

18-1-00762-29
ADPC 3
Affidavit of Probable Cause
3401517



FILED
SKAGIT COUNTY CLERK
SKAGIT COUNTY, WA

2018 JUL -3 AM 10:08

SKAGIT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROGER EDWARD PEDERSON,

Defendant.

NO: 18-1-00762-29

MOTION FOR SUMMONS
(PROBABLE CAUSE)

COMES NOW the Prosecuting Attorney for Skagit County and moves the Court to issue a Summons to the defendant:

13


ROGER EDWARD PEDERSON

LKA: PO BOX 245, MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273
12354 BAY VIEW CEMETERY RD, MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273
DOB: SEPTEMBER 10, 1929
DOL: WA PEDERRE7140S

1. I, Sloan G. Johnson, am a Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Skagit County and make this motion in that capacity; and
2. The above-named Defendant is accused of crimes by a document on file; and
3. Probable cause appears to exist to believe that the defendant committed the offenses charged based on the attached affidavit of Emily Diaz, Officer.

SKAGIT COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

DATED: July 2, 2018

By: 
SLOAN G. JOHNSON, WSBA#32745
SENIOR DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

ORIGINAL

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
AFFIDAVIT

State of Washington}
County of Skagit}

STATE vs

Roger E. Pederson
Marsha K. Pederson

I, Emily Diaz, depose and say I am a commissioned animal control officer for the County of Skagit and have been employed for 13 years, 2 months; I have attended and passed the Washington Animal Control Academy, I have attended and passed the National Animal Control Association Animal Control Academy Nacho A and B, I am certified in animal cruelty/neglect investigation. I am a certified Livestock Advisor. I have cared for, and owned livestock for over 20 years. I have charged on numerous livestock cruelty cases.

On 12/20/17 I was dispatched to contact an anonymous complainant regarding their concerns about the Scottish Highlander cattle belonging to Roger Pederson. I am very familiar with Roger Pederson as in 2005 I investigated him for animal cruelty. He was charged with multiple counts of animal cruelty, and there were over 150 deceased cattle on his property at that time, and over 100 live Scottish Highlanders in various stages of neglect.

On 01/16/18 I was able to view the cattle belonging to Pederson through my binoculars, by parking my vehicle on Persons Road, in Skagit County. I could see a herd of Scottish Highlanders all in various states of neglect and a deceased Highlander in a hay pile.

After establishing probable cause I applied for and received a signed search warrant by Judge Goddard on 01/19/18. On 01/22/18 Sergeant Meyer and I served the search Warrant on Roger and Marsha Pederson at 12354 Bay View Cemetery Road in Skagit County. Mr. Pederson stated it had been a hard winter and we would find "one or two or three or four". I believe he was implying deceased cattle. He also said he provided the cattle with food, water, and salt. I asked if he had dewormed them, he said he had not.

For the next 8 days I remained on the property including parcels numbered P35040, P35031, P35037, P35033, P34978, P34974, P35014, P35014 serving search warrants numbered SW18-047 and SW18-047-1. During my time on the property I observed deceased cattle throughout the over 120 acres. The deceased animals were in the fields, stored in barns, piled up near holes, some lying in puddles of water. According to the vets all of the deceased cattle were not deceased longer than 3 months. By the last day on the property there had been 72 deceased animals buried. Not including animals the Sheriff office euthanized and had removed.

On 1-22-18 I had Dr. Ingman from Chuckanut Valley Vet Clinic out to assess the animals and to put 2 animals down that were suffering. According to Dr. Ingman 20% of the herd would die in 1-2 weeks. He felt

00275

the animals were in very poor condition. The only animals that were within a reasonable margin weight wise were the mature bulls who would force their way into the round bales provided to the animals. While watching Mr. Pederson feed the animals he provided 3 round bales/silage bales to the over 150 cattle. One bale should feed roughly 20 animals. He was feeding enough to sustain only 60 animals. The hay and silage was of very poor quality. It was mostly brown and black in color. The stocks were very thick, hardly chewable for any animal. We tested the hay Pederson was providing and it tested out at 4.96% protein. The average hay fed tests out at 9.91% protein. The silage tested out at 9.26% protein, with the average silage bale testing at 13.14%. Mr. Pederson did have salt blocks (they looked brand new) located near the barn. To me it appeared as though the cattle did not frequent the barn area. Only the cattle in the East Pastures would be able to access the salt blocks if they were to come to the barn area. The animals in the West and North Fields had no access to salt.

While out on the property the animals were very frail. They were in fight or die mode. If approached some would charge you, falling before reaching you from assumed weakness. Some animals were falling over just walking. The younger animals were in the worst condition as they were unable to compete with the larger animals.

While walking the fields on the days we were on the property there were always different animals down and suffering. Over the 8 days on the property we performed 15 emergency euthanasia's, many others died after being removed from the property as the help was too late for them. Their bodies had already shut down and they were no longer able to process feed.

I am asking that Mr. Pederson be charged with the following:

Count 1

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide food and water (starvation) to a light red bull number BV1.

On 01/22/18 while looking for deceased cattle on the south west part of the property I located a light red bull laying on its right side. It at first appeared to be dead, but then I saw it move. It had a large pile of feces behind it; It was paddling trying to get up. It had dug out holes where its legs and head were (evidence of struggle). I did not see any feed or water near it. The animal's eyes were wide open, its body stiff, it was suffering.

Dr. Ingman came out; he had to perform an emergency euthanasia. He then performed a necropsy. According to Dr. Ingman the animal had been laying there for days. It was skin and bones. He gave him a body condition score of 1/9. He noted that the animals growth was stunted, he estimated him weighing 300 lbs. During the necropsy he found a heavy lice burden, he also found a total absence of subcutaneous fat with profound muscle wasting. The mucous membranes were pale indicating anemia. The abomasum had multiple white pinpoint raised spots indicating parasitic infection with stomach worms.

On 02/1/18 we received the histopathology report from Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab (WADDL) they found evidence of parasites. They

also found atrophy of fat in the heart and abomasum indicative of starvation.

The trace mineral analysis showed that the animal was deficient in copper and selenium. According to Dr Ingman if an owner supplements sufficiently they would not see this deficiency.

Dr Ingman's final diagnosis is starvation with a severe parasite burden and trace mineral deficiency.

Count 2

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a Blonde Highland cow number BV2.

On 01/22/18 This cow was located partially submerged in a large amount of standing water. The cow had tufts of hair littered behind it as if an animal had been trying to feed on it. We did not see any feed available to it.

According to Dr. Ingman the cow appeared to have been stuck there for a number of days. The animal was emaciated with BCS of 1/9. He felt that 40% of the cows body was submerged, and he felt that based off of the bloody wounds on the animals hind end where the tufts of hair were pulled out, that a bird had been trying to feed on her. Due to her weakened state she was unable to defend herself.

Due to this cows poor condition, and the animal was suffering, she was humanly euthanized.

Count 3

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a dark brown Highland Heifer number BV3.

On 01/22/18 Dr Ingman and I were notified of a calf that was down, unable to stand in the central tree area of the pastures by Matt Kauffman from the Health Department. Matt brought us to the calf's location, it was down, but head still up and alert. Dr. Ingman could not get it to stand, but felt if it received food and some extra care it could make it. Dr Ingman noted the calf was small and stunted for her age. She had a BCS of 2/9 with severe muscle wasting. He found very little feed in the GI tract. The calf was pale and hypothermic.

I asked Mr. Pederson to help me transport the animal closer to the house; we did so with his tractor. The animal was placed between his barn and the vacant house. I asked Mr. Pederson to provide food and water to the animal and I would be out the following day.

When I arrived on 1-23-18 I found the animal lying flat out, eyes wide open, suffering. The hay provided was thick, brown, and wet. It did not look eatable for this animal, or any animal. Dr. Ingman assessed the animal, She was severely hypothermic with a temperature of 96 degrees. Dr Ingman tried to help it, but it was too far gone. It was humanly euthanized.

On 1/24/18 Dr. Fischer from Chuckanut Valley Vet Clinic performed a necropsy on this animal. She found a heavy burden of lice. She gave the animal a BCS of 1/9 with no subcutaneous fat present.

The histopathology report returned from WADDL within normal limits. The mineral analysis came back marked copper and selenium deficient.

According to Dr. Ingman this animal was starved and suffered due to the lack of care.

Count 4

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a white Highland bull number BV4.

On 01/24/18 while walking the treed area on the east side of Pederson's property with Dr. Fischer looking for a deceased animal, Dr. Fischer found this animal lying flat out. Dr. Fischer wailed a bit when she discovered the animal was still alive. As I rushed over Dr. Fischer had moved some roughage off of the animal's face. At first it looked like a clump of dead weeds, but it was determined to be a very heavy piece of hay that was very thick stocked, brown, and not eatable to this animal. I could see tractor marks leading up to this animal. It appeared as though someone had brought this wet clump of roughage and dropped it on top of the bull's head. Dr. Fischer found that the animal was unable to stand, had white mucus coming out of both nostrils, multiple wounds, he was paddling, unable to stay sternal when assisted. She gave him a BCS of 1/9. We both noticed mud and debris caked into his coat, multiple fecal piles present at his hind end, signs of struggle in the dirt around the animal. He was humanly euthanized by Dr. Fischer.

Immediately she performed a necropsy on this animal. She found no subcutaneous or visceral fat; the lungs showed evidence of inflammation, dark brown to green forage was found in the rumen. When she shaved the animal the animal's skin was bright yellow indicative of jaundice. The histopathology report from WADDL returned showing parasites in the heart, and Abomasum. The liver, and lungs returned within normal limits.

The mineral analysis returned showing this animal was deficient in both Copper and Selenium. According to WADDL's pathologist Dr. Bethany Balmer there was evidence of significant Abomasal nematodes which likely contributed to this animal's morbidity.

This animal likely suffered a slow painful death due to starvation likely influenced by a severe parasitism.

Count 5

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a greyish brown Scottish Highlander heifer named "Nutmeg" number BV6.

On 01/31/18 BV 6 was rounded up with the last remaining cattle on the property. Nutmeg was very thin, weak, and when on the property she was hunched up. You could feel every bone in her body. She was initially seen by Dr. Fischer at Mr. Pederson's property. She recommended giving

the energy drench, low quality feed and plain water for one week before deworming.

On 2/6/18 After this calf had been down for 3 days Dr. Ingman came out to assess the animal. He gave a BCS of 2/9. He attempted to get the animal standing; she was very weak and unable to place her legs. She was dewormed with Dectomax, and drenched with nutridrench. She was also given exceed (antibiotic) for pinkeye. He ran a fecal that came back positive for Strongyle ova and Eimeria Oocysts (parasites). He ran blood that came back deficient in Copper and Selenium.

On 2/7/18 Nutmeg died. Dr. Ingman performed a necropsy, he found her to have a BCS of 1/9, diarrhea, undersized for her age. He found very little subcutaneous fat, the omental fat appears gelatinous.

According to the Histopathology report submitted by WADDL they found atrophy of fat in the omentum and the kidney, which indicates a severe negative energy balance and supports the clinical history of a poor body condition. The lymphocytes and plasma cells in the obomasum indicate chronic inflammation. Mild bronchopneumonia is likely secondary to this debilitated animal being down and possible aspiration.

This animal suffered a long painful death due to starvation, and parasite likely contributed to her morbidity.

Count 6

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a Red Scottish Highland Heifer number BV7 named "Cheyann".

On 01/31/18 BV 7 was rounded up with the remaining animals from the herd. She and 2 others were removed from the herd to go into foster care as they were weak, in poor body condition, and would likely not survive in a competitive environment.

Dr. Fischer viewed the animal and noted she was in poor body condition, and would need additional care with electrolytes.

If provided an adequate diet she would have been able to maintain a healthy body condition.

Count 7

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a light red Scottish Highland Heifer number BV8 named "Sage".

On 01/31/18 BV8 was rounded up with the remaining animals from the herd. She and two others were removed from Pederson's property and put into foster care due to their poor body conditions, weakened state, and their lack of ability to compete for food.

While loading BV8 into the trailer she required physical assistance from us to load. When in the trailer she collapsed and remained down until 2/1/18 when assisted to stand.

On 2/1/18 Dr. Fischer gave her a BCS of 2/9, gave supportive care, and energy drench. She was then able to stand with assistance and began eating on her own. A fecal test was run on 2/7/18. She came back testing positive for Strongyles, Eimeria Oocysts, and Giardia.

Parasites can be painful and starvation normally causes prolonged suffering. BV8 showed signs of starvation influenced by parasites.

Count 8

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a 1 year old red Scottish Highlander bull number BV10 named "Ferdinand".

On 01/23/18 This bull was removed with BV11. He was small, very thin, but still active. This animal had a BCS of 2/9. He was housed with cows and very large bulls that would prevent him from easy access to feed in the Southwest pastures. Very stunted in size, initially thought he was a calf, but due to horn size determined to be 8-12 months old.

This animal was eating in foster care until 1/29/18 when he went off feed. By 1/30/18 he was very weak and falling down. He had a fever and bloody diarrhea. He was treated by Dr. Murphy from Kulshan Vet Hospital. According to Dr. Murphy the animal was emaciated, showed signs of lower respiratory disease, and a heavy coccidia load. He was treated with antibiotics, anti-inflammatory for pain and inflammation, as well as sulfa for coccidia.

A fecal test was ran on 2/9/18 through IDEXX. The test came back positive for Strongyle, Eimeria Oocysts, and Nematodirus parasites.

After two months of care this animal is just now beginning to put on some weight. He is now able to run and play, but previously he was too weak to stand. He is just now able to process feeds with higher nutrition in them. On March 3rd he weighed 150 lbs. On March 28th he weighed 170 lbs.

This animal suffered a prolonged period of time due to lack of feed and lack of parasite control.

Count 9

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a red Scottish Highland 8 month old Bull number BV11 named "Archie".

On 01/23/18 While Officers were herding a large group of Highlanders at a walk from the South West field into the holding pens we noticed a small calf that went down and could not get up. After getting the others secured (some ran off) we stood the calf up, but he went back down. Dr Ingman took a quick look at him and felt he would do best in foster care. This animal had a BCS of 1/9. He was emaciated and too

weak to stand. He was housed with cows and very large bulls that would prevent him from easy access to feed.

Dr. Ingman treated him for Coccidia, gave him energy drenches, banamine for inflammation and pain, and Multimin. Archie would drink water, but had a weak appetite. Initially he showed signs of improving but on 1/26/18 he crashed. After his foster home gave him his last dose of medication for coccidian he died.

This animal suffered a prolonged period of time due to lack of feed and lack of parasite control.

Count 10

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a white Scottish Highland Heifer number BV13 named "Melly".

On 01/28/18 this animal was loaded into a trailer to be removed from the owners property. While moving the animals from one trailer to another trailer (because the larger trailer did not fit at the loading site) this animal went down. The loading company felt she was too weak to go to the Auction yard. I unloaded her from the trailer and Dr. Ingman took a brief look at her and felt she would do better in foster care. Later that day she was transported to Emily Den Harthog's residence.

On 01/30/18 Dr. Murphy from Kulshan vet hospital examined "Melly" and found she was over 1 year (more likely 2 years old based off of horn size) and had a BCS of 2.5/9. During the exam she was up, alert, and eating. She was given Multimin IM and started on antibiotics to treat coccidia. According to the foster home the animal was also dewormed with Cydectin a pour on de-wormer.

On 01/31/18 this animal was found lying on its side, paddling, unable to stand. Supportive care was given to the animal, On 2/1/18 "Melly" died. According to Dr. Murphy, and Dr. Itle the Washington State Veterinarian they both felt the animal had died as it was so weak and depleted nutritionally that its body could not recover or know how to respond to the de-wormer and other interventions used to try to save its life.

Count 11

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a red Scottish highlander pregnant cow number A1.

On 02/8/18 Dr. Hammon from Kulshan Vet Hospital performed a necropsy on a recently deceased pregnant cow at the Everson Livestock Yard that had been housed there from this case. Dr. Hammon gave the cow a BCS of 1/5 and an age of 3-3.5 years old. According to an employee of the yard, they had been attempting to sort the cattle when this one went down and got trampled by the others two days ago. They were able to get it up, but found it down again on this date.

Upon necropsy Dr. Hammon found bruising on the ribs consistent with being trampled or a horn. He found very low interior fat content, light abdominal fill, he also found that the rumen papillae were stunted, He found little fecal content and light rumen fill. All indicating prolonged lack of exposure to food. Ultimately their digestive systems had shut down due to lack of food. He felt that the animals body condition supports nutritional challenge as does the digestive quality/observations of tissues.

The bone marrow sample taken from the animals femur was tested by Michigan State University. It came back with a fat content of 29.9%, the average bovine bone marrow has been reported at 86.3%. The fat stores in bone marrow are typically the last fat stores an animal will utilize. This finding shows long-term starvation and malnutrition.

The Histopathology Report from WADDL shows there is moderate atrophy of fat on the jejunum and heart which suggests a negative energy balance.

The mineral analysis performed by the Analytical Science Laboratory University of Idaho shows she was deficient in copper and selenium.

The fecal test returned showing 39 eggs of stomach worms per 3 grams of feces.

Based off of the evidence provided this animal suffered from starvation/negative energy balance for a prolonged time, causing pain and suffering.

Count 12

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a 2-2.5 year old Scottish Highland pregnant cow number A2.

On 2-8-18 while out at the Everson Auction Yard examining these animals, we were notified by an employee that there was currently a cow down, unable to stand. Dr. Hammon and I checked on the cow, it was laying sternal, alert, in about 3" of mud up by the feeding area. With assistance it was unable to stand. Dr. Hammon felt euthanasia was the best solution. After the animal was euthanized He performed a necropsy on the animal.

Upon necropsy Dr. Hammon found bruising on the ribs consistent with being trampled or a horn. He found very low interior fat content, light abdominal fill, he also found that the rumen papillae were stunted, He found little fecal content and light rumen fill. All indicating prolonged lack of exposure to food. Ultimately their digestive systems had shut down due to lack of food. He felt that the animals body condition supports nutritional challenge as does the digestive quality/observations of tissues. He also noted that there was no content in the large intestine from the intestine to the rectum to sample. This is another indicator of the digestive system shutting down.

The Histopathology Report from WADDL shows there is moderate atrophy of fat on the jejunum and heart which suggests a negative energy balance.

The mineral analysis performed by the Analytical Science Laboratory University of Idaho shows she was deficient in copper and selenium.

The bone marrow sample taken from the animals femur was tested by Michigan State University. It came back with a fat content of 64.3%, the average bovine bone marrow has been reported at 86.3%. The fat stores in bone marrow are typically the last fat stores an animal will utilize. This finding shows long-term starvation and malnutrition.

Based off of the evidence provided this animal suffered from starvation/negative energy balance for a prolonged time, causing pain and suffering.

Count 13

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a white 1.5-2.5 year old Scottish Highland Heifer number A3.

On 02/9/18 while checking on the herd at the Everson Auction yard I noticed this white heifer that was hunched up, walking a bit bowed and looked in poor condition. I asked Dr. Murphy from Kulshan Vet Hospital to examine her.

Dr. Murphy found the heifer had a BCS of 2/9 very thin, sunken eyes, dehydrated, a gas ping-indicating a twisted gut, and Ataxia/weakness while standing. He did not think the animal would survive surgery so the animal was euthanized.

A necropsy was immediately performed showing very little fat around the organs, very few feces in the rectum, only fluid in the cecum. He located undigested feed in the rumen, blunted ruminal villi (indicating prolonged lack of access to food).

The bone marrow sample taken from the animals femur was tested by Michigan State University. It came back with a fat content of 43.2%, the average bovine bone marrow has been reported at 86.3%. The fat stores in bone marrow are typically the last fat stores an animal will utilize. This finding shows long-term starvation and malnutrition.

The mineral analysis performed by the Analytical Science Laboratory University of Idaho shows she was deficient in copper and selenium.

The fecal test came back showing 1,017 stomach worm eggs per 3 gram sample of feces. This is a very high number and shows a severe parasite infestation.

The Histopathology Report from WADDL shows atrophy of fat. It also shows a large amount of sarcocysts in the heart, skeletal muscle.

Based off of the evidence provided this animal suffered from starvation/negative energy balance for a prolonged time, causing pain and suffering. She also suffered from a very heavy parasite load which likely contributed to her morbidity.

Count 14

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a black 1.5 year old Scottish Highland cattle number A4.

On 2/9/10 while out at the Everson Livestock Yard I was told this animal had died the day before. It appeared very thin, bones protruding. Dr. Murphy gave the animal a BCS of 2/9. He collected bone marrow from the animals femur.

The bone marrow sample taken from the animals femur was tested by Michigan State University. It came back with a fat content of 48.7%, the average bovine bone marrow has been reported at 86.3%. The fat stores in bone marrow are typically the last fat stores an animal will utilize. This finding shows long-term starvation and malnutrition.

Based off of the evidence provided this animal suffered from starvation/negative energy balance for a prolonged time, causing pain and suffering.

Count 15

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide adequate food and water (starvation) to a red 4.5 year old Scottish Highland cattle number A5.

On 2/9/10 while out at the Everson Livestock Yard I was told this animal had died the day before. Dr. Murphy gave the animal a BCS of 2/9. He collected bone marrow from the animals femur.

The bone marrow sample taken from the animals femur was tested by Michigan State University. It came back with a fat content of 58.7%, the average bovine bone marrow has been reported at 86.3%. The fat stores in bone marrow are typically the last fat stores an animal will utilize. This finding shows long-term starvation and malnutrition.

Based off of the evidence provided this animal suffered from starvation/negative energy balance for a prolonged time, causing pain and suffering.

Count 16

RCW 16.52.205 Animal Cruelty 1st degree for failing to provide food and water (starvation) to a red 1 year old heifer with a BCS of 1/5 number A6.

On 02/15/18 Dr. Hammon examined this heifer as she had recently gone down while being held at the Everson Auction yard. She was sitting sternal and alert. This particular animal had been housed inside the auction yard covered barn area with a cow and her calf. She had been supplied with alfalfa hay and water since she had arrived. She initially was having diarrhea, but it cleared up.

Dr. Hammon found heavy lice infestation 20 per square inch. He took a blood sample and found her to have a BCS of 1/5. He was not sure if she would be able to recover.

On 02/15/18 She was removed and brought to New Moon Goat Rescue. She was given an energy drench 3x a day.

On 2/16/18 she died.

On 02/22/18 we received the serology report. She did test positive to Lepto exposure.

Based off of the evidence provided this animal suffered from starvation/negative energy balance for a prolonged time, causing pain and suffering.

Count 17

RCW 16.52.207 Animal Cruelty 2nd Degree for failing to provide medical attention causing animal unnecessary pain and suffering to a brown deceased Scottish Highlander number BV5.

On 1/24/18 Dr. Fischer and I located a deceased brown cow in the east treed section of Roger Pederson's property. The cow had large horns growing downward into the animals face. According to Dr. Fischer's report the tips were penetrating approximately 2 cm into the masseter muscle bilaterally ventral to the eye. She also states that this condition was likely causing trauma to her muscles for several months. This is a painful condition.

Count 18

RCW 16.52.207 Animal Cruelty 2nd Degree for failing to provide medical attention causing animal unnecessary pain and suffering to a red Scottish Highlander number A7.

On 02/15/18 while examining animals at the Everson Auction Yard this 1 year old red Scottish Highlander heifer was very weak and having trouble standing. She was pulled from the herd and examined by Dr. Hammon.

She had a BCS of 1/5 and there were live lice approximately 20/per square inch.

Lice cause pain both directly by biting the animal and indirectly by causing anemia. No medical attention was given to this animal to prevent or treat the lice infestation.

Count 19

RCW 16.52.207 Animal Cruelty 2nd Degree for failing to provide medical attention causing animal unnecessary pain and suffering to a brown Scottish Highlander bull number A8.

On 2/15/18 while examining animals while out at the Everson Auction yard this bull was examined. Dr. Hammon found he had a BCS 1.5/9 and a lice infestation of 20 per square inch.

Lice cause pain both directly by biting the animal and indirectly by causing anemia. No medical attention was given to this animal to prevent or treat the lice infestation.

Count 20

RCW 16.52.080 Transporting or Confining in an unsafe manner by confining over 150 live animals on 120 acres in the winter with no grazing available, feeding 3 round bales total to the animals daily. By confining the animals and limiting their food intake to half of what they should have had it not only put them at risk of starvation, but it also put them at risk of physical injury from larger more dominant animals in the herd. Mr. Pederson did not provide a safe environment for all animals in his care to feed freely.

Throughout the property there were fencing fragments and pieces of metal. There was fencing down, that all poses a risk to not only the animals on the property, but the people as well.

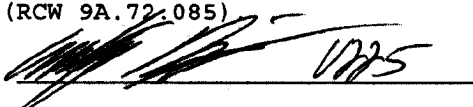
Count 21

RCW 16.36.102 Duty to bury carcass of diseased livestock-dead livestock presumed diseased.

On Mr. Pederson's property 72 animals were found deceased. All were in various stages of decomposition. Ranging from less than a few hours, to approximately 3 months. None of these 72 animals had been disposed of in an approved method, and no attempt appeared to have been made to dispose of them. Some did appear to have been hidden as they were in piles inside of the barn.

According to Dr. Hammon the animals that Kulshan Vet Hospital examined were suffering from problems that could have been prevented or treated with minimal effort and minimal money before law enforcement had to get involved. He stated that all of the animals he witnessed and examined had died from malnutrition due to one of, or a combination of competition, lack of adequate feed being supplied, or parasites robbing the nutrition.

I certify under penalty of perjury and the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge (RCW 9A.72.085)

Signature: 

Date: 05-16-18

Case number: SCSO 17-19190

SKAGIT COUNTY