



CASE NO: 96018592

INVESTIGATION REPORT
Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department
Fergus Falls, MN

COPY

NAME OF COMPLAINANT: Dr. William Mark Rose

ADDRESS: 745 West Main
Perham, MN 56573

DOB: [REDACTED]
PHONE: 218/346-6550

OFFENSE: Illegal puppy mill and other related illegal activity

PLACE OF OCCURRENCE: New York Mills puppy farm called Pick of the Litter, north of
New York Mills just a short distance

DATE & TIME COMMITTED: Ongoing over the past year or so

REPORTED BY: Complainant

ADDRESS:

DOB:
PHONE:

DATE & TIME REPORTED: 10-30-96 at 13:26 hours

REPORTED TO: Perham Police Department, who relayed it to OTCSO

HOW REPORTED: Telephone

HOW ATTACKED:

MEANS OF ATTACK:

OBJECT OF ATTACK:

PERSONS ATTACKED:

PROPERTY ATTACKED: Dogs not being cared for properly

TRADE MARK:

VEHICLE USED: Make: Type: Color:
License number: Year:

Disposition: Unfounded () Cleared by Arrest () Exc. Cleared () Ref. Other Agency ()
Inactive () Other ()

Officers Signature: #303, Lieutenant Raymond Polensky, OTCSO, RP/mp

ACTIVITY: Reporting possible illegal operation of a puppy mill and mistreating dogs, also possible fraud on registered dogs by using other dogs for registration

PRINCIPALS: Dr. [REDACTED] (Veterinarian)

[REDACTED]
Perham, MN 56537
[REDACTED]

Lucille [REDACTED] (Ex-employee of Pick of the Litter)

DOB: [REDACTED]
RR2, Box 273
New York Mills, MN 56567
[REDACTED]

Keri [REDACTED] (Ex-employee of Pick of the Litter)

DOB: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Wadena, MN 56482
[REDACTED]

Melissa [REDACTED] (Ex-employee of Pick of the Litter)

DOB: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Perham, MN 56573
[REDACTED]

Kathy Bauck (Owner of Pick of the Litter/Suspect)

Rural Route
New York Mills, MN 56567
Allen Bauck, husband

OFFICERS: Lieutenant Raymond Polensky, #303
Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department

SYNOPSIS: Dr. [REDACTED] contacted the Perham Police Department and reported that he had been receiving information of a puppy mill being operated north of New York Mills by a Kathy Bauck. The name of the operation is Pick of the Litter. Dr. [REDACTED] stated his informants advised him she was doing many illegal things in connection with the business. I spoke with Dr. [REDACTED] as well as with three ex-employees of Pick of the Litter who made many accusations against Cathy Bauck regarding illegal activities and animal abuse.

DETAILS: On 10-30-95 at approximately 13:26 hours, Dr. [REDACTED] reported to the Perham Police Department that he had been receiving complaints that a Kathy Bauck is operating a puppy mill at her business, Pick of the Litter, which is north of New York Mills. Chief Shannon relayed the information to the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department.

I spoke with Dr. [REDACTED] who stated he is aware that Kathy Bauck is performing Caesarean sections with only Ronpun (sp?), which is just a tranquilizer, giving blood transfusions, and treating hernias by firing them which is a method of sticking iodine into the hernias. She reportedly uses the same needles over and over with no

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sterilization. She is also believed to be sending sick puppies out that have not yet been checked and given a health certificate by a veterinarian. She also has a dead puppy file that she uses to register animals illegally. She exaggerates litter sizes and puts other dogs in a litter to gain registration papers illegally. The dead puppies are apparently left in the pens until they decay. She gets blank health certificates for her puppies signed by a Dr. Lee Chatham of Detroit Lakes, a veterinarian. She leaves the dogs over the weekends with inadequate food and water.

I also spoke with three ex-employees of Pick of the Litter and they pretty much verified the accusations listed in the foregoing paragraph. I talked with Lucille [redacted] the same date. She stated she worked for Pick of the Litter for a little over a year and had quit about two months ago. Lucille said she witnessed Kathy doing Caesarean sections using just the tranquilizer Ronpun. She said she saw her do blood transfusions and saw her shooting iodine into hernias. Lucille said that Kathy uses the same needle on different dogs. Also, Dr. Lee Chatham, a veterinarian from Detroit Lakes, signs blank certificates and Kathy just fills in the names of the animals, so the dogs are then released without having been checked by a veterinarian. Lucille stated she also has seen Kathy use papers from deceased dogs to register dogs which would not be eligible for registration. She also witnessed Kathy put a Cocker Spaniel in with a registered litter because the pet store had wanted a Cocker Spaniel. The dog was not registered but was put in with a litter that had been registered. She saw two deceased puppies whose bodies had decayed in a pen with other dogs. She saw the dogs being left over a weekend without adequate food and water. Lucille stated that when she called it to the attention of Kathy Bauck, Kathy's remark was that that was all you could expect when you have high school age kids working at the kennel. Kathy also advised Lucille that those were her days off and she intended to be off and not working at the kennel. Lucille stated that a part of her duties included dipping the dogs into a paramite dip and that Kathy wanted them dipped completely with no eye protection, resulting in reddened, burned eyes on the puppies. I advised Lucille I would probably contact her at a later date to get further information and dates on which she witnessed illegal actions

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at the business. Lucille stated she would be happy to testify against Kathy Bauck if necessary.

I then spoke with a Keri [REDACTED] who stated she had worked at Pick of the Litter off and on for about six years, but has not worked there since last June. Keri reported seeing pretty much the same things as were reported by Lucille. She said she saw many dogs die while she worked there and she had witnessed Kathy doing Caesarean sections. She stated that for the last couple of years all she had been doing there was some grooming of the animals. Keri said the dogs are not properly cared for and while grooming them she witnessed many dogs having sore mouths, eye problems, feet problems, and Kathy would not do anything about these as the dogs would have the same problems the next time she groomed them. She said also saw Kathy registering dogs illegally and also saw her "fire" hernias with a needle and iodine. She said Kathy would order two papers from the same litters so she could register more dogs illegally. She said one time Kathy had received about 200 dogs from a breeder and the dogs were not tattooed or marked in any way and Keri and Allen had to try to place the dogs with the proper registration papers and she knows that a lot of it was guesswork so the dogs were not registered correctly. I advised Keri I would be getting in touch with her again in relation to my investigation of this matter. She stated she would be happy to testify to the above information if the matter goes to court.

I next called Melissa [REDACTED] who stated she worked for Kathy Bauck for about two months, April and May, and her duties included cleaning the pens, washing the dogs, and dipping them. She stated the place was very unclean and just a mess. There was broken glass and nails inside the pens, there was food all over, and many dogs were dying. She said she was right there when Kathy performed Caesarean sections and "ripped out the babies" with no disinfectant at all. She said she saw Kathy perform a C section on one dog and the dog died three days later. Melissa felt the dogs were not fed properly at all, although both Lucy and Keri thought they were fed well except on weekends. Melissa said she also saw Kathy mix the litters to obtain registration on animals illegally. She said that Kathy had a "sick room" where she put sick dogs and the room was very

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unclean and smelly and unhealthy. She said that room was never cleaned. I then told Melissa we would be in touch if we should need to talk with her further.

This is a preliminary report to be forwarded to Assistant County Attorney David Hauser. I have spoken with him and he will decide if it will be possible to get charges against Kathy Bauck and what is needed after reviewing the information contained in this report in order to get charges.

Lieutenant Raymond Polensky
Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department
RP/mp

DATE: 11/01/96 REVIEWED BY: [Signature]ACTION TAKEN: file

10-31-96

15:00 hours

wp009/puppyml.303

CC: Kathy Bauck 112696

CC: Dr. Terry Boldingh - Minnesota Board Animal Health

RR1 Box 116

Breckenridge, MN 56520