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VA: IN THE GENERAL DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE COUNTY OF AUGUSTA

* * * * *		
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,	*	CASE NO.
	*	GC23005919-00
Plaintiff,	*	
	*	
v.	*	
	*	
CARL LENTZ,	*	
	*	
Defendant.	*	
	*	
	*	
* * * * *		

JUDGE: HONORABLE ROBIN MAYER

DATE: JUNE 13TH, 2023

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

LOCATION: AUGUSTA COUNTY GDC OURT

REPORTED BY: KAREN T. ROLLER
SIGNATURE COURT REPORTING, LLC
515 FROG POND ROAD
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA 24401
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APPEARANCES

On behalf of the Plaintiff:

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On behalf of the Defendant:

CARL LENTZ, PRO SE

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P R O C E E D I N G S

THE COURT: Okay. So, I'll turn it over to the Commonwealth when you're ready.

MS. HARRIS: Yes, your Honor. As the Court is well aware today, we're here for a seizure hearing under Virginia Code Section 3.2-6569. And the Court is here to determine whether each of these animals have been abandoned, cruelly treated, or has not been provided adequate care. And adequate care is defined under statute, Virginia Code Section 3.26500, as the responsible practice of good animal husbandry, handling, production, management, confinement, feeding, watering, protection, shelter, transportation, treatment and, when necessary, euthanasia appropriate for the age, species, condition, size and type of each animal and the provision of veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering or impairment of health.

Just a brief orientation, on June 2nd, 2023, animal control in Augusta County seized 30 dogs, 13 cats and six ducks from property that Mr. Lentz lived on. Two dogs were seized in an initial welfare check and the rest of the animals were seized pursuant to a search warrant.

Today we have Animal Control Officer Sandy Wilkins, who headed up kind of the search warrant as well as the seizure of these animals. And she's going to

1 testify to several things. First, the condition of the
2 area in which Animal Control found the animals. Second,
3 the initial condition of each of the animals as they were
4 seized. We'll look to introduce Ms. Wilkins or Officer
5 Wilkins as an expert in triage of veterinary care, given
6 her position as an animal patrol officer, as well as an
7 employed vet tech for the last several years; ten years
8 actually. And finally, any details of follow up care
9 that any of the animals received. And with that, we
10 would present our evidence.

11 THE COURT: All right. When you're ready.

12 MS. HARRIS: All right. Officer Wilkins, if
13 you want to sit here so that everyone can see.

14 THE COURT: If you wouldn't mind, do you swear
15 or affirm any information you give will be the truth?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 O F F I C E R S A N D R A W I L K I N S
19 a witness, after first being duly sworn, testified as
20 follows:

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. HARRIS:

23 Q. All right. Officer Wilkins, since we have a
24 court reporter here, why don't you state your name and
25 your occupation?

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STYLE

1 A. I'm Officer Sandra Wilkins and I work for
2 Augusta County Animal Control.

3 Q. How long have you worked for Animal Control?

4 A. I have been employed with the county since
5 October of '22.

6 Q. And what are your duties as an Animal Control
7 officer?

8 A. Basically being the welfare person for the
9 animals, any well being that they need, assisting with
10 the public when they need help, things along that line.

11 Q. And were you previously and are you also
12 currently employed as a veterinary technician?

13 A. I am. I used to work in a day practice for
14 over seven years at Augusta Valley Animal Hospital and
15 then I transferred to emergency care work down here at
16 the Emergency Clinic in Verona.

17 Q. What kind of training, either formally or on
18 the job, do you have in regards to being a vet tech?

19 A. I have triaging emergency situations, whether
20 they have been seriously injured, handling with surgery
21 procedures, anesthesia, hit by cars, trying to CPR,
22 things along that line.

23 Q. And in your job, were you or are you required
24 to evaluate, assess, and triage the needs of veterinary
25 care of animals?

1 A. Yes.

2 MS. HARRIS: At this time, your Honor, I would
3 qualify Officer Wilkins as an expert in triage for
4 veterinary care given her experience as an animal control
5 officer and her experience as a veterinary technician for
6 the last seven years.

7 THE COURT: All right.

8 MS. HARRIS: For the last ten years.

9 THE COURT: Do you have questions for her about
10 her training, Mr. Lentz?

11 THE DEFENDANT: About her training?

12 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

13 THE DEFENDANT: I have no way to dispute that
14 training. If she says it's true, it's true.

15 THE COURT: All right, thank you. We'll
16 qualify her as an expert.

17 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, your Honor.

18 BY MS. HARRIS:

19 Q. Officer Wilkins, were you here for the bond
20 hearing last week for Mr. Lentz?

21 A. I was.

22 Q. Did you hear him discuss or what did you hear
23 him discuss about living on the property that these
24 animals were seized from?

25 A. He stated that him and a (inaudible) lived in a

1 tent on the other side of the property taking care of the
2 animals.

3 Q. All right. Let's talk about what happened on
4 June 2nd, 2023. Describe for the Court the condition of
5 the area in which the animals were found generally.

6 A. There were multiple campers or vehicles or
7 makeshift looking fenced in areas that multiple of the
8 dogs were running loose in. The living conditions, a lot
9 of the grass was up to above our knees that some of the
10 border collies were living in. And then just the amount
11 of items and empty food bowls that were laying around.

12 Q. Let's talk a little bit about the food, water,
13 and containment of each animals. So can you tell the
14 Court about what food sources you found there on the
15 property?

16 A. There was no food source anywhere to be found,
17 not even with the cats being on location or anything that
18 these dogs or cats had access to.

19 Q. What about water?

20 A. There might have been some stale water that was
21 in these buckets, along with a pond area that one dog
22 might have had access to, but it was not an adequate
23 water source for them.

24 Q. So what you're saying is that you couldn't find
25 any clean water sources there.

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. And tell the Court a little bit about the
3 containment of certain animals that you found.

4 A. There was one section definitely that it was
5 inside of a camper that housed four puppies that were
6 living in a bathtub that was inside of a camper area.
7 There were multiple areas that were fenced that the grass
8 was overgrown with the dogs roaming around in.

9 Q. And this location that you're describing, is
10 that in Augusta County?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. What's the address there?

13 A. It's going to be 410 Augusta Farms Road.

14 Q. 410 or --

15 A. 710.

16 Q. Okay. I know we talked a little bit about some
17 containment. Could you give a general descriptive area
18 of where you found specific animals? So something like
19 these animals were found here, these here?

20 A. The border collies were more in the fenced in
21 areas to -- there were some in a lot off to our right and
22 then some off to our left. A lot of the Beagle/Jack
23 Russel mixes, they were going to be in the enclosed areas
24 where the camper was located or the one building off as
25 soon as you went through the gate. There was one fenced

1 in area before you got to the Border Collies that some of
2 the Jack Russell/Beagle mixes were located in.

3 Q. And as you initially observed, before there was
4 any sort of retrieving of the animals, what condition
5 could you see these animals in at that time?

6 A. A lot of them were underweight, multiple eye
7 issues, there were even -- some of the cats' conditions
8 appeared that the eye has went untreated and the eye has
9 ruptured. And then, obviously, the underweight of most
10 conditions.

11 Q. And we talked specifically about where you
12 found animals who were still living. Describe where you
13 found animals who were deceased.

14 A. They were roughly seven freezers on this
15 property; some that were in a trailer, some that was in
16 this building type makeshift thing. And there were
17 several deceased items that were in these freezers
18 unbagged, unmarked. A lot that was newborn to adult dogs
19 in these freezers.

20 Q. And so when you say newborn to adult, in your
21 experience, there were puppies who were -- there were
22 animals that were newly born, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And then were there kind of something in
25 between a newborn and adult?

1 A. Yes, there were newborns and then several, I
2 think it was two adult Border Collies, I would say over a
3 year old, if not older, that were in these freezers.

4 Q. And then were there some animals that appeared
5 to have gone out of the newborn stage but were frozen?

6 A. Definitely out of the newborn stage, but
7 frozen, yes.

8 Q. All right. So were there photos taken at the
9 scene that day?

10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. And I'm going to show you a group of photos.
12 Do these photos fairly and accurately represent the
13 property and animals by which you observed on June 2nd,
14 2023 in Augusta County?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 MS. HARRIS: All right. And your Honor, at
17 this time, I would move these into evidence collectively.
18 Actually, I'll move in this group of conditions as
19 Commonwealth's Exhibit One, as a unit, and then this as
20 Commonwealth's Exhibit Two.

21 THE COURT: All right. How can we get the
22 defendant where he can see them? Are you able to hold it
23 up in front of a camera? Can we try that? I know it's a
24 pain.

25 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I don't have my glasses.

1 THE COURT: All right. We tried. Thank you.

2 THE DEFENDANT: Sorry, I can't dispute the
3 evidence because I can't see the evidence.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I have no access to the court
6 at this time.

7 THE COURT: I understand.

8 (WHEREUPON, the documents
9 referred to as Commonwealth
10 Exhibit Nos. 1 and 2 were
11 introduced into evidence.)

12 BY MS. HARRIS:

13 Q. And so at the conclusion of the search warrant
14 and the welfare check, where were these animals housed or
15 where are they currently being housed?

16 A. They are currently being housed at the
17 government center. As for the amount that we took in, it
18 was roughly the amount that we house at the shelter in
19 Lyndhurst. So we had to set up an emergency shelter area
20 to house all of these dogs.

21 Q. Okay. So before we get into talking about each
22 individual animal that was seized, let's talk about some
23 general things to do with observing animals and
24 evaluating them that you have done in your expertise.

25 What is a body score? What is a body score for an animal

1 body?

2 A. So we use a body score of one being emaciated
3 and nine being obese. So obviously we prefer dogs to --
4 if it's a fit condition, we like it to be in the range of
5 four and a half to five being an okay condition.
6 Anything from that is going to either be underweight or
7 obese.

8 Q. And what is a muscle condition score?

9 A. The muscle condition score is going to count
10 how much has either wasted off or what is not being used.

11 Q. So what is a good muscle score versus a bad
12 muscle score?

13 A. A good muscle score is going to be between a
14 two and a half to a three.

15 Q. And then if it has a muscle score of two to
16 one, it's considered bad?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. All right. And so some of these general
19 conditions will apply to all of the animals. But let's
20 talk about ticks specifically. What damage can an
21 infestation of ticks have on an animal?

22 A. So obviously ticks carry a lot of disease. For
23 example, Lyme disease. We see that very common. If that
24 goes untreated, it can lead to kidney failure and that
25 puts the dog into having to be euthanized because of not

1 being treated or lameness issues because of the Lyme
2 disease.

3 Q. So what's the difference between having a dog
4 going outside and getting ticks and a dog that is just
5 completely infested with ticks?

6 A. Being infested with ticks would be 50 plus
7 ticks that we found on several of these Border Collies
8 compared to, oh, I let my dog out and it got a tick from
9 one to two.

10 Q. And an infestation would need veterinary care.
11 Correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And let's talk about fleas. We'll talk more
14 specifically about each dog. But did the evaluation find
15 an infestation of fleas?

16 A. It definitely found an infestation of fleas as
17 well on these animals.

18 Q. And what is needed to treat an infestation of
19 fleas?

20 A. Obviously fleas and ticks, you need the meds
21 along with also following up with a dewormer. Just
22 because fleas carry tapeworms and that can lead to
23 parasites in the dogs.

24 Q. You also discuss observing, out at the scene,
25 animals with eye issues; specifically cats. Was that

1 something that was prevalent here in this situation? Did
2 a lot of the animals have eye issues?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And what would be needed to treat the eye
5 issues that you saw in these animals?

6 A. Obviously, it appeared to be upper respiratory
7 infection issues. So that would entail having
8 antibiotics and eye ointments to treat the infections
9 that they had.

10 Q. All right. Are there any other diseases or
11 issues that you found that many of the animals had here?

12 A. Definitely overgrowth of roundworms which came
13 from the dogs living in the environment they were in
14 because of the overgrowth of it.

15 Q. How do you observe roundworms?

16 A. Roundworms you can see in the stools. And we
17 had multiple dogs having them showing us in their stool
18 sample.

19 Q. How is roundworms treated?

20 A. Roundworms are going to be treated with a
21 dewormer as well.

22 Q. And if you can see it, would they need
23 veterinary care?

24 A. You can do veterinary care or, with roundworms,
25 you can provide going to Tractor Supply and trying some

1 of the over the counter medication or obviously getting
2 the vet to get the dewormer for them.

3 Q. Either way though, they need a type of medicine
4 to treat it.

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Okay. So let's go to each specific type of
7 animal. Did you assist with the vet checkups on the
8 morning of June 3rd?

9 A. I did, yes, ma'am.

10 Q. And why were you the person that was helping
11 with this instead of maybe another shelter worker?

12 A. Most of the shelter workers are not vaccinated
13 for rabies and a lot of these dogs did not have much
14 human contact. So they were very fearful and did not
15 know human contact. So I did not want to put them at
16 risk of possibly getting bit and not knowing the rabies
17 status of these animals.

18 Q. And as there was a vet doing a vet check up,
19 were you also observing these things as Doctor Callison
20 was checking?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And you were using your expertise at that time
23 in order to evaluate along with her?

24 A. Correct.

25 MS. HARRIS: Okay. So, your Honor, as a point

1 of reference, what I'm going to do is go animal by
2 animal.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MS. HARRIS: Have her just give a general
5 description of animals. So we'll do type the type of
6 animal, the sex, age, body score, and any noted physical
7 appearance just for kind of the efficiency for the Court.
8 Is that allowable?

9 THE COURT: That's fine.

10 MS. HARRIS: All right. And if the Court
11 would like to see any pictures of any of the specific
12 animals that the Court has a question about, we have
13 those photos with us. I don't want to enter in 40 some
14 pictures at this time for that since we already have the
15 other pictures. But if the Court would like to see
16 specific ones, please let us know.

17 THE COURT: Thank you.

18 BY MS. HARRIS:

19 Q. All right. Let's go to animal one. And like I
20 said, we'll do type, sex, age, body score and any
21 physical notations that you saw.

22 A. Okay. Animal one was about an eight year old
23 female Jack Russell cross. She was roughly around 17
24 pounds. The body score on that one, it wasn't in good
25 condition. We noted her as probably about five and a

1 half out of a nine. She was very unsocial. We noted the
2 fleas and ticks being an infestation and possibly for
3 being pregnant as well.

4 Q. All right. Let's go to animal two and go
5 through the same process there.

6 A. Animal two was around a four and a half month
7 old female Jack Russell cross. Her body condition was a
8 three out of a nine. And we marked her as being
9 underweight, having the flea infestation, and being
10 unsocial on human contact.

11 Q. She negatively responded to human contact,
12 correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And let's go to animal three.

15 A. Animals three was a four year old male Jack
16 Russell cross. That body condition on that one was a
17 four out of nine. She did note a pain score. One being
18 no pain, four being severe. We put the pain score as
19 around a two. The right eye had a melting cornea
20 abrasion also to the eye with discharge coming from it.
21 It did not like us trying to assess the eye on that side.
22 Being underweight, unsocialized, and having the eye issue
23 abnormality.

24 Q. Let's talk a little bit how a pain score is
25 evaluated. I don't believe we covered that.

1 A. So pain score, one being no pain, four being
2 the most pain is how we do the pain score.

3 Q. How do you know? I mean, a dog can't tell you.

4 A. The dog can't tell you. But how they react to
5 where the pain might be, say if the eyes was hurting,
6 obviously them pulling away or, if there was a leg issue,
7 them yelping as we're trying to find where the pain
8 location was.

9 Q. And for this specific eye issue, is this
10 something that would have needed vet care prior to this?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. All right. Let's go to animal four.

13 A. That was a four year old male Jack Russel
14 cross. The body condition was a three out of a nine. We
15 noted it being under weight, unsocial, and having the
16 flea infestation.

17 Q. Were there a large number of ticks present on
18 this animal?

19 A. Not as much on the Jack Russells and Beagle mix
20 as there were on the Border Collies.

21 Q. But there still was an infestation.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. So for the next few animals, I
24 believe that they all kind of have -- just as a point for
25 the Court -- some of the puppy groups are grouped

1 together so they have the same type of conditions. But
2 if there's a specific one, we will kind of remove that.
3 But since there were so many and then there were a couple
4 of litters, they kind of all had the same condition. So
5 let's talk about animals five through eight. Let's
6 describe those for the Court.

7 A. Those, their body conditions will average for a
8 puppy. We notice very distended abdomens on all of these
9 puppies, which could be from the infestation of
10 parasites, roundworms. It was multiple loose and
11 unformed stools that come from a parasite overgrowth.
12 And then having the fleas and ticks present.

13 Q. Did one of these puppies have to go to the vet?

14 A. It did. It started being very lethargic,
15 having some labored breathing, a very, very distended
16 abdomen. And it came from, I guess, having actual food
17 that it was getting used to being fed to and it was
18 overeating because of not having access to food.

19 Q. So it was eating a normal amount, but it was
20 reacting negatively to the normal amount of eating.

21 A. Correct, yes.

22 Q. Is that something that is prevalent in animals
23 who have not been properly fed before?

24 A. Yes, correct.

25 Q. All right. Let's talk about animal nine.

1 A. Nine was a five month old male Jack Russell
2 cross. His body condition was a four out of nine. We
3 noted this one being a little underweight and having the
4 unsocialized and the flea and tick infestation.

5 Q. All right. Let's move to animal ten.

6 A. This one was a three year old female black and
7 white Border Collie. Her body condition was three out of
8 a nine. We noticed severe, severe infestation all over
9 this dog with the ticks and fleas and being underweight.

10 Q. All right. Let's move to animal number eleven.

11 A. This one was a three year old female, Border
12 Collie. Her body condition was a four out of a nine.
13 Having the infestation of flea and ticks.

14 Q. Was this one notably underweight as well as
15 unsocialized?

16 A. This one was underweight, unsocialized. This
17 one was one of the ones that definitely had the eyes. I
18 mean, flea and ticks were all over the eyes and in the
19 eyes, all over the ear canals along with the body of the
20 dog.

21 Q. All right. Let's talk about animal number
22 thirteen. Or 12, I'm sorry.

23 A. Twelve was a three year old Border Collier.
24 Her body condition was a four and a half out of a nine.
25 We marked her as being underweight. She had multiple

1 fractured teeth along with having the flea and tick
2 infestation as well.

3 Q. Are fractured teeth something that can cause
4 issues for animals?

5 A. Yes, fractured teeth. They can get down into
6 the root canal of their teeth and cause them pain and
7 leave them not wanting to eat because of the teeth pain.

8 Q. All right. Let's move onto the next animal,
9 number 13.

10 A. This one was a one year old female. Her body
11 condition was a four and a half out of a nine.

12 THE DEFENDANT: Excuse me.

13 THE COURT: Yes, sir?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Excuse me, may I ask a
15 question?

16 THE COURT: Well, you'll get your chance in a
17 minute of course. We're still on the Commonwealth's
18 side.

19 THE DEFENDANT: I just wanted to ask is there a
20 reason why they're not showing pictures of every dog as
21 they're mentioning the dogs; that infestation, the harm?

22 THE COURT: Well, they're putting on their
23 testimony how they see fit. I'm sure you'll do the same.

24 THE DEFENDANT: All right. I just wanted to
25 ask if they're able to prove any of this.

1 THE WITNESS: She had the flea infestation as
2 well as being underweight and she was one of the
3 unsocialized and not wanting human contact.

4 BY MS. HARRIS:

5 Q. Moving on to the next.

6 A. A five year old female, Border Collie. This
7 one, the body condition was a four out of a nine. It had
8 the dental disease with being underweight and having the
9 tick infestation.

10 Q. And since this is the first time we've kind of
11 encountered dental disease, I know we talked a bunch
12 about general things, how can dental disease affect an
13 animal?

14 A. Dental disease, if it goes untreated, obviously
15 can lead to teeth pain. It can lead to heart disease
16 because of the infection of the teeth getting into the
17 bloodstream and going untreated. So that leads to heart
18 disease. It can lead to the dog going septic because of
19 the infection that comes from the teeth.

20 Q. And is dental disease something that you can
21 take care of at home or is it something that needs vet
22 care?

23 A. It definitely needs vet care to have the teeth
24 cleaned and follow up with any infections that come to
25 the teeth.

1 Q. All right. Animal 15.

2 A. Fifteen was a four year old male Border Collie
3 mix. He was a four and a half out of a nine body scale.
4 He had fleas and ticks present. This was one of the dogs
5 that we noticed you have a heart murmur. That is still
6 to be determined whether it is coming from a possible
7 disease of heartworms or if it was because of another
8 medical issue of the dog having the heart murmur.

9 Q. So there is follow up care needed for that
10 specific animal.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. All right. Now let's talk about animal number
13 16.

14 A. Sixteen was a four year old female Border
15 Collie. Her body condition was a four out of a nine.
16 This one specific dog had the right hind limb previously
17 fractured and it had a pin placed in it from whatever vet
18 care had done the procedure. It never had the pin
19 removed. We noted the pain scale of this dog to be a two
20 and a half to a three out of a four. She was
21 underweight, had the tick infestation. And then we had
22 to follow up with vet care because of the leg having the
23 fracture and the pin in it. And we had to amputate it
24 because the leg had severe infection from this issue.

25 Q. And when an animal has surgery, having a pin

1 placed in it, what is the proper follow up care for that?

2 A. So depending on the type of pin that was
3 placed, there is some pins that the dog keeps in for the
4 life of the pet or there are some that they place
5 temporarily that you have to follow up, later once it
6 heals, to have the pin removed once the bone heals back
7 to itself. In this case, the pin was never removed after
8 it healed properly or was supposed to heal properly and
9 formed that leg to stay in a bent section because of it
10 not being removed.

11 Q. And this led to the amputation of the animal's
12 leg?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. All right. Let's move on to number 17.

15 A. Seventeen was a two year old female Border
16 Collie. Her body condition was a four and a half out of
17 a nine. She had mild tartar on her teeth. Nothing too
18 severe. She did have the flea and tick infestation along
19 with obviously no human contact.

20 Q. All right. Animal 18?

21 A. Eighteen was a three year old female Jack
22 Russell mix. The body condition of this was a five out
23 of a nine. She had the dental disease, unsocial from
24 human contact, and the flea and tick issues.

25 Q. Animal 19?

1 A. Nineteen is going to be a five month old male
2 Jack Russell cross. His body score was a five out of a
3 nine. He was unsocial and having the flea and tick
4 infestation.

5 Q. Onto animal 20.

6 A. Twenty was a five and a half month old female
7 Jack Russell cross. Body condition a five out of nine.
8 Unsocialized, flea and tick infestation.

9 Q. Animal 21?

10 A. Twenty-one was an eight year old female Jack
11 Russell cross. We noted a pain score of a one out of a
12 four. The body condition was a four out of a nine. This
13 one had numerous missing teeth along with (inaudible)
14 present to the left side. We suspected trauma to the
15 side of the face. She was underweight, improperly
16 treated for the trauma that was causing her teeth to line
17 up like they were that was still present and being
18 unsocialized.

19 Q. All right. Animal number 22?

20 A. Twenty-two was an eleven week old male Border
21 Collie. We noted him to be a five out of nine body score
22 and having the distended abdomen and the fleas and ticks
23 being present.

24 Q. And the distended abdomen was what you talked
25 about earlier with roundworm?

1 Q. Okay. Talk about animal number 23.

2 A. Twenty-three was a three month old male Jack
3 Russell cross. He was a five out of a nine being
4 unsocialized, very anxious with us, and having the fleas
5 and ticks present.

6 Q. Animal 24?

7 A. This one was very -- it had fear -- aggression
8 towards us. We noted some lameness with the left hind
9 leg with not wanting to walk or stand on that limb. She
10 had a pain score of a two out of four. Her body
11 condition was a five out of a nine. Having the fleas and
12 ticks. Not wanting us to mess with that left hind leg to
13 find out where the pain was coming from in that leg.

14 Q. So just the way the animal reacted was
15 remarkable in this case?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Animal number 25?

18 A. This one was a one year old male Jack Russell
19 cross. The body condition on this one was a two out of a
20 nine. This one was the most underweight one that we had
21 seen on the property. It had the flea and tick
22 infestation along with being unsocialized and fearing
23 human contact.

24 Q. All right. Number 26?

25 A. This one was a one year old female Jack Russell

1 cross. The body condition was a four out of a nine.
2 Having the fear, aggression, the flea and tick
3 infestation and being underweight.

4 Q. And for this one, did she have any physical
5 reaction to being kind of evaluated?

6 A. Yes. So this one, she did not want us having
7 any contact with her. She even went into, we call it,
8 flight mode. She defecated and urinated all over the
9 place. Her anal glands expressed just because of us even
10 trying to have contact with her.

11 Q. All right. Number 27?

12 A. Twenty-seven was a three and a half year old
13 male Jack Russell cross. The body condition on this one
14 was a three out of a nine. Being unsocial, having the
15 fleas and ticks present, and being underweight.

16 Q. All right. Animal number 28?

17 A. Twenty-eight was a two year old female Jack
18 Russell cross. She had a body score of a four out of a
19 nine. We noticed severe, severe pain. Which her pain
20 score was a three out of a four because of the left eye
21 had a cornea ulcer. Meaning the eye had an ulcer. So
22 thinking of like a scratch on your own eye causing
23 discomfort to it, having heavy discharge from it, and not
24 wanting us to evaluate the eye more. We noted this one
25 possibly being pregnant just because of the way she

1 looked and having the fleas and ticks present and not
2 being socialized.

3 Q. All right. Animal 29, that looks like to be
4 our first cat.

5 A. This one is going to be a three year old female
6 domestic short tail. The body condition on this was a
7 five out of a nine. There was a flea infestation along
8 with an upper respiratory issue from this cat.

9 Q. And the upper respiratory issues, were those
10 prevalent in the cats here?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And what does an upper respiratory issue
13 entail?

14 A. It's going to be discharge from the eyes,
15 snotty nose, sneezing, things like that.

16 Q. Is that something that needs to be treated by
17 medication in order to get it --

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And is that contagious?

20 A. It is. It can spread to the other cats.

21 Q. Okay. And is that something that we suspect
22 happened here?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. All right. Animal 30?

25 A. This should be three little kittens. It's

1 going to be 30, 31, and 32. In 30, the body condition
2 was a two and a half out of a nine. There was one eye
3 that the globe, which is the eye itself, had ruptured
4 which came from an untreated eye infection; likely
5 secondary to feline herpes virus. It was very
6 dehydrated, having the flea infestation, and being
7 underweight.

8 Q. Is the feline herpes viral infection something
9 that needs to be treated by a vet?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And is it contagious?

12 A. It's very contagious, yes.

13 Q. All right. And then kitten 31?

14 A. It's body score was a three out of a nine.
15 That one also had an upper respiratory infection along
16 with the flea issue, being dehydrated, and being
17 underweight.

18 Q. And then finally in this little bunch, animal
19 number 32, which was a kitten as well.

20 A. Yeah, 32 was roughly a seven week old male
21 domestic, medium hair. Body condition was a three out of
22 a nine. This one also had the globe, which the eye
23 ruptured, which was secondary to possibly the feline
24 herpes infection. The rupture eye going untreated, the
25 flea infestation, being dehydrated, and being

1 underweight.

2 Q. All right. And animal 33?

3 A. Thirty-three and 34 --

4 Q. Let's talk about 33. We'll talk about 34
5 through 36 and 38 in a second.

6 A. Okay. Thirty-three, the body condition, it was
7 a roughly nine week old male tabby domestic shorthair.
8 The body condition was a three out of a nine. The left
9 eye was crusted shut. It was a large amount of discharge
10 that was flushed from the eye. It did appear that the
11 globe itself was intact, but it was still hard to tell.
12 Other respiratory infections, needing the treatment for
13 the eye infection, fleas noted, the dehydration, and
14 being underweight.

15 Q. And did this specific animal have a very
16 challenged physical condition at the time?

17 A. It did.

18 Q. All right. So how many kittens had to be
19 euthanized on site after removal?

20 A. On site after the vet examined, it was four
21 that had to be euthanized.

22 Q. And were those animals 34 through 36 and 38?

23 A. Yes, that's correct.

24 Q. All right. So let's move to animal 37. Animal
25 37 and then we'll move on.

1 A. Thirty-seven was a four week old male flame
2 point Siamese. The body condition we recorded as a two
3 out of nine. It had the upper respiratory infection
4 along with the eye infection, being dehydrated, being
5 severely underweight. The eyes itself was crusted shut,
6 having the yellow discharge, and it was unable to
7 evaluate if the cornea was still intact or if there was
8 more eye issues present.

9 Q. Let's go to animal 39.

10 A. Thirty-nine was a four week old tabby domestic
11 short hair. Its body condition was a two and a half out
12 of a nine. Both the eyes on this one was crusted shut,
13 multiple yellow discharge, unable to evaluate if the
14 globe itself was still intact, being dehydrated,
15 underweight and having the fleas present as well.

16 Q. Animal 40?

17 A. Forty was a one and a half year old female
18 domestic medium hair cat. The body condition on this one
19 was a three out of a nine. We noted a pain score to be a
20 one and a half out of a four because of the severe eye
21 discharge of this one eye; the one side of the eye. It
22 was hard to determine if the eye was even intact because
23 of the damage that was appearing to be there. It had the
24 upper respiratory infection, being underweight, being
25 dehydrated, and the infestation.

1 Q. All right. Animal 41?

2 A. Forty-one was a two year old female tabby. The
3 body condition was a two out of a nine. The pain scale
4 that we noted on this cat was a three out of a four.
5 This cat had multiple missing teeth, severe discomfort in
6 its teeth that was present as just if you was to go over
7 the gum where the teeth was at. It had the upper
8 respiratory infection along with being underweight.

9 Q. And animal 42?

10 A. That was the dog that I seized before the
11 search warrant.

12 Q. Okay. Are these the two animals that were
13 seized before the search warrant?

14 A. Yes, these two dogs I seized from being inside
15 a vehicle that was on location that they appeared to be
16 living in. There was no food, no water. There was feces
17 everywhere. When I checked the temperature from my
18 temperature meter from the glass of the vehicle, the
19 temperature inside the vehicle was 89.6 degrees. And I
20 seized these two animals right on the spot.

21 Q. Okay. So let's talk about animal 42; that male
22 dog's condition.

23 A. So this dog was roughly between two to five
24 years of age. It did have some dental disease along with
25 tooth fractures, very, very dark debris in the ears,

1 which leads to the ear infections that we were treating.
2 It had abrasion on the lower eyelid, causing the eye
3 discharge along with the flea infestation.

4 Q. And then the final animal, the final dog or
5 cat. We'll talk about the ducks here in a moment.

6 A. This one was a black and white female Beagle
7 cross. It also had the ear infection. It was very, very
8 aggressive with us trying to handle it. It kept on
9 trying to bite us. It had abrasions and wounds located
10 on the head and ear coming from bite wounds. So whether
11 it was another pet or dog biting this one. It had the
12 flea infestation and then treating the ear infection that
13 this one had.

14 Q. All right. And finally we have six ducks that
15 were seized that day. Tell the Court a little bit about
16 those animals.

17 A. So these ducks, they were white, a little
18 unresponsive. All of the ducks were underweight. The
19 body condition was a three out of a nine for all of them.
20 They lacked the breast muscle on each and every one of
21 these. They were very thin to be ducks.

22 Q. All right. And are those all of the animals
23 that are at issue here today?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Okay. So after seizing these animals, I'm

1 sorry, so, some of these animals obviously need that
2 follow up care. What follow up care generally will be
3 needed for these animals?

4 A. For the animals, the follow up care is the
5 deworming care. Some of them is probably going to need
6 eye removals because of the disability of the eye
7 treatment going untreated because of the eye infections.
8 They are going to need the follow up to check for Lyme
9 disease because of the multiple Collies that were covered
10 in ticks to make sure that none of them have the Lyme
11 disease, the Rocky Mount fever. The one that had the
12 heart murmur, we need to follow up and make sure it is
13 not some other health issue concerning, if it's hormones
14 that's causing it, or any other medical issue that's
15 causing the heart murmur.

16 Q. Right. Did you fill out the proper seizure
17 paperwork required under code in this case?

18 A. I did, yes, ma'am.

19 Q. And who did you serve that paperwork to?

20 A. I served the paperwork to Mr. Lentz, himself,
21 at Middle River.

22 Q. And did you file that necessary paperwork back
23 with the court?

24 A. I did, yes, ma'am.

25 MS. HARRIS: All right. Your Honor, at this

1 time, I don't have any other questions for Officer
2 Wilkins.

3 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Lentz, this is your
4 opportunity to ask her questions about her testimony, if
5 you'd like to.

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I'd like to.

7 THE COURT: All right. When you're ready.

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION

9 BY THE DEFENDANT:

10 Q. Okay. Just trying to get this together here.
11 Just a simple question first. Because I have very
12 limited access to the court, I have no copy of the
13 authenticated certified copy of the case file. Did you
14 get that motion notice I put in today?

15 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, that's not a question
16 for Officer Wilkins. I believe that's part of his case.
17 He needs to ask her questions and then he can -- it's
18 also irrelevant.

19 THE COURT: Right. So this is the time for you
20 to ask questions of the officer if you have them. As I
21 said, we'll get to your part of the case when we're done
22 with the Commonwealth.

23 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. What is her job? Who
24 does she work for?

25 THE COURT: Well, of course, you can ask her

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1 directly.

2 BY THE DEFENDANT:

3 Q. Who do you work for?

4 A. I work for the Augusta County Animal Control.

5 Q. Is that through the sheriff's department or is
6 that an independent organization?

7 A. We are an independent organization with the
8 county.

9 Q. Okay. Are you authorized to speak on behalf of
10 your organization?

11 A. I am.

12 Q. Are you permitted to give interviews with
13 newspaper reporters?

14 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. That's
15 irrelevant.

16 THE COURT: That didn't come up in direct exam.
17 So this is the time for you to ask her questions about
18 her testimony, which she's given.

19 THE DEFENDANT: Got it. Okay.

20 BY THE DEFENDANT:

21 Q. Got a question. During your testimony, you
22 said that the dogs had mange last week. Is that true?

23 MS. HARRIS: Objection, Your Honor. There were
24 conditions of the animals that were given. Mange wasn't
25 part of that for these specific animals.

1 THE COURT: That's true. We haven't heard
2 anything about mange today. So questions about her
3 testimony today.

4 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. And will there be any
5 more objections? Because I did not object one time.

6 THE COURT: Yes, there could be a million more,
7 there might be zero more. I have no way of knowing.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. I'd just like the Court
9 take notice I was not allowed to object.

10 THE COURT: When you're ready with questions.

11 BY THE DEFENDANT:

12 Q. Yes, I've got another question for you. On a
13 scale of one to ten, one being the very worst, the worst
14 that you've ever seen in ten years in your service, or
15 ten, overall very healthy, would you rate the dogs in the
16 scale of one to ten, the worst condition you've ever seen
17 dogs in your life in ten years on the force that you gave
18 testimony today or would you say, overall, they're very
19 healthy?

20 A. I would rate it as a two.

21 THE DEFENDANT: As a two. Your Honor, do you
22 have Exhibit A?

23 THE COURT: I have only exhibits that the
24 Commonwealth has presented; numbers one and two.

25 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. That's why I'm saying I

1 have very limited access to the court.

2 BY THE DEFENDANT:

3 Q. Ms. Wilkins, do you know a man named Jon
4 Hilbert?

5 A. I do.

6 Q. You do. And with the doctor who performed the
7 inspection of the dogs on Saturday morning, who's that
8 doctor's name?

9 A. That's going to be a Doctor Callison.

10 Q. How do you spell that name?

11 A. C-A-L-L-S--

12 Q. I'm sorry. I'm locked in here. I need to
13 subpoena that person. Can you spell it correctly,
14 please?

15 A. C-A-L-L-I-S-O-N.

16 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. I'll let the Court take
17 notice that I subpoenaed Jon Hilbert this morning.

18 BY THE DEFENDANT:

19 Q. Okay. Is Jon Hilbert the director of the
20 Shenandoah Valley Animal Services Center?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. What time on Friday or Saturday morning did you
23 finish dropping the dogs off in Verona?

24 A. They were all dropped off Friday evening. We
25 had all the set up done roughly around 11:30 p.m.

1 Q. So just 11:30 p.m., Friday, basically Saturday
2 morning, 30 minutes before Saturday morning?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Okay. And are you aware that Jon Hilbert
5 already made a statement on the condition of the dogs?

6 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes or no. She knows that Jon
8 made a statement or she didn't know that Jon Hilbert made
9 the statement.

10 MS. HARRIS: It's irrelevant at this point.

11 THE COURT: Well, of course, that wasn't
12 testified to in direct.

13 THE DEFENDANT: Jon Hilbert is the man in
14 charge.

15 THE COURT: I'm trying to give you a little
16 leeway because you aren't here in court and you don't
17 have an attorney, but that wasn't testified to in her
18 testimony. This, of course, is time to question her
19 about what she said if you have questions.

20 BY THE DEFENDANT:

21 Q. Okay. In the report from the Doctor Callison,
22 the report that they gave to the newspapers, said,
23 overall, the dogs are very healthy. Were you ever --

24 THE COURT: Do you have a question?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yeah, I'm just asking if she

1 was aware that the people, the veterinarian that
2 inspected the dogs on Saturday, gave a statement that the
3 dogs are very healthy. So on a scale of one to ten, the
4 veterinarian who inspected the dogs gave it a ten.

5 THE COURT: Well, see, now you're testifying.
6 And I know it's a little tricky, but this is the time for
7 questions.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Okay.

9 BY THE DEFENDANT:

10 Q. Do you have any pictures of any of these dogs?

11 A. I have multiple ones, yes.

12 Q. Did you put them before the Court so the Court,
13 judge lady, can see the dogs?

14 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, we presented the
15 photos as we deemed necessary at the time. There were
16 photos of the animals in there, as well as photos of the
17 conditions. So the Court has seen what the Commonwealth
18 --

19 THE COURT: Okay. So the Commonwealth is
20 presenting what evidence they want to present on their
21 case. I don't have a lot of control over how they run
22 their case.

23 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. Well, I'm trying to
24 remember the exact Virginia Supreme Court Rule. I think
25 it's 3(A)11, subsection B, where it says all exculpatory

1 evidence must be presented even if it impeaches their
2 case. So, I'm making a note for the record that even the
3 exculpatory evidence must be provided at the time of the
4 hearing, even if it impeaches their case. And if the
5 Court denies that, I'd like to have the point of law of
6 why you will not allow the exculpatory evidence to be
7 presented at this time so I may properly defend myself.

8 THE COURT: Okay. Well, of course, this isn't
9 a criminal proceeding, so we don't really talk about
10 exculpatory evidence at this point.

11 THE DEFENDANT: If they have exculpatory
12 evidence that would exonerate me, it's their duty to
13 present the case to the court because they have access to
14 the Court, which I do not have access to the court at
15 this time.

16 THE COURT: All right. I've noted that. Other
17 questions?

18 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. Yes, I have other
19 questions.

20 BY THE DEFENDANT:

21 Q. You said since you dropped them off on Saturday
22 morning and the doctor said they were in very good
23 health, how do you explain -- you said there was no food
24 found on the property, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Did you state on Thursday you found deer in a
2 freezer?

3 A. There was a deer located in the freezer,
4 correct.

5 Q. How many freezers did you open that day?

6 A. It was roughly seven.

7 Q. What did you see? Did you see any form of meat
8 in the freezer; frozen meat?

9 A. There were multiple forms of meat, yes.

10 Q. Would you say there was hundreds of pounds of
11 meat?

12 A. It's hard to determine how much was there.

13 Q. But there was at least three or four freezers
14 full of nothing but meat.

15 A. It was meat on the property, correct.

16 Q. How many hundreds of pounds of rice did you
17 find on the farm?

18 A. Rice?

19 Q. Rice. How many 55 gallon drums did you find
20 filled with rice?

21 A. I did not locate anything of what you're
22 speaking of.

23 Q. Did you see a walk-in freezer?

24 A. I did not.

25 Q. A great big huge box sitting in the middle of

1 the driveway, eight feet by eight feet by eight feet,
2 with an open door, did you not go into that open
3 container?

4 A. I did not, no.

5 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. Let the Court know I'll
6 present evidence by receipt form. I'll show proof of
7 receipt that there is at least eight hundred to a
8 thousand pounds of rice in that freezer.

9 BY THE DEFENDANT:

10 Q. How many hundreds of gallons of lard did you
11 find on that property?

12 A. I'm sorry, repeat?

13 Q. How many five gallon tubs of pure pork lard did
14 you find on that property?

15 A. I do not recall coming across any of that.

16 Q. I would will provide proof of receipts for the
17 hundreds of pounds, hundreds of gallons, of lard that
18 I've purchased this year alone to feed the animals. What
19 was their water containers? What kind of water
20 containers did you find?

21 A. There was no water containers anywhere besides
22 a pond area that one of the Collies had in the living
23 environment that it was living in that pond.

24 Q. The pond that you saw, there was only one dog
25 in that area?

1 A. If I recall, correct.

2 THE DEFENDANT: I'm letting the Court take note
3 for record, she mentioned there was a pond. The pond was
4 built as a therapy pond for that dog. She had a broken
5 leg and she was isolated from all the other dogs. So to
6 prevent any further trauma. I could have proof that the
7 pond was just built not too long ago.

8 BY THE DEFENDANT:

9 Q. And you said you gave testimony that the dog
10 had a pin in her leg.

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Is that true? Okay. Do you know how that pin
13 got in that dog's leg?

14 A. I'm assuming a vet.

15 Q. So obviously somebody provided adequate care
16 for a dog after she broke the leg?

17 A. At that time frame.

18 Q. Obviously. Yes or no? Did somebody provide
19 adequate care for the dog when the dog's leg was broken?
20 Yes or no?

21 THE COURT: I mean, she can't know that, Mr.
22 Lentz. She wasn't there. She didn't see it. She can't
23 know that.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Oh, she wasn't there, so she
25 can't know that. Oh, that's nice that you said that.

1 BY THE DEFENDANT:

2 Q. Did you know what the doctor recommended to do
3 with that pin? Do you have the doctor vet report like I
4 do?

5 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. Again, she
6 can't possibly know what was happening then. She can
7 identify what happened now and the care that was needed
8 for this animal as of June 2nd, 2023.

9 THE COURT: Sustained.

10 THE DEFENDANT: I have proof on veterinary
11 record from --

12 THE COURT: Do you have other questions, Mr.
13 Lentz?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I have a question.

15 BY THE DEFENDANT:

16 Q. If you don't know why that pin was in the leg,
17 why did you give testimony to the condition of the pin in
18 the leg? If you didn't know why the pin was in the leg,
19 why did you give testimony to the pin in the leg?

20 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. That's a
21 mis-characterization of what she actually gave testimony
22 to. She gave testimony to the condition of the animal
23 which included an infected leg that actually needed to be
24 removed.

25 THE COURT: Can you clarify your question, Mr.

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1 Lentz?

2 BY THE DEFENDANT:

3 Q. How was the pin put in her leg?

4 THE COURT: Well, remember, she has no idea.
5 She wasn't there. She doesn't know.

6 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. She wasn't there. She
7 doesn't know. But she gave testimony that the pin was
8 supposed to be removed, correct?

9 THE COURT: To whom are you --

10 THE COURT: Correct? I heard her say the pin
11 was supposed to be removed and the pin was not removed.
12 Is that correct?

13 THE COURT: To whom are you directing your
14 question?

15 THE DEFENDANT: To Ms. Wilkins.

16 THE COURT: Okay.

17 THE DEFENDANT: She gave testimony that the pin
18 was supposed to be removed and the pin was not maintained
19 and it was not removed. Is that what she said?

20 BY THE DEFENDANT:

21 Q. Is that what you said, Ms. Wilkins?

22 A. That is what I said, yes.

23 Q. Good. Okay. So you testified that there was
24 no food at the location?

25 A. In the presence of the dogs, it was not. Or

1 cats.

2 Q. Okay. Let me ask another question about the
3 dogs then. Since I have limited access to the court, I'm
4 going to have to require that I have the ability to
5 present the photographs that these folks have from the
6 veterinarian to the Court so I can present my case. I'm
7 trying to think of everything I can ask this lady about
8 the dogs because, other than that, they said the dogs are
9 overall in healthy condition. The cats, do you know the
10 difference between a barn cat, feral cat, community cat
11 and domestic companion animal?

12 A. I do.

13 Q. Would you say that those were house cats that
14 you found?

15 A. I would not classify as completely house cats,
16 no.

17 Q. So they were not house cats?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. They were considered feral. You saw them
20 walking around the driveway when you first pulled up?

21 A. They were enclosed in behind the fence area.

22 Q. They could not escape that area. They couldn't
23 jump over, crawl under, they couldn't get back to the
24 barn if that's what they wished?

25 A. I'm assuming, if they wanted to, they probably

1 could.

2 Q. They were basically barn cats?

3 A. They were running free cats besides the ones
4 that were shut up in buildings.

5 Q. You mentioned the cats and are you saying that
6 they are my cats?

7 A. They were in your care on the property. So it
8 makes you the caregiver of these animals.

9 Q. So are you aware that the man working there
10 filed an affidavit this morning saying he's a hundred
11 percent liable for the custody and care of those barn
12 cats?

13 A. I do not know anything when it comes to that.

14 Q. Okay. Do you know I'm massively allergic to
15 cats and I carry an epi-pen in case I get in contact with
16 cats?

17 A. I do not.

18 Q. Did you ever see me with a cat? Did you ever
19 see me touch a cat?

20 A. No.

21 Q. You ever have a first hand witness that ever
22 saw me go near a cat?

23 A. I do not.

24 Q. You said that the condition of the feral
25 animals, the barn cats, were severely neglected. You

1 were saying most of them?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. Okay. What was the other condition of the
4 feral animals? What was the condition of the squirrels?

5 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. That's
6 irrelevant. We're here about dogs, cats, and ducks.

7 THE COURT: The squirrels weren't seized, so we
8 try to stick with the animals that were seized.

9 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. That's fine.

10 BY THE DEFENDANT:

11 Q. And you said that, again with the cats, did you
12 see any source of food for the cats?

13 A. I did not, no.

14 Q. I'll have the Court take notice -- I'm going to
15 bring receipts for hundreds of pounds of food for the
16 cats. But you did not see any bags of cat food anywhere?

17 A. Not that they had access to.

18 Q. Okay. That's fine. Then that's the cats. The
19 dogs. The dogs were in very well condition. The ducks,
20 you say the ducks were, on a scale of one to ten, was a
21 two? They were grossly underweight?

22 A. They were a three out of a nine. All of them
23 were severely underweight.

24 Q. How heavy were the ducks?

25 A. There was no weight that we noted on these, but

1 the lack of breast muscle, it was very easy to find that
2 because they had none.

3 Q. If the ducks were skin and bones, would you
4 have weighed them?

5 A. There was no need to weigh them.

6 Q. But you're testifying they were underweight.
7 How much underweight? By how many pounds were they
8 underweight?

9 A. There was no need to go by weight. You go off
10 of a body scale of what you feel.

11 Q. You filed an arrest, a felony arrest, for
12 mutilating, maiming, torturing animals. And you don't
13 think there's a need to weigh the animals?

14 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. We're not
15 here about the outstanding charges. We're just here
16 about the conditions of the animals and whether or not
17 they had adequate care, were abandoned, or cruelly
18 treated.

19 THE COURT: Right. Today is just about the
20 seizure part of the case. The criminal cases, of course,
21 are set later on.

22 BY THE DEFENDANT:

23 Q. Did you take any photographs of the ducks?

24 A. I did.

25 Q. And are they presented as evidence at this

1 time? Are they going to be presented as evidence at this
2 time or do you wish to withhold exculpatory evidence?

3 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, we did actually submit
4 a photo of where the ducks were found. It's kind of a
5 grainy photo, but there are ducks that are there. I can
6 also present -- we don't have to present that, but we did
7 present one to the Court.

8 THE COURT: They evidently have provided all
9 the photos they intend to provide at the moment, Mr.
10 Lentz.

11 THE DEFENDANT: Of course you don't have to
12 provide photos. That makes sense.

13 BY THE DEFENDANT:

14 Q. Are those free range ducks or are those ducks
15 kept in captivity? Are they free range ducks? Do you
16 know? Yes or no? Are they free range ducks? Were they
17 by their pond?

18 A. I do not know.

19 Q. Were they by their pond that we built recently?
20 Did you find them by their pond that we built recently?

21 A. I did not find them, no.

22 Q. Okay. You found another location and you don't
23 know how much the ducks weigh?

24 A. We did not weigh them, no. You do not go off
25 of weight. It's how you feel the body condition and how

1 you can feel the muscle tone in the breast when it comes
2 to ducks.

3 Q. And you're an expert in duckology or duck
4 field?

5 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Of course, sustained.

7 BY THE DEFENDANT:

8 Q. Do you have a certificate to practice medicine
9 on ducks?

10 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. We've
11 already qualified her as an expert in triage and triage
12 for veterinary care, so we have established her
13 qualifications to give these descriptions at the time.

14 THE COURT: She's not a veterinarian. We did
15 cover that earlier.

16 THE DEFENDANT: If she's not a veterinarian,
17 how can you give medical opinions on something that
18 you're not certified by the Commonwealth to give
19 testimony on behalf of?

20 THE COURT: Okay. So that's an irrelevant
21 question at this point because she's been qualified as an
22 expert. So, again, this is your time to question her
23 about her testimony.

24 BY THE DEFENDANT:

25 Q. Are you an expert in ducks? Yes or no?

1 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. We have
2 qualified her as an expert in the field in which she is
3 qualified as a question for the Court.

4 THE COURT: Sustained.

5 BY THE DEFENDANT:

6 Q. Okay. Do you know what a drake is? Yes or no?
7 Do you know what a drake is? Yes or no?

8 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

9 THE DEFENDANT: Do you know what a - she's
10 saying --

11 THE COURT: Mr. Lentz, you do not get to shout
12 at the witness, yes or no, without giving her a chance or
13 the Commonwealth to object. They have made an objection.
14 I didn't happen to hear what it was, but.

15 MS. HARRIS: Objection. Based on the form of
16 the question, it's outside the scope.

17 THE COURT: Okay. We don't talk about drakes,
18 Mr. Lentz. We're not talking about drakes.

19 THE DEFENDANT: She says she seized drakes.
20 Does she know what a drake is, yes or no?

21 THE COURT: Well, forgive me. I did not hear
22 her say that.

23 THE DEFENDANT: She said she seized drakes.
24 Does she know what a drake is, yes or no?

25 THE WITNESS: I do know what a drake is, but I

1 said that we seized ducks, not a drake.

2 BY THE DEFENDANT:

3 Q. You did not seize any drakes? Did you seize
4 any drakes?

5 THE COURT: She did not say she seized any
6 drakes.

7 THE WITNESS: I seized ducks.

8 BY THE DEFENDANT:

9 Q. You did not seize a drake? Yes or no?

10 MS. HARRIS: Objection.

11 THE DEFENDANT: Did she seize a drake, yes or
12 no?

13 THE COURT: Do you know if any of the ducks you
14 seized were drakes?

15 THE WITNESS: I think there was one of them
16 that was.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 THE DEFENDANT: Obviously she has no idea what
19 a drake is.

20 BY THE DEFENDANT:

21 Q. Ma'am, what is a drake?

22 THE COURT: Mr. Lentz, of course, we're not
23 going there, right? You don't get to grill her on things
24 she did not testify about.

25 THE DEFENDANT: She testified that she took

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1 ducks.

2 THE COURT: Correct.

3 THE DEFENDANT: I'm asking her what kind of
4 ducks did she take.

5 BY THE DEFENDANT:

6 Q. What kind of ducks did you take, ma'am? What
7 type are they?

8 THE COURT: She thinks she took one drake.

9 BY THE DEFENDANT:

10 Q. Okay, ma'am, what type of ducks are they? What
11 species? She's a duck expert. What type of ducks?

12 THE COURT: If you don't know, you don't know.

13 BY THE DEFENDANT:

14 Q. Do you know what species of ducks you took and
15 you seized, duck expert?

16 A. There were some mallards and pelicans.

17 Q. Is that what you believe?

18 A. I do.

19 Q. Okay. That's your sworn testimony, correct?

20 THE COURT: That's right. That's her sworn
21 testimony.

22 THE DEPONENT: I'm just establishing she's a
23 duck expert, that's all. I'm helping her establish that
24 fact.

25 BY THE DEFENDANT:

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1 Q. Now, if you go back to the dogs. Okay. What,
2 in your opinion again, dog had mange?

3 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Lentz, we've already ruled on
5 that. Mange has never come up today. Questions about
6 her testimony?

7 BY THE DEFENDANT:

8 Q. Okay. You said the dogs were covered with
9 ticks.

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Yes or no?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Where were the kicks located?

14 A. All over the bodies of these animals.

15 Q. And you have photos of that?

16 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, again, if he has
17 photos, he can introduce them.

18 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I don't have photos. On
19 June 2nd, I was in jail. I was not there at the
20 inspection on Saturday on June 3rd.

21 BY THE DEFENDANT:

22 Q. Do you have pictures of the dogs being covered
23 in ticks all over their body as you just swore in open
24 testimony that you would tell the truth? Do you or do
25 you not have photos on the bodies of these dogs being

1 infested with ticks? Yes or no?

2 THE COURT: I think that's a fair question. If
3 she wants to answer it, please do.

4 THE WITNESS: Through all the photos that I
5 have, I would have to look through here to make sure, but
6 I think that we have one that shows the proof of some of
7 the ticks on the dog's faces.

8 BY THE DEFENDANT:

9 Q. Is there some reason why you will not submit
10 the photos of massive tick infestations? Are you trying
11 to help me win my case against the Commonwealth?

12 THE COURT: Mr. Lentz, she is a witness. She
13 has no control over what her attorney puts into evidence,
14 so she doesn't know the answer to that.

15 BY THE DEFENDANT:

16 Q. Okay. Have you seen photos of the dogs covered
17 massively on their bodies with ticks?

18 A. Besides the photos that I have and then being
19 there present with the dogs and having to pull the ticks
20 off of some of them.

21 Q. Have you in your possession photos of the dogs
22 being covered with ticks?

23 THE COURT: She said she thought she had one.

24 BY THE DEFENDANT:

25 Q. Okay. She thought she had one out of how many

1 dogs, ma'am?

2 A. I would have to go back to the photos.

3 Q. Okay. And you said you had pictures of one dog
4 that had ticks.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I'd like the Court to take note
6 for the record that that's what she testified under oath
7 that she has a photo. She has at least one photo of one
8 dog that's massively covered with ticks.

9 THE COURT: She thought she did, yes. I got
10 it.

11 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

12 BY THE DEFENDANT:

13 Q. Now, you said on your testimony the dogs were
14 massively covered with fleas on their body. Is that
15 true?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Do you have any photos of mass flea infestation
18 photos of these dogs?

19 A. No, none of that was noted, besides what the
20 vet noted on the record.

21 Q. Is there some reason why you would try to
22 protect me and not take photos of massive infestation of
23 fleas?

24 THE COURT: That's not an appropriate question
25 for cross exam, Mr. Lentz. Move on.

1 BY THE DEFENDANT:

2 Q. Are you trying to protect me, ma'am, from
3 prosecution?

4 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

5 THE DEFENDANT: How is that to be objected?
6 I'm asking her why is she not presenting massive photos
7 of ticks and flea infestations? Why is she protecting
8 me?

9 THE COURT: Again, she has no control over what
10 her attorney wants to present into evidence, so that's
11 not in her wheelhouse.

12 BY THE DEFENDANT:

13 Q. Ma'am, have you taken photographs of massive
14 tick and flea infestation on these dogs?

15 A. I have not.

16 Q. Do you know anybody who has taken photographs
17 of massive flea and tick infestations on these dogs?

18 A. I do not know the answer to that.

19 Q. Do you know anybody who has a photograph where
20 the dogs were massively infested with ticks? Does
21 anybody have a photograph that you're aware of that we
22 could bring to court?

23 A. Not that I can recall.

24 Q. Would you say the dogs have mange? Yes or no?
25 I just want to know.

1 MS. HARRIS: I renew my rejection, your Honor.

2 THE COURT: I mean, I think it's a fair
3 question if he wants to pile on.

4 BY THE DEFENDANT:

5 Q. Did the dogs have mange?

6 A. It's hard to determine that without a vet
7 checking it to see if they did.

8 Q. Are you a vet?

9 THE COURT: We just established that she's not.

10 BY THE DEFENDANT:

11 Q. Okay. So you're saying we're going to get a
12 vet. Okay, that's fine. Is there a veterinary report
13 that was filed that you were aware of that was filed on
14 Saturday morning? Were you there Saturday morning when
15 the vet was there?

16 A. I was.

17 Q. And you said it was Doctor Callison?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Did she take photos of the dogs?

20 A. She did not. Everything, we took together.

21 Q. So the only proof that you have so far is your
22 written statements? Yes or no?

23 A. Proof as to what?

24 Q. That you're submitting to the Court. The only
25 thing you're submitting to the Court is your written

1 statements? You have no photos you're presenting to the
2 Court?

3 THE COURT: Again, she's not in control of what
4 photos get submitted.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I'm asking her that. I'm
6 asking has she submitted any photos that she took to the
7 Court?

8 THE COURT: We don't let witnesses just submit
9 photos, so my answer to you is the same. She's not in
10 charge of that.

11 BY THE DEFENDANT:

12 Q. Did she personally take a photo with her camera
13 or the county's camera?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. You have photos on your camera? Let me ask you
16 first. Do you have photos on your personal camera?

17 A. I do.

18 Q. Why?

19 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. It's
20 outside of the scope.

21 THE COURT: It's way outside the scope of
22 direct and it's irrelevant.

23 THE DEFENDANT: No, it's very relevant.

24 BY THE DEFENDANT:

25 Q. Were you acting on duty? Were you acting as an
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1 officer at the time you took those photos?

2 A. I was.

3 THE DEFENDANT: I'm letting the Court know for
4 the record I'm going to request a FOIA request of
5 everything that was on her camera at that time to be
6 presented to me. I'm just letting the Court take notice
7 that she was an officer of law at the time the photos
8 were taken and I'm going to have to have access to her
9 phone.

10 BY THE DEFENDANT:

11 Q. Did you have access to any kind of government
12 camera equipment?

13 A. That is what everything was taken on.

14 Q. So it's not your personal phone. It was the
15 county's recording device?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. So you misspoke about saying it was your
18 personal phone? So it's not your personal phone?

19 A. It's the phone that the county gives me. But
20 all the photographs were taken with the cameras that the
21 county gives me to take things with.

22 THE DEFENDANT: I'll have the Judge take notice
23 that she changed the testimony. She said it was her
24 personal camera. Now she's changing the testimony.

25 THE COURT: What other questions might you

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1 have?

2 THE DEFENDANT: I'll have the Court take notice
3 that I'd like to have that she obviously is trying to
4 keep me from being able to get copies of that photo. I'm
5 going to do a FOIA request on the phone. I'm going to
6 subpoena --

7 THE COURT: Do you have any further questions
8 at this time?

9 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do. I'm not done,
10 ma'am. This is -- hey, ma'am, I'm going to require leave
11 to use the bathroom.

12 THE COURT: We can absolutely take a ten minute
13 break.

14 THE DEFENDANT: That's fantastic.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, ma'am.

17 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken.)

18 THE COURT: All right. So, Mr. Lentz, we had
19 allotted an hour for this case. We've gone quite a lot
20 over that. So we have a new docket starting at one
21 o'clock. So you're welcome to ask all the questions you
22 want of her, but you're burning up your time to say
23 anything you wanted to say.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. So the Court is saying
25 that I have limited access to the court at this time?

1 THE COURT: No, I'm saying that we have another
2 docket starting at one, which we intend to take up then.
3 So you're welcome to ask whatever questions you want, but
4 it's about 25 minutes to one.

5 THE DEFENDANT: So then we'll stay the
6 proceedings because it's going to take me a lot longer
7 than 25 minutes to present my case. If you'd like to
8 stay the proceedings for another day, that would be fine.

9 THE COURT: So do you have other questions for
10 her?

11 THE DEFENDANT: I have a lot more questions for
12 her, yes, ma'am. And I still have to present my case, my
13 evidence, my witnesses, my subpoena, yes. It's going to
14 take a lot, ma'am. This is my life. This is my life in
15 jeopardy. My life has been threatened many times in jail
16 because this woman has made statements that I've killed
17 and maimed and wounded dogs. I've been threatened here,
18 ma'am. I was on a phone call next to another man who
19 said his mom told him to punch me in the face if he meets
20 me. Okay, ma'am, this is my life. This isn't a joke.
21 This might be a joke to you people. This ain't a joke to
22 me. I'm going to have to require full access to this
23 court. And I'm also making a motion right now that the
24 phone, the county phone, be seized as evidence so we can
25 establish the true nature of these dogs. Because I have

1 a report from the veterinarian, Jon Hilbert, the man who
2 runs Shenandoah, he runs Shenandoah. He says, overall,
3 the dogs are very healthy. She's saying the dogs are
4 extremely not healthy.

5 THE COURT: It sounds like to me you want to
6 move on to your part of the case. Do I have that
7 correct?

8 THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am. Please do not
9 practice law --

10 THE COURT: Okay. Then now is the time for you
11 to ask questions of this witness if you have more. We
12 are concluding these proceedings as close to one o'clock
13 as we can, so bear that in mind.

14 THE DEFENDANT: If you wish to close these
15 proceedings without me having full access to the court,
16 ma'am, that's what you wish to do. I wish to keep
17 proceeding until I've established my case. If you want
18 me to be limited in my ability to present my evidence,
19 facts, and witnesses, you may -- honestly, ma'am, is this
20 your court? Is this the court --

21 THE COURT: What I need to know is, if you have
22 more questions for her, we need you to start asking them.

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, I do.

24 BY THE DEFENDANT:

25 Q. How many trailers are on that property, ma'am?

1 A. Can you repeat?

2 Q. How many trailers are on that property?

3 A. There were roughly seven or eight trailers.

4 Q. Good guess. Good guess. Seven. Good guess.
5 There are seven. Do you believe I was living in one of
6 those trailers?

7 A. I do not know.

8 Q. Do you think I was living in one of those
9 trailers?

10 THE COURT: She doesn't know, Mr. Lentz.

11 BY THE DEFENDANT:

12 Q. Okay. So if you don't know, did you show
13 pictures of all the trailers?

14 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: We've covered the picture issue,
16 Mr. Lentz.

17 BY THE DEFENDANT:

18 Q. What condition was the trailer that you found
19 the white dog with the broken leg in? Do you remember
20 the condition of that trailer?

21 A. That dog was not even in a trailer. It was in
22 a fenced in area with the little pond that was in the
23 back beside of it. That one was not even in a trailer.

24 Q. Did you find her sleeping mat? Did you find
25 where she sleeps?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Okay. Did she have access to a trailer?

3 A. I do not know.

4 Q. Did she have access to a shelter?

5 A. It appeared to be makeshift shelter, yes, but
6 not adequate care shelter.

7 Q. What did the shelter look like?

8 A. I do not recall.

9 Q. But you said you saw a shelter that was
10 makeshift. So you gave a pretty good description. You
11 don't remember now what the makeshift shelter looked
12 like?

13 A. I would have to look back on the photos because
14 of all the things that were on that property.

15 Q. You said the grass was extremely high?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. What kind of grass is it?

18 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, relevance.

19 THE COURT: How is that relevant, Mr. Lentz?

20 THE DEFENDANT: It's extremely relevant. It's
21 cereal rye.

22 BY THE DEFENDANT:

23 Q. Do you know why cereal rye is very relevant
24 around dogs?

25 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. He's now

1 testifying.

2 THE DEFENDANT: She's an expert.

3 THE COURT: You need to tell us the relevance
4 of what type of grass.

5 THE DEFENDANT: If I give the answer, ma'am,
6 what's the point?

7 THE COURT: All right. That's sustained.

8 BY THE DEFENDANT:

9 Q. Why would somebody who takes care of dogs plant
10 cereal rye? Do you know why they would do it?

11 A. I do not know nothing about grass.

12 Q. Okay. That's called cereal rye.

13 THE COURT: Mr. Lentz, this is your time for
14 questions.

15 BY THE DEFENDANT:

16 Q. But you did testify that, at certain places,
17 that grass was high.

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. Would there be a benefit of having the grass be
20 high for dogs?

21 A. No. That's where ticks and things like to
22 live.

23 Q. Is cereal rye a grass preventative of ticks and
24 rye?

25 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Lentz, she said she doesn't
2 know anything about grass, so she doesn't know.

3 BY THE DEFENDANT:

4 Q. So you wouldn't know that cereal grass protects
5 dogs from ticks and fleas? It's a deterrent?

6 THE COURT: Same thing, Mr. Lentz. She said
7 she doesn't know anything about grass.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. But she testified that
9 grass produces ticks and fleas, correct?

10 BY THE DEFENDANT:

11 Q. All grass or just some grass?

12 A. Obviously ticks are found in tall grass most of
13 the time.

14 Q. Are ticks found any place else, ma'am? Are
15 ticks found anyplace else?

16 A. I do not know.

17 Q. So ticks are only found on grass to the best of
18 your knowledge?

19 THE COURT: Mr. Lentz, she said she didn't
20 know.

21 THE DEFENDANT: And I just asked her a simple
22 question. Is there any other things that she knows that
23 ticks or fleas can be found on?

24 THE COURT: She said she didn't know.

25 BY THE DEFENDANT:

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1 Q. Where would you find fleas, ma'am? Where did
2 the fleas come from, ma'am?

3 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, calls for
4 speculation.

5 THE COURT: Right. She can't know where the
6 fleas came from.

7 BY THE DEFENDANT:

8 Q. Okay. Are you aware that there's multiple
9 people claiming that that's not my dogs?

10 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. The
11 ownership of the dogs is irrelevant here. It's the
12 custodial relationship that we have established.
13 Therefore, that question is irrelevant.

14 THE COURT: Sustained.

15 BY THE DEFENDANT:

16 Q. Am I the only one who's custodian of those
17 dogs?

18 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. I renew my
19 objection.

20 THE COURT: I'll allow that question if she
21 knows the answer.

22 THE WITNESS: Can you repeat your question?

23 BY THE DEFENDANT:

24 Q. Am I the only owner of those dogs?

25 A. That we know of, correct.

1 Q. Nobody has come forth that you're aware of at
2 this time to lay claim for their dogs?

3 A. No one has contacted us regarding that they
4 were owners of any of these animals.

5 Q. So you would say that those dogs are my
6 property?

7 A. I would.

8 Q. And would any other man come forth and say that
9 it's their property?

10 A. I'm sorry? Repeat?

11 Q. So, you're saying all those dogs are my
12 property?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And you speak on behalf of -- what's your
15 department again, ma'am, for the record?

16 A. Augusta County Animal Control.

17 Q. Do you get paid by the Commonwealth of
18 Virginia?

19 A. I think so.

20 Q. Are you indemnified through risk management in
21 Richmond?

22 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, irrelevant.

23 THE COURT: Sustained.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Sustained means like --

25 THE COURT: We're not answering that question.

1 BY THE DEFENDANT:

2 Q. If you cause harm, ma'am, are you personally
3 responsible?

4 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, irrelevant.

5 THE COURT: Sustained.

6 BY THE DEFENDANT:

7 Q. Okay. So do you know if the agency you work
8 for -- again, can you state for the record who you work
9 for?

10 THE COURT: Asked and answered. Move on, Mr.
11 Lentz.

12 BY THE DEFENDANT:

13 Q. I don't want to say it incorrectly. I think
14 it's Augusta County Animal Services. Who do you work for
15 again?

16 A. Animal Control.

17 Q. Okay, we'll just say Animal Control. Good. We
18 work for Animal Control. Does Animal Control own those
19 dogs? Yes or no?

20 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. That's
21 what we're determining.

22 THE COURT: That's what we're determining here
23 today, Mr. Lentz.

24 THE DEFENDANT: That's why it's very relevant
25 to establish whose property is that. Is that my property

1 or is it Animal Control's property?

2 THE COURT: We haven't yet made that
3 determination.

4 BY THE DEFENDANT:

5 Q. Okay. I asked a simple question. Are the dogs
6 the property of Animal Control; as of this moment?

7 A. They are in our care as of this moment until
8 this case is final.

9 Q. Correct. So it's a simple yes or no. Are the
10 dogs the property of Animal Control?

11 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, asked and
12 answered.

13 THE COURT: It is asked and answered, Mr.
14 Lentz.

15 THE DEFENDANT: At this moment, is the dogs the
16 property of animal control? Yes or no.

17 THE COURT: It's a no. We haven't made that
18 determination.

19 BY THE DEFENDANT:

20 Q. Okay. Did I relinquish my property to Animal
21 Control voluntarily?

22 A. They were seized, so no.

23 Q. Okay. Were they seized by the use of force?

24 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Lentz, the fact is they were

1 seized.

2 THE DEFENDANT: They were seized. Were they
3 seized voluntarily?

4 THE COURT: She said no.

5 THE DEFENDANT: Okay, ma'am, I'm just
6 establishing a record that there was a taking and
7 carrying off of a man's property without his consent.
8 That's all I'm trying to establish. Okay? Very simple
9 precedent. I'm trying to set something for the record
10 that I did not agree to any of this.

11 BY THE DEFENDANT:

12 Q. You said you entered -- why did you come -- who
13 was the first Animal Control -- who's the first person to
14 step onto that land?

15 A. I do not recall.

16 Q. Do you know what -- you stepped on that land.
17 Do you know if it's zoned for agriculture?

18 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, irrelevant.

19 THE COURT: Sustained.

20 BY THE DEFENDANT:

21 Q. Did you step onto a farm?

22 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, irrelevant.
23 It's not where she stepped. It's that she went pursuant
24 to code, the search warrant, and retrieved animals.

25 We're here to talk about the animal conditions, not what

1 the type of property was there.

2 THE COURT: Sustained.

3 BY THE DEFENDANT:

4 Q. You said that you entered the property based
5 upon a complaint.

6 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, outside the
7 scope and mis-characterization of evidence.

8 THE COURT: Nobody has mentioned that today,
9 Mr. Lentz. Questions about her testimony today.

10 BY THE DEFENDANT:

11 Q. Did you mention there was two dogs in a car?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Do you know why they were in that car?

14 A. I do not.

15 Q. Do you believe they were being tortured?

16 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: Your Honor, that calls for
18 speculation.

19 THE DEFENDANT: She's an expert. Was the dogs
20 being tortured in that car?

21 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. That goes
22 to the issue at hand.

23 THE COURT: Well, I mean, she can't know what
24 happened before she arrived. She didn't testify they
25 were being tortured. She was there and took them.

1 BY THE DEFENDANT:

2 Q. Okay. Did she notice that one dog appeared to
3 have just gotten into a fight?

4 A. There were old wounds located on the face, but
5 nothing that appeared to be new.

6 Q. Okay. And was there any dogs found in the
7 trailers there?

8 A. There were multiple dogs on the location, some
9 that were in the trailers and campers in fenced in areas.

10 Q. How many dogs were in the trailers?

11 A. I do not recall the counts.

12 Q. Did you take pictures of the dogs in the
13 trailers?

14 A. There is photographs that were taken on site,
15 yes.

16 Q. Specifically dogs in the trailer?

17 A. I do not recall.

18 Q. So you do not recall if there was any dogs in
19 any of the trailers?

20 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. That's a
21 mis-characterization of her testimony.

22 THE DEFENDANT: No, it isn't, ma'am. Ma'am,
23 I'm going somewhere with this.

24 THE COURT: Hang on. The objection is still
25 being voiced.

1 MS. HARRIS: She said that there were animals
2 found in the trailer. She said she doesn't know if there
3 were photos specifically taken of the animals in the
4 trailer. So he mis-characterized her testimony at that
5 point.

6 THE COURT: Could you narrow your question
7 down, Mr. Lentz, please?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

9 BY THE DEFENDANT:

10 Q. Since she's an expert in this, if I left the
11 dog in a trailer closed, without food or water, would
12 that be considered inhumane?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And if I left the dog in a trailer for a day or
15 two, would that be considered inhumane?

16 A. As long as it had access to food and water, no.

17 Q. If it had no access to food and water, leaving
18 a dog in a trailer would be cruel and inhumane?

19 A. Yes. Because it would have no food or water
20 source.

21 Q. Who was in charge of the site of the location
22 at that time? Who was in control of that situation? Was
23 it you? Were you the lead investigator?

24 A. It was me, along with the deputies.

25 Q. Which deputies? Do you have a list of the

1 deputies?

2 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. Outside of
3 the scope.

4 THE DEFENDANT: No, I'm going somewhere with
5 this.

6 MS. HARRIS: It appears that Mr. Lentz is using
7 this as a fishing expedition.

8 THE DEFENDANT: It's not a fishing expedition.

9 MS. HARRIS: This is testimony regarding the
10 seizure of these animals and whether or not they were
11 receiving adequate care.

12 THE COURT: Right. That's outside of what
13 we're doing here today, Mr. Lentz. And I note we have
14 about seven minutes left. So if you are wanting to cross
15 examine her some more, that's fine. But you are, again,
16 burning up your time to say your side.

17 BY THE DEFENDANT:

18 Q. You're saying you were the lead investigator
19 and there was multiple deputies. How many deputies would
20 you say was at that site?

21 A. I would say eight to ten.

22 Q. Eight to ten. And who was ultimately
23 responsible for those dogs at that site?

24 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, asked and
25 answered.

1 THE DEFENDANT: Can you tell me again -- can my
2 transcriber lady read back to me who's ultimately
3 responsible for those dogs that were left on that site?

4 THE COURT: We don't have an answer to that
5 question, Mr. Lentz.

6 THE DEFENDANT: There was nobody in authority
7 who is taking responsibility?

8 THE COURT: No, I'm saying the court reporter
9 can't just read back over two hours of testimony.

10 BY THE DEFENDANT:

11 Q. Okay. I'm asking a simple question. Who was
12 in charge of that investigation?

13 A. That was my job.

14 Q. Okay. Who was responsible for the dogs they're
15 taking and carrying away of those dogs? Who was
16 responsible for that?

17 A. It was my decision with all the evidence to
18 seize them.

19 Q. If I left an animal in a trailer for a day or
20 two, would I be charged with a felony?

21 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, speculation
22 and we've already discussed leaving an animal in the
23 trailer.

24 THE COURT: Right. That's speculative, Mr.
25 Lentz.

1 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. So we all agree that
2 leaving a dog in a trailer is very bad thing to do, a
3 criminal offense. Agreed? Leaving a dog in a trailer
4 for a few days is a crime; without food and water? We
5 all agree on that?

6 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, who is he asking that
7 question?

8 THE COURT: Yeah, I'm not sure. To whom is
9 that directed?

10 BY THE DEFENDANT:

11 Q. I'm asking Ms. Wilkins. If I left the dog in
12 the trailer, in your expert opinion as an investigator,
13 would that be considered a wrongful act, a criminal act?
14 I have a warrant saying that. Is that a crime if I left
15 the dog in the trailer for a day or two without adequate
16 food and care?

17 THE COURT: She testified that that would be
18 not acceptable, yes.

19 BY THE DEFENDANT:

20 Q. Okay. How many dogs, Ms. Wilkins, did you
21 leave in that trailer when you left?

22 A. I do not recall us leaving anything behind
23 besides some of the feral cats that we could not access.

24 Q. How many days has it been since you've been to
25 that trailer?

1 A. We left the property on the second and we
2 cannot regain access to the property after everything was
3 seized.

4 Q. Did you leave a trap in there for the dogs that
5 you left behind? You're responsible. Who is the deputy
6 that put a dog trap in that trailer and closed the door?

7 A. I do not know.

8 Q. You do not know the name of the deputy that put
9 the trap inside that trailer and closed the door?

10 THE COURT: Correct. She said she does not
11 know.

12 BY THE DEFENDANT:

13 Q. So you're not aware that you were responsible
14 for two dogs that were left in a trailer for four days
15 without food and water and that we found them?

16 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

17 BY THE DEFENDANT:

18 Q. Are you aware that a sheriff's deputy came up
19 here two days after I was locked up to ask to retrieve
20 the trap from the trailer that you left in my trailer?

21 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor, outside the
22 scope of knowledge, outside the scope of direct
23 examination.

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25 BY THE DEFENDANT:

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1 Q. Are you aware there was a trap left in that
2 trailer when you folks left at 11:30 at night? Were you
3 aware that there was a trap for two dogs that you guys
4 could not reach?

5 A. I was not aware.

6 Q. But you're in charge. Are you aware, the next
7 day, a sheriff's deputy came up to jail and asked me to
8 sign the release form to enter the property and get that
9 trap out of that trailer? Are you aware of that?

10 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. We've
11 already covered this. Asked and answered, outside the
12 scope.

13 THE COURT: It's been asked and answered.

14 THE DEFENDANT: She's in charge of these
15 deputies. She said she was in charge of these deputies.
16 Does she know the deputy that came up here that asked me
17 to sign a release so she could get the animal control's
18 trap? It was our trap. The animal control's trap was in
19 my trailer. It is her responsibility to keep care of
20 county property. Is she aware that that trap was in the
21 trailer when she left?

22 THE COURT: I think that's been asked and
23 answered.

24 BY THE DEFENDANT:

25 Q. The answer, ma'am, is yes. Please, can

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1 everybody stop, please, helping this lady and let her
2 answer, please? Is she aware that trap was left in that
3 trailer when folks left? Yes or no?

4 A. I was not aware.

5 Q. Are you in charge of that investigation? Are
6 you the person in control?

7 A. I was in charge of the animal welfare, not of
8 what the deputies assisted with or the helpers helped
9 with.

10 Q. Why did you leave two dogs in that trailer when
11 all the deputies knew two dogs were still in that
12 trailer? Why did you leave two dogs behind?

13 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

14 THE DEFENDANT: No, there's got to be a good
15 reason why she left dogs behind. She's in charge of
16 these -- I couldn't take care of them until they were
17 found. She's in control of the dogs until they are
18 found.

19 THE COURT: I think you might be assuming
20 things that have not yet been testified to. So perhaps
21 you could back the question up.

22 BY THE DEFENDANT:

23 Q. Ma'am, why did you leave two dogs in a trailer?

24 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Can you establish a foundation for

1 that?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. I'm already doing a FOIA
3 request at 12:13 p.m. Sheriff's deputy came down here
4 and asked me to sign a release form if he could go back
5 onto the property and could go get those caves, because
6 he said, "we couldn't catch two of the little dogs that
7 ran into that trailer. So we left them behind. We put
8 in a trap". I said, "did you leave them food and water?"
9 They said, "no, we left food inside of the trap". So
10 that's why this is relevant. Because if it's a crime to
11 leave animals in a trailer for a few days, this woman has
12 just admitted under oath that she committed a crime of
13 abuse, torture, and maiming of an animal.

14 THE COURT: All right. Do you have other
15 questions for her?

16 THE DEFENDANT: I think that's a pretty good
17 one. Let me just ask her. Like I said, it's a simple
18 question.

19 BY THE DEFENDANT:

20 Q. Again, do you have that phone, Augusta County's
21 phone, on your person?

22 MS. HARRIS: Objection, your Honor. Outside
23 the scope of direct.

24 THE DEFENDANT: She said she took the photos
25 with that. She has the photos.

1 THE COURT: That's sustained, Mr. Lentz.

2 THE DEFENDANT: I'd like to know if those
3 photos of the trapped dogs in that trailer are on that
4 camera. Because what she did is a crime and I want to
5 report a crime; a crime to my dogs. My property was
6 endangered by this woman failing to carry out her duty to
7 those animals.

8 THE COURT: All right. So, Mr. Lentz, our one
9 o'clock docket is about to start. I guess I can give you
10 ten minutes to say whatever you want to say about this.
11 Our time has run out.

12 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I've got a whole bunch
13 of evidence, ma'am. If you want to interfere with my
14 right to access this court, that's your wish. If you
15 want to hold this over to a further date, I'm more than
16 willing to do it. But if you stop me talking right now,
17 you're interfering with my right to access this court.

18 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to give you about
19 ten minutes. We'll hold off on the other docket.

20 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I cannot possibly call
21 all my witnesses and present all my evidence in ten
22 minutes, ma'am. That is outrageous. For you to think
23 that some man in a cage, shackled, can possibly put on a
24 defense in ten minutes is ludicrous. There's no way in
25 the world I could possibly mount a defense in ten

1 minutes. So my due process rights, the Fifth Amendment
2 due process rights, are being restricted, interfered with
3 at this time.

4 THE COURT: Well, if you would like ten more
5 minutes, I'm willing to give you that. But if you're not
6 prepared to present even ten minutes worth, I'm prepared
7 to hear closing arguments.

8 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I have hours of
9 testimony to present.

10 THE COURT: Okay. All right. So --

11 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, if you wish to just
12 interfere with my right to due process, ma'am, that's
13 fine. If you want to leave court and if you want to
14 proceed at a further later date, that's wonderful as
15 well. We have a whole bunch of owners that want to
16 participate in the proceedings of where their dogs are
17 going to go.

18 THE COURT: What I'm willing to do is give you
19 ten minutes into our next docket if you would like to
20 offer something.

21 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, this is going to take
22 hours and you know I have limited access to this court.

23 THE COURT: It sounds like you're going to want
24 to appeal. But if you want ten more minutes, you may
25 have it. Otherwise, I'm prepared to hear final

1 arguments.

2 THE DEFENDANT: You said that I'm willing to
3 launch an appeal. So you just prejudiced yourself to
4 saying that you believe that I'm guilty. Well, there's
5 enough evidence to prejudice against me, ma'am. You said
6 it looks like I'm mounting an appeal. It looks like
7 you've already formed an opinion, ma'am.

8 THE COURT: Well, I only have one side of the
9 case, of course, so it's hard not to have some thoughts
10 on that.

11 THE DEFENDANT: And I said I require leave of
12 court so I can properly prepare a defense. And you're
13 saying denying -- are you saying that I'm denied that I'm
14 not to have the ability to present a defense on my
15 behalf?

16 THE COURT: No. I've been warning you for 35
17 minutes that your time was ticking out, that we had a one
18 o'clock docket, and you chose to continue cross
19 examining. That was your choice and your case strategy.
20 So here we are at the end. If you want ten minutes, I'm
21 willing to give it to you.

22 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, when was I made aware
23 that I only had ten minutes to present my case?

24 THE COURT: I told you at 12:30 that we had a
25 one o'clock docket and urged you to move on to your part

1 of the case, but you chose to continue cross examining.

2 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, can you please state for
3 the record the point of law, the conclusions in law,
4 where you come from that the defendant only has ten
5 minutes permitted to defend and protect his property?
6 Can you please give me some sort of citation or case law
7 in which you're relying on to make that assessment?

8 THE COURT: That wouldn't be possible, Mr.
9 Lentz. If you want ten minutes now, you're welcome to
10 them. Otherwise, I'm going to hear from the Commonwealth
11 in terms of a final argument.

12 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. But this is what I'm
13 clearly saying. Do you realize that it's going to take
14 me a lot -- do you understand that it's going to take me
15 a lot longer than a few minutes to present my case?

16 THE COURT: I do, because you've told me so.

17 THE DEFENDANT: Did you limit the Commonwealth
18 at any time limit to present their case?

19 THE COURT: They took a little over an hour.
20 You took almost an hour to cross examine, so there we
21 are.

22 THE DEFENDANT: Is there some reason why I
23 couldn't personally be there at that time?

24 THE COURT: The Court doesn't answer questions
25 like that, Mr. Lentz. Did you want to take ten minutes

1 more or no?

2 THE DEFENDANT: I want to present my photos, my
3 videos, my testimony, my witnesses.

4 THE COURT: And will that take more than ten
5 minutes?

6 THE DEFENDANT: I'm sure it's going to take
7 more than ten minutes, ma'am. As long as what I keep
8 saying is on a record, then my rights to due process has
9 been massively violated because I have no right as the
10 owner of these dogs. There's no other person that claims
11 that those dogs belong to them. Those are my dogs and my
12 dogs alone the county has claimed. So no man has the
13 right to take away from somebody else without fair and
14 just compensation. That'd be a violation of the fifth
15 amendment. So what I'm trying to say is, just making it
16 on the record, is anybody willing to compensate me or any
17 of the other owners for the taking and carrying off their
18 dogs by force?

19 THE COURT: All right. Then we'll proceed to
20 the closing arguments of the Commonwealth, I guess. When
21 you're ready.

22 THE DEFENDANT: No, I'm not done, ma'am. I
23 have not --

24 MS. HARRIS: Thank you, your Honor. Your
25 Honor, like I mentioned, we're here on a seizure hearing;

1 whether or not these animals have had adequate care. We
2 have gone into the adequate care standard. Under
3 3.26500, having things such as proper confinement,
4 feeding, water, protection, shelter, transportation,
5 treatment, euthanasia when necessary, appropriate for the
6 conditions of the animals, as well as the provision of
7 veterinary care.

8 Here, your Honor, we have a twofold situation.
9 We have the conditions of the area and specifically the
10 conditions of the animal. The conditions of the area
11 failed to meet the adequate standard of care on their
12 own. Specifically, the lack of food sources, water
13 sources, containment of certain animals, where the
14 animals were found. Additionally, there were also
15 animals found in the freezer. Just these living
16 conditions that the Court can see are not adequate for
17 the care of not only this many animals but any animals in
18 general.

19 Additionally, we have the conditions of each
20 animal that we went through one by one. Each of them
21 having a flea and tick infestation that needed treatment.
22 We had several animals that have eye issues that needed
23 to be treated. We had one animal that needed to have a
24 leg cut off. We have several with dental disease. All
25 that Officer Wilkins testified that would be necessary to

1 have veterinary care in her expertise, as an expert in
2 the ability to triage and assess animals for veterinary
3 care.

4 Each of these animals on its own meets the
5 standard of inadequate care under the code, but the
6 additional piece of where they were found does also meet
7 that as well. We would ask this Court that all of these
8 animals be seized under the statute, that Augusta County
9 be able to properly adopt out and dispose of these
10 animals as under code, disposal being the adoption and
11 that in care of these animals.

12 And that Mr. Lentz be required to pay the
13 reasonable fees under the statute, that he be ordered to
14 do that as the custodian. He admitted in the bond
15 hearing, under oath, that he did, in fact, live on the
16 property as the custodian. He also admitted today that
17 he purchased animals. He purchased this lard, this rice,
18 this frozen meat that not only was not available to the
19 animals but was in drums and other things. That he
20 bought those to feed the animals assuming care that is
21 required to make it so that individuals end up having to
22 pay for those animals. As well as prohibiting Mr. Lentz
23 from future possession or ownership of animals under the
24 determination that these animals were seized due to
25 inadequate care.

1 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Lentz, comments?

2 THE DEFENDANT: They presented absolutely no
3 photographs whatsoever of massive flea infestation. They
4 have presented no photographs of any tick infestation.
5 They have provided no medical records on why that pin was
6 in that dog's leg or the procedures on how to maintain
7 the pin in that dog's leg. They didn't take a biopsy to
8 find out what type of bacterial infection was in that
9 leg, so they claim. They have no proof that the dogs
10 were not fed. Other than the fact that I have hundreds
11 and hundreds of pounds of rice, meat, and lard that I
12 prepare the dog's food.

13 I cook the food every day for the dog. And you
14 folks might think it's silly, but I eat the same food
15 that they do. It's that good. My lawyer said it last
16 Thursday. It's very healthy food. It's rice, it's lard,
17 and it's meat. Then we take the duck eggs and we put the
18 duck eggs inside of that meat.

19 The dogs -- nobody mentioned the dog's weight.
20 I kept asking, does anybody have the weight of the dogs?
21 The dogs' weight are healthy. I have an article from the
22 Newsleader that was submitted by Randy Hagee (phonetic)
23 on January 7th, 2023. It says, the headline is, "Dozens
24 of cats dogs taken to an Emergency Center in Verona"
25 written by Randy Hagee, June 7th, 2023. Quote, "the

1 rescued animals are transported to an emergency center
2 set up in Verona. Jon Hilbert is the director". The
3 director --

4 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, at this time --

5 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I did not interrupt,
6 ma'am.

7 MS. HARRIS: These are --

8 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am.

9 MS. HARRIS: He's using conclusions that are
10 not in evidence at this time.

11 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I did not interrupt you.

12 THE COURT: And you're right, Mr. Lentz, but
13 typically it's inappropriate to mention things in your
14 closing argument that were not brought up in testimony.
15 And her objection is well taken.

16 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am.

17 THE COURT: I tried to give you some leeway.

18 THE DEFENDANT: I was never permitted to talk
19 under oath. This is my opportunity to make a statement.
20 This is my statement.

21 THE COURT: Well, this is actually closing
22 argument.

23 THE DEFENDANT: Okay. But this, I'm saying, I
24 haven't been able to testify to anything. I haven't been
25 able to present witnesses to everything. I haven't been

1 able to present my exhibits to anything. I haven't been
2 able to present the true owners of the dogs to the Court.
3 I'm making a simple statement. I'm reading it directly
4 out of the newspapers that Jon Hilbert is the director of
5 the Shenandoah County Animal Services. Jon Hilbert, "I
6 coordinated a vet to come out on Saturday morning to
7 assess all the animals. Overall, the dogs were very
8 healthy". And this is from Jon Hilbert, the director of
9 the Shenandoah Valley Animal Services Center. Obviously,
10 he must be some sort of authoritarian figure, obviously,
11 that you folks are in control of him. Obviously the vet
12 said that, overall, it's in the newspaper. It's quoted
13 correctly. "Overall, the dogs were very healthy".

14 So this lady has a written statement that she
15 presented to the Court. She presented absolutely no
16 photographs. She didn't present the weight of the dogs
17 to the Court. She didn't present any evidence whatsoever
18 there was massive infestation of ticks and fleas. The
19 dogs were thriving. The dogs were healthy on our
20 property. They were living outside. They were living on
21 tall grass and short grass and gravel. And we built a
22 pond for them to have therapy in. We literally built a
23 pond for these dogs to swim in and take care of
24 themselves.

25 There is no firsthand witness that this Court

1 has brought forth that said that I've ever done anything
2 wrong to an animal. I've been charged with felonies.
3 I've been charged with torture, maiming, being cruel to
4 animals. There's not one man on planet Earth that ever
5 come before this Court and swear and testify in open
6 court that Carl Lentz has ever caused any harm, loss, or
7 injury to any animal that ever existed.

8 My attorney told you yesterday that I'm the
9 cross between Steve Jobs and St. Francis of Assisi. I do
10 not have a gun. I don't have any weapons. I don't shoot
11 the dogs. We help the dogs as much as we can. When we
12 reach a limit that we can't take, we take them to the
13 veterinarian in Waynesboro. We take them after hours.
14 We have many proofs of spending thousands and thousands
15 of dollars on veterinarian care and bills. We have
16 thousands of dollars of proof that we've been buying food
17 for these dogs over all these years. We have proof that
18 we've been building zones that these dogs get free roam
19 range in.

20 And she never mentioned one time that there was
21 a leash on any of these dogs. The first time the leash
22 was on the dog is when they put that kettle stick or
23 capture stick. That's the very first time that any of
24 those dogs have ever had anything wrapped around their
25 neck and they were choked out. There's never been any

1 kind of torment, treatment, cruelty. She did not say
2 there was one dog in a kennel, not one dog in a cage, not
3 one puppy in the kennel, not one puppy in a cage. They
4 were all free roaming dogs in adequate zones. She didn't
5 say the zones were tiny. She didn't say the zones kept
6 the dogs from getting adequate care. She didn't say that
7 we let the dogs run groups at a time.

8 She never mentioned the fact that these dogs
9 were thriving. They were happy. They were healthy. My
10 attorney went up there the other day. He said they're
11 beautiful. The people at that shelter, that emergency
12 shelter up there now , every single one up there -- he
13 said there was eight people there at the shelter -- all
14 wanted to adopt the dog and adopt one of those puppies.
15 If these people are claiming that Carl Lentz is the sole
16 caretaker of 28 dogs, I am a miracle worker, because all
17 of those dogs were happy, healthy, and thriving.
18 According to Jon Hilbert and the veterinarian who took
19 care of them, a few hours after they took them off that
20 land and brought them onto their land, they said that
21 overall they were very healthy.

22 So you folks should be giving me a medal, not
23 trying to punish me for the hard work it must take for
24 one man to keep 28 dogs overall, quote unquote, overall
25 very healthy. And if this Court finds that I'm guilty of

1 causing harm, injury, or loss to an animal, you're
2 holding yourselves liable for slander. Because you're
3 not going to be able to bring one eyewitness on earth
4 that will ever testify that I've caused any harm, injury
5 or loss or provable financial loss to any man or woman or
6 anybody's property.

7 So if this Court wishes to rule that my
8 property is not to be restored to where you found it
9 immediately and let me go back to taking care of what I
10 do best, then that's your wish. Do as you wish. I
11 presented what the best I could to the Court and this is
12 notice of oral appeal. Unfortunately, this time we can't
13 do a written appeal. But I'm going to require this Court
14 to seize the county's camera into evidence. I'm going to
15 require that a deputy come here and take a criminal
16 complaint for me upon this woman leaving my property, my
17 dogs, abandoned in a trailer, in a hot trailer, with no
18 food and no water for four days. I'm going to require
19 this Court to bring a deputy sheriff here so I could file
20 a criminal complaint. Now, whether the prosecutor of the
21 Commonwealth wants to take it up or not, that's fine. If
22 they don't want to take it up after six months, I have
23 the right to take it up. So I wish to have a deputy
24 sheriff come here immediately so I could file a criminal
25 complaint against the woman that tortured, mistreated my

1 dog, two dogs, that she left in a trailer that she was
2 fully responsible for. And I require that the police
3 officer come and allow me to file a warrant for her
4 arrest immediately.

5 THE COURT: All right. So based on all that
6 we've heard today, the Commonwealth has met its burden.
7 We will order that the animals be surrendered to them. I
8 hate this 15 dollars a day per animal. Is there -- do
9 you have (inaudible).

10 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I'm going to require --
11 ma'am, ma'am, your Honor?

12 MS. HARRIS: I do not know.

13 THE COURT: Okay. I mean, I realize there's a
14 whole separate facility set up.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, I'm going to require
16 statements of facts, conclusion of law and point of law,
17 and where you're coming up with the basis of this reason.
18 I'm going to require that you present your opinion in
19 writing for appeal.

20 THE COURT: I fully expect that you will
21 appeal. You just need to note it within ten days in
22 writing at the clerk's office.

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am. And I'm going to
24 require the point of law in which you're establishing the
25 ruling. I'm going to require statements of facts and

1 conclusions of law on how you're coming up with this
2 determination based upon the evidence and the lack of
3 evidence that you heard today. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: So --

5 THE DEFENDANT: Will their camera be seized
6 into evidence for preserving the record, yes or no?

7 THE COURT: The Court doesn't answer questions
8 like that, Mr. Lentz.

9 THE DEFENDANT: Let the record reflect the
10 Court said it doesn't answer questions like that. Is a
11 sheriff's deputy going to be made available to me? I've
12 ordered one as a free man. I'm an innocent man. I've
13 not been convicted of any crime. Is a deputy sheriff
14 going to be able to come up here and take a criminal
15 complaint filed by Carl Lentz, the property owner of that
16 dog, for those two dogs?

17 THE COURT: I'm not the boss of the sheriff.

18 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, ma'am. I'm just
19 putting it on record so the transcriber can send it over
20 to Risk Management, the Chief Justice of the Virginia
21 Supreme Court, the Governor Constituent Services Office
22 and the Attorney General of the Commonwealth. There's
23 been about 75, 80 pages filed already today with the Risk
24 Management Division explaining what's been going on with
25 the property, my property, in which you're supposed to

1 secure and protect. It's a dereliction of duty, the
2 false testimony, perjury, dogs covered with ticks and
3 fleas, and yet no photographs. Believe me, if they were
4 --

5 THE COURT: I'm going to mute you now, Mr.
6 Lentz. What is today's date? All right, we can unmute
7 him. All right, Mr. Lentz --

8 THE DEFENDANT: I'd like to note for the
9 record, ma'am --

10 THE COURT: We have ordered the surrender of
11 the animals.

12 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am --

13 THE COURT: They are now in the possession of
14 the animal control.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am, you unmuted me?

16 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

17 THE DEFENDANT: You unmuted me?

18 THE COURT: I did.

19 THE DEFENDANT: I just have a transcriber. I
20 would like to note for the record that my right to access
21 the court was muted out. I could not further talk to the
22 Court or participate in this call proceedings. I was
23 muted out against my will.

24 THE COURT: Okay. So the dogs are now in the
25 custody and control of the animal control officer and her

1 people. I guess if there's a way around the 15 dollars
2 per day per animal that they charge to the owner, up to
3 now, I guess today they revert to the county so it will
4 be their problem.

5 THE DEFENDANT: The owners will be made aware
6 of the 15 dollar a day thing.

7 THE COURT: All right. That's all we need to
8 do today.

9 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

10 THE DEFENDANT: When will the Court's opinion
11 be finalized? When can I have a ruling written out to
12 appeal?

13 THE COURT: Today. In ten minutes.

14 THE DEFENDANT: You'll be able to establish
15 precedent, case law, why you have ruled in this matter?
16 You'll be able to find other cases in the past?

17 THE COURT: The ruling will be ready in ten
18 minutes.

19 THE DEFENDANT: Amazing.

20 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, did the Court accept
21 the Commonwealth's request that Mr. Lentz be prohibited
22 from future possession of ownership of companion animals?

23 THE COURT: It is further ordered that the
24 owner, Carl Lentz, and it's in here, to be prohibited
25 from the possession and/or ownership of other companion

1 animals.

2 MS. HARRIS: Thank you. I appreciate that.

3 THE COURT: All right.

4 THE DEFENDANT: Based on what grounds? Have I
5 been found guilty of any crime, ma'am? Have I been found
6 guilty of any crime?

7 THE COURT: I have no idea. We weren't talking
8 about criminal matters today.

9 THE DEFENDANT: So you're saying I'm not
10 permitted to have a dog?

11 THE COURT: Correct.

12 THE DEFENDANT: But I've not been found guilty?

13 THE COURT: Any companion animal, not just
14 specifically a dog.

15 THE DEFENDANT: But I've not been charged with
16 a crime.

17 THE COURT: I believe you have. Those aren't
18 on the docket today.

19 THE DEENDANT: That's right. But I've not been
20 charged with a crime, yet you're already saying that I
21 cannot have a dog in my possession?

22 THE COURT: Correct. We'll send you a copy of
23 the order so that you'll have it all right there in
24 writing.

25 THE DEFENDANT: But I wasn't charged with

1 having a dog in my possession. You're saying this wasn't
2 a criminal proceeding. Was this a criminal proceeding?

3 THE COURT: What I'm saying today is we'll send
4 you a copy of the order, which you have already said
5 you're going to note an appeal. Then it will go to
6 Circuit Court.

7 THE DEFENDANT: Was today the administrative
8 hearing?

9 THE COURT: Today was the seizure hearing.
10 That is all.

11 THE DEFENDANT: Was it civil or was it
12 criminal?

13 THE COURT: It's civil.

14 THE DEFENDANT: It's a civil proceeding. And a
15 civil proceeding, do you have -- in a civil proceeding --
16 all right.

17 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

18 MS. HARRIS: Your Honor, may I retrieve the
19 exhibit, please? Thank you.

20

21 (WHEREUPON, the above styled
22 proceedings concluded.)

23

24

25

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

4 COUNTY OF AUGUSTA, to-wit:

5
6 I, the undersigned, Notary Public in and for
7 the Commonwealth of Virginia, at large, do hereby certify
8 that the foregoing is, to the best of my skill and
9 ability, a true and accurate transcript of proceedings
10 had and evidence adduced at a hearing held in the above-
11 styled case, on the 13th day of June, 2023.

12
13
14 /S/ Karen T. Roller

15
16 My commission expires August 31st, 2023.

17 Registration No. 7632134.
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