

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA Brevard County Sheriff's Office Case No.: 2022-00309434

VS.

Joseph Alex Farkas Court Case No.:

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT

State of Florida
County of Brevard

BEFORE ME, FTO JOSH CUMMEL #4463 sworn law enforcement officer, personally came Animal Cruelty Investigator, Agent Aaron Becker/ID#: 3939, of the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, who being duly sworn deposes and says: that Affiant has reason to believe and does believe that probable cause exists for the arrest of Joseph Alex Farkas, DOB: 12/28/1953; SSN: [REDACTED] LKA: 2289 Holder Road, Mims, Brevard County, Florida, 32754; W/M, 5'10", 250 LBS, for a violation of the laws of the State of Florida, to wit: Two (2) Counts Felony Aggravated Animal Cruelty, contrary to section 828.12(2), Florida Statutes, and Two (2) Counts Unlawful Confinement of Animal, contrary to section 828.13, Florida Statutes, which occurred at 2289 Holder Road, Mims, Brevard County, Florida, 32754.

THE FACTS tending to establish the grounds for this application and the probable cause of Affiant believing that such facts exist are as follows:

On Thursday, September 1, 2022, at approximately 0930 hours, Ms. Teri Crook notified the Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Communications Center that Joseph Alex Farkas was "starving his two dogs to death" at 2289 Holder Road, Mims, Brevard County, Florida, 32754. Ms. Crook did not leave her address with dispatch, but utilizing a search query of Ms. Crook's phone number, her address was identified as 4230 Peoples Street, Mims, Brevard County, Florida 32754.

Ms. Crook's report to the BCSO dispatcher was documented as follows:

"RP [Ms. Crook] ADV SHE STOPPED AT JOE FARKAS'S HOUSE THE OTHER DAY AND MALE IS STARVING HIS 2 DOGS TO DEATH. BOTH DOGS ARE SKIN AND BONES"

"RP DID NOT KNOW JOE'S ACTUAL NUMERICALS. T37 [dispatch operator] FOUND ADDRESS IN CAD"

"RP REQ T13 [well-being check] CHECK ON THE 2 LITTLE DOGS BOTH TAN AND WHI PIT/MIX"

"THEY LOOK LIKE YOUNG DOGS"

"RP ADV HE HAS A WHOLE BAG OF DOG FOOD THERE AND RP OFFERED TO OPEN THE BAG FOR HIM AND HE MADE HER LEAVE"

"T/L [time lapse] 3 DAYS AGO"

On Thursday, September 1, 2022, at approximately 1420 hours, Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) Animal Enforcement Supervisor S. Anderson, ID# 1897, and Your Affiant responded to 2289 Holder Road, Mims, Brevard County, Florida, 32754, in reference to Ms. Crook's allegations of Animal Neglect.

Supervisor Anderson was familiar with **Joseph Alex Farkas**, due to multiple previous investigations regarding animal complaints at his address. We knocked on the front door and a white male answered by opening the door. Because Supervisor Anderson had experienced previous encounters with **Joseph Alex Farkas**, he was able to positively identify the male as being **Joseph Alex Farkas**. **Joseph Alex Farkas'** identity was also later confirmed through a D.A.V.I.D. query. Supervisor Anderson explained the reason for our visit and informed **Joseph Alex Farkas** that he wanted to conduct a well-being check on his two dogs, later identified as Darcy and Katie.

Initially, **Joseph Alex Farkas** stated he did not want us to see his two dogs because they were "sick" and he did not want us to "take his family" from him. Ultimately, however, he allowed the well-being check to begin and invited us into his home, directing us toward Darcy and Katie. **Joseph Alex Farkas** immediately began questioning our intentions, citing that he felt we were going to "take away his family" and "take him to jail." Your Affiant explained to **Joseph Alex Farkas** there was no intent to arrest him today. **Joseph Alex Farkas** verbally confirmed that he understood he was not "going to jail" and that he would voluntarily provide information about his canines.

Upon entry, Your Affiant activated the Voice Memo Application on his agency issued iPhone 12 and it began recording the interaction between **Joseph Alex Farkas**, Supervisor Anderson, and Your Affiant. Within the residence, and while **Joseph Alex Farkas** stood next to us, Supervisor Anderson and Your Affiant both observed the following:

Closest to the front door laid Darcy on a recliner chair. Darcy appeared to be extremely emaciated. Your Affiant could clearly identify the protrusion of 8 rib bones on each side of her torso. Darcy's scapula bones (shoulders) were both sharply defined under the skin. Darcy's ischium bones (hips) were also predominant under the skin. Your Affiant was able to identify more than half of Darcy's vertebrae as they were shaped by the skin over her spinal cord.

Viewing Darcy's breast area, Your Affiant could clearly identify the likeness of cupping, as the skin was sunken in between the bones of her chest, shoulders and the base of her neck. Furthermore, Darcy's nails were approximately one-half inch past the cuticle, and had begun to grow in a circle, curving around nearly 180 degrees. Darcy exhibited signs of bruising on her back heels. Darcy's tail showed dry, scabbing skin, similar to what has been commonly associated with canine dermatitis. Darcy also had several clumps of skin spread across her body. Darcy's skull appeared to sag inward and downward between her ears.

Your Affiant saw several other signs typical of neglect. For example, Darcy's teeth were saturated in plaque, indicating a lack routine dental care. Darcy's collar was significantly looser than what was typical, possibly indicating that Darcy's neck size had drastically decreased. The chair on which Darcy sat was stained and, just under Darcy's vulva, from where urine is discharged, was a moist stain. This was a possible indication that Darcy had not moved to urinate for an extended period of time.

Your Affiant asked **Joseph Alex Farkas** if Darcy was able to walk. He replied, "Yes." He then attempted to call Darcy and verbalize commands of "Come," but Darcy did not move. He asked if he could "pick her up" to help her, and Your Affiant instructed him the purpose of this exercise was to see if Darcy could move on her own. Darcy never did vacate the couch, try to stand up, or move to a sitting position. During the entire interaction between Your Affiant and Darcy, Darcy never attempted to move any appendage or change her posture. She remained silent and motionless, with her head resting on the sofa's arm rest, only moving her eyes to address distractions in the room.

When examining Katie, Supervisor Anderson and Your Affiant observed the following:

Katie had been barking in a high tone, but at a restricted, almost airy volume. Katie was also whimpering in a high pitched tone. Throughout the duration of our encounter, Katie intermittently continued these barks and whimpers. Your Affiant utilized his agency iPhone to capture a short video of Katie's behavior. As she produced these noises, Katie was lying on the floor. Her body appeared twisted, as she would turn her head to look at distractions, but struggled to motion her entire body into a position which faced us.

Your Affiant observed that Katie's back legs were somewhat contorted together and appeared paralyzed. With each of these attempts to move and face distractions, Katie could only try dragging herself with her front paws, but was still unable to alter her position. As Katie made these attempts to change her posture, her hind quarters shifted slightly, but her legs remained lifeless. It was with these slight variations in body position that Your Affiant was able to notice that Katie's hind quarters were saturated in a liquid. Closer examination revealed the liquid was yellow and emanated an odor similar to urine. Your Affiant then examined Katie's rear paws, and they were stained with this same liquid. Supervisor Anderson examined the stains and confirmed that, based on his training and experience, Katie's rear paws were "urine burned."

As Katie continued to bark and whimper at that high-toned, airy volume, **Joseph Alex Farkas** continued to explain that his dogs were "old" and "sick." He informed Your Affiant that he "believes" they have worms, because he "saw one once in her [Darcy's] poop." Your Affiant asked **Joseph Alex Farkas** if Katie could stand or walk. **Joseph Alex Farkas** replied, "Yes." Just as completed with Darcy, Your Affiant asked **Joseph Alex Farkas** to alert Katie and encourage her to get up off the ground. **Joseph Alex Farkas** vocalized commands, but Katie only acknowledged the commands by moving her head towards him. Katie never did move from her position.

In an attempt to "prove" to Your Affiant that Katie could move, **Joseph Alex Farkas** approached Katie and shouted commands at her. When Katie was unable to comply with his commands, **Joseph Alex Farkas** reached down and grabbed Katie's collar, which was attached to her neck. With significant force, **Joseph Alex Farkas** jerked Katie by the collar as he simultaneously yelled commands. Katie was forcefully pulled into the air by her collar and vocalized a loud yelp. Still, Katie was unable to move. Your Affiant ordered **Joseph Alex Farkas** not to "pull on her" like that because he was "hurting her." **Joseph Alex Farkas** then quickly dropped Katie and she fell to the ground, returning to a similar position she had previously been unable to move from. These actions by **Joseph Alex Farkas** made it apparent that he, himself, was physically able to move Katie and Darcy should he feel the need.

As Your Affiant continued to examine Katie, several other signs of neglect were observed. For example, Katie's nails were overgrown, by approximately one-half inch, and exhibited similar conditions to those of Darcy. Furthermore, Your Affiant observed signs of emaciation. Katie's ribs, although not as prevalent as Darcy's, were exposed under the skin. Your Affiant could count six rib