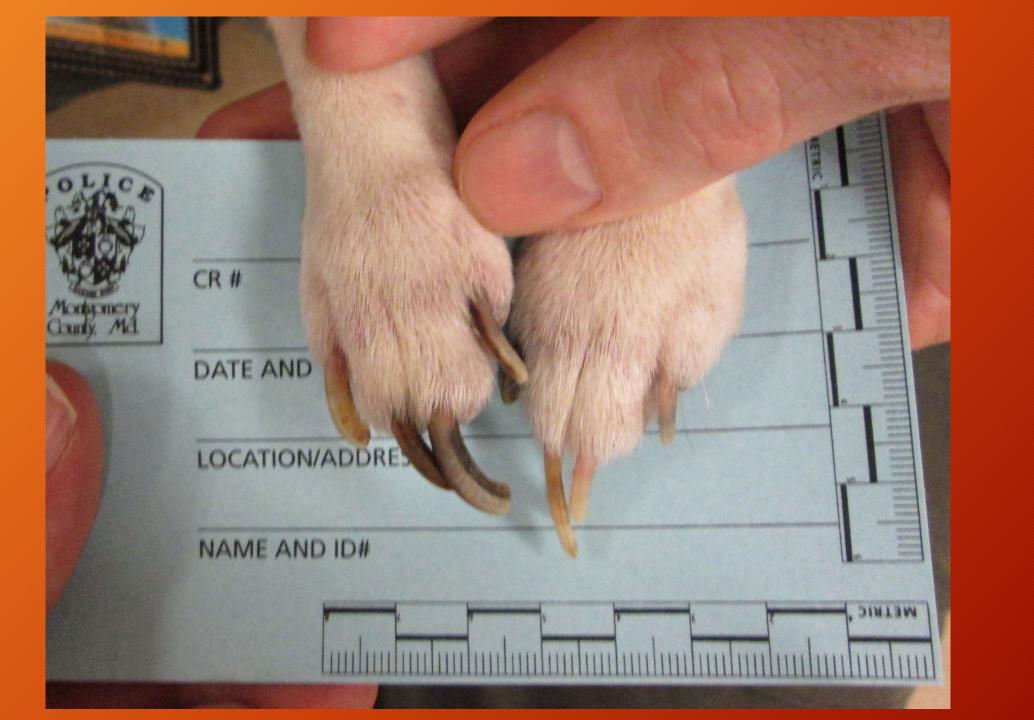
Arlo



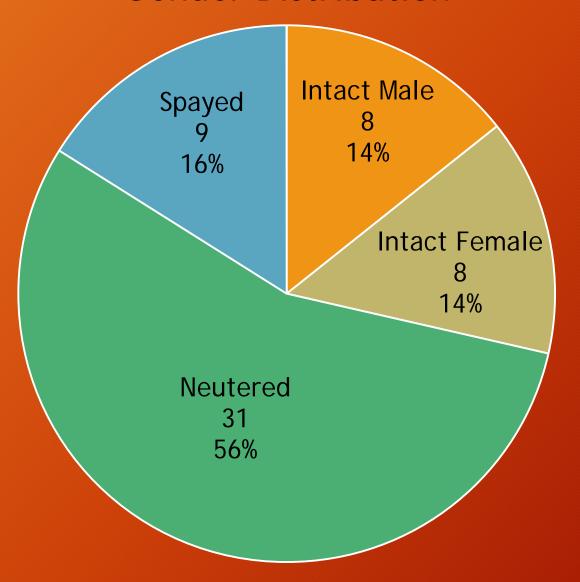
# Grover



Lil' Debbie



#### **Gender Distribution**



### Age Distribution 0 to 4 12 or older 9 17 13% 26% 9 to 11 5 to 8 11 29 17% 44%

### Outcome

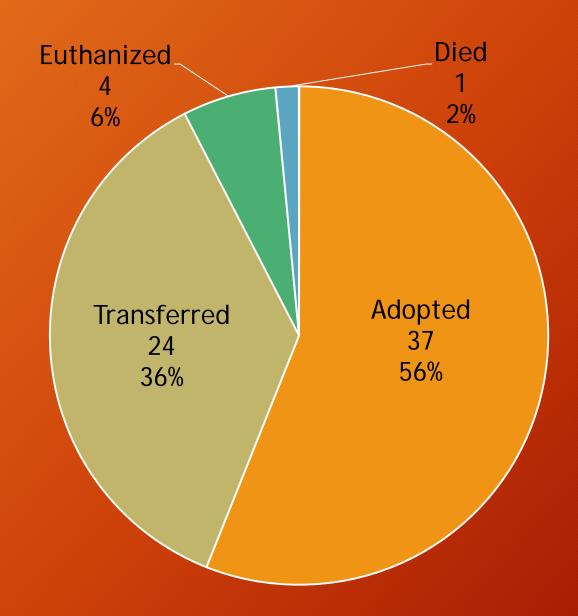
- Initial trial was in January 2017
- Veterinary partners not required to testify

#### What was charged?

- Failure to provide proper space, air, drink and necessary veterinary care
- One count for each dog

Convicted on all 66 counts

### Outcome



# Questions?

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