

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BROOKE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIAState of West Virginia
v.Case No. 26-mosf-00047☐ Misdemeanor/ ☒ FelonyCaleb Shane Decapio

Defendant (full name)

228 Peacock Lane

Address

Follansbee, WV 26037

City, State & Zip Code

XXX-XX-

10 / 11 / 2004

Social Security Number Date of Birth

Driver's License / Identification Number

Phone Number(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Mag. Ct. Criminal Procedure Rule 3.4; 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(33)

I, the undersigned complainant, upon my oath or affirmation, state the following is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. On or about 04 / 01 / 2016, in BROOKECounty, West Virginia, in violation of *West Virginia Code § (cite specific section, subsection, and/or subdivision, if applicable)* 61-8-19(b) - Cruelty to Animals (2 counts)the defendant did *(state statutory language of the offense)*intentionally torture, or mutilate, or maliciously kill an animal, or caused, procured, or authorized any other person to torture, mutilate or maliciously kill an animalI further state that this complaint is based upon the following facts: ☐ Check if continued on attached sheet.See attached page.

(If this complaint involves any of the following relationships to the defendant, check all that apply.) The defendant:

☐ is/was married to the victim.☐ is/was living in the same household with the victim.☐ is/was a parent or guardian of the victim.☐ is/was a person who is a sexual or an intimate partner of the victim.☐ has a child in common with the victim.☐ has none of the above connections to the victim.

(If this complaint involves driving under the influence (DUI) and any other traffic violations indicate the following.)

Refused secondary chemical test ☐ yes ☐ noIs CDL holder ☐ yes ☐ no

Complainant (who appears before Magistrate):

Abigail Pelletier

Complainant (full name)

797 Mac Barnes Dr.

Address

Wellsburg, WV 26070

City, State & Zip Code

(304) 394-0800

Phone Number(s)

Humane Officer

Office or Title, if any

4/16/26
DateAbigail Pelletier
Complainant Signature

On this complaint, sworn or affirmed before me and signed in my presence on this date by the complainant, the item(s) checked below apply:

Finding

☐ No probable cause found☒ Probable cause found

Issuance

☐ Summons issued☐ Warrant issued☐ Warrantless arrest4-16-26
DateAbigail Pelletier
Magistrate Signature

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BROOKE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT (CONTINUATION PAGE)

On April 1, 2026, at approx 9:06 AM I was contacted by Brooke County Dispatch and advised Sergeant Siranovic was requesting that two dogs and several cats be removed from 228 Peacock Lane, Follansbee due to the owners, Hope Lynn Taylor and Caleb Shane Decapio, being in custody. This officer arrived at 228 Peacock Lane, Follansbee and was advised the two dogs were in a basement. This officer was unable to access the front door due to the basement stairs being caved in. This officer went to the back porch of the residence through the door and down the stairs to the basement. Going down the basement stairs, the odor of urine and feces was overwhelming. In the basement there was urine and feces covering every part of the floor. In the back right corner of the basement was a severely emaciated female, brown, pitbull mix, 8-9 years old, wearing an electric collar, named "Daisy". Daisy's frail and bony body was curled up in a plastic tote inside the wire crate. The wire crate "Daisy" was in was full of dog food that was saturated in urine and feces. When opening "Daisy's" wire crate she did not appear to be able to come out of the plastic tote. This officer picked "Daisy" up out of the plastic tote and carried her to the Dog Warden truck. This officer went back to the basement to get the other dog "Scrappy", an emaciated, intact male, brown, pitbull mix, 1-2 years old, wearing an electric collar. "Scrappy" was in a padlocked steel crate. The crate had a plastic tote with dog food inside, shredded plastic and stuffing that was saturated in urine and feces. An officer was able to obtain a key to unlock the padlock. "Scrappy" was removed from the crate and taken to the back of the Dog Warden Truck. This officer then went to the front porch to speak with Hope Taylor, the owner of the animals. This officer spoke with Taylor and she advised me of the dog's names and ages. Taylor also advised she had four cats inside the residence. I asked Taylor why "Daisy" and "Scrappy" were extremely underweight. Taylor advised "Daisy" had stopped eating a few weeks prior and she tried feeding her in a bowl instead of the plastic tote but "Daisy" still would not eat. I asked Taylor when the last time she had taken "Daisy" and "Scrappy" to the vet and Taylor advised her dogs have never been to a vet. "Daisy" and "Scrappy" were brought to the Brooke County Animal Shelter. I went back to 228 Peacock Lane, Follansbee with Chief Rae. Inside the residence there was an odor of urine and feces. The two cat litter boxes seen were overflowing with feces. There was dog feces on the floor in the residence. An empty bag of 9 lives cat food was seen on the floor. I was unable to locate any water for the animals, there was a container full of what appeared to be dog food and pretzels. Daisy and Scrappy were taken to Wheeling Veterinary Associates located at 2167 National Road, Wheeling and seen by Dr. Paige Stohr, DVM. During exams it was discovered that "Daisy" weighs 21.9 lbs and was emaciated. Stohr also advised "Daisy" had an ear infection in both ears, had a dirty coat matted with feces and fleas, tapeworms present around anus, and abrasion wounds suspected to be from laying on a hard dirty surface. "Daisy" has severe muscle wasting suspected to be from malnutrition. "Daisy" had bloodwork done that showed non-regenerative anemia suspected to be due to parasites and/or malnutrition, Elevated WBC neutrophilia monocytoisis and elevated platelets suspected to be due to ear infections or body correcting anemia, elevated CPK due to malnutrition and wasting of musculature. During "Scrappy's" exam it was discovered that "Scrappy" is emaciated, has an ear infection in both ears, abrasions in his mouth and on his lips due to "Scrappy" violently trying to get food outside of holding cage when food was brought out, muscle wasting from starvation, fleas, tapeworms present on anus, wounds on tail suspected from being crated, wounds on muzzle and front legs suspected to be from trying to escape crate, and dirty fur matted in feces. "Scrappy" had bloodwork done that showed eosinophilia suspected to be due to parasites, elevated CPK suspected to be due to malnutrition and muscle wasting. "Scrappy's" urine was also very concentrated, believed to be due to dehydration. Based upon the foregoing, it is alleged that the animals were intentionally subjected to torture as result of their living conditions. Photos of the animals living conditions are attached to this criminal complaint as Exhibit "A" and "B".

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BROOKE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

State of West Virginia
v.

Case No. 216-MD5F-00048

☐ Misdemeanor/ ☒ Felony

Hope Lynn Taylor
Defendant (full name)

XXX-XX- 01 / 04 / 2006

Social Security Number Date of Birth

228 Peacock Lane

Driver's License / Identification Number

Address

Follansbee, WV 26037

Phone Number(s)

City, State & Zip Code

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Mag. Ct. Criminal Procedure Rule 3.4; 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(33)

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the defendant did *(state statutory language of the offense)*

intentionally torture, or mutilate, or maliciously kill an animal, or caused, procured, or authorized any other person to torture, mutilate or maliciously kill an animal

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Phone Number(s)

Humane Officer

Office or Title, if any

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Finding

Issuance

☐ No probable cause found

☐ Summons issued

☒ Probable cause found

☐ Warrant issued

☐ Warrantless arrest

4/16/26
Date

Abigail Pelletier
Complainant Signature

4-6-26
Date

Mike Hony
Magistrate Signature

IN THE MAGISTRATE COURT OF BROOKE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT (CONTINUATION PAGE)

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