Case 2020CF000477

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FILED 11-19-2020 Clerk of Circuit Court Cindy R. Hamre Incha 2020CF000477

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT JEFFERSON COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

Plaintiff,

DA Case #: 2020JE003148 Assigned ADA: Jeffrey M. Shock Agency Case #: 2020-7631

■ MISDEMEANOR ▼ FELONY

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT** 

ATN #:

VS.

TAMMY S FLEMMING 54 E Rockwell Ave #A Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

DOB: 09/30/1972 Sex/Race: F/W Eye Color: Green Hair Color: Blonde Height: 5 ft 06 in Weight: 130 lbs

Alias: Maiden Name Tammy Olson

Defendant.

For Official Use

The undersigned complainant, of the Fort Atkinson Police Department, being first duly sworn on oath, says that:

## **Count 1: MISTREATMENT OF ANIMALS**

The above-named defendant on Friday, September 11, 2020, in the City of Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, did intentionally treat an animal, a dog named Cooper, in a cruel manner, resulting in the animal's death, contrary to sec. 951.02 Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

<u>FACTS:</u> Your complainant bases this complaint upon the reports and records of said department which your complainant has relied on in the past and found to be truthful and accurate. Therefore your complainant is informed and believes:

On September 11, 2020, Fort Atkinson Police Officer Adam Lawrence spoke with Victim 1. Victim 1 explained that her 8-month-old dog, Cooper, was being trained at Herman's Hangout in Fort Atkinson. Victim 1 said that she received a call from the dog trainer at Herman's Hangout, the above-named defendant Tammy Flemming, informing her that Cooper had died. Victim 1 said that the defendant told her (Victim 1) that she (the defendant) had pushed the dog too far and that she (the defendant) messed up.

Officer Lawrence went to Herman's Hangout in the City of Fort Atkinson, Jefferson County, Wisconsin, and spoke with the defendant. He reports:

TAMMY stated she was doing her final training for the night with Cooper at approximately 10:30 pm. She had Cooper on a choker chain. She stated the way she trains is by a method called "release of pressure," which means the dog will decide how much pressure is applied to achieve compliance. It is common for a dog to yelp or react when using a choker chain, that is when they know to relieve the pressure. Cooper had been with TAMMY for four weeks and had been doing very well on the choker chain. During this time TAMMY was asking Cooper to sit but he was in a "power struggle" with TAMMY and had begun "fighting" her by thrashing his head back and forth, this caused

TAMMY to continue with pressure on the chain. TAMMY advised this is a command that Cooper has successfully demonstrated many times before. She attempted to give a loud verbal command to gain compliance and stop the thrashing. This did not work and Cooper kept "fighting." TAMMY noticed Cooper's back legs became weak and she then released the chain. TAMMY watched Cooper and observed he began to breathe shallow and slowly. She then began to give Cooper Mouth to Mouth and Chest Compressions. TAMMY also thought to grab some honey, she explained some hunting dogs experience low blood sugar and honey helps. Her attempts to save Cooper were unsuccessful and Cooper died. TAMMY stated she did not recognize that Cooper was in trouble and not fighting with her soon enough. I asked TAMMY what she believed happened to Cooper, she believed he had an Adrenalin rush and was possibly over exerted as she did not recognize it soon enough....

Cooper was transported to the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at the University of Wisconsin where a necropsy was performed by Dr. Philip N. Bochsler, D.V.M., Ph.D. Dr. Bochsler produced a report stating that the "findings in this case are consistent with strangulation." Dr. Bochsler noted that Cooper "had a band of cutaneous (skin) redness encircling most of the neck" which was "causally consistent with the presence of a tight, constricting band or ligature, such as a sliding loop of rope, cord, chain, or a pinch/choke collar. When overly tight, this loop would compress/collapse the trachea, and compress/occlude the carotid arteries and the jugular veins, resulting in strangulation."

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 11/19/20

Electronically Signed By:

Theresa A Beck

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1032818

Electronically Signed By:

Jeffery Davis

Complainant

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