

bones on either side of Katie's torso, with nearly seventy-five percent (75%) of the rib's circular shape exposed. Katie's spinal cord was visible, nearly the entire length of her back. Katie's ischium bones (hips) were clearly defined under the skin. Katie's scapula bones (shoulders) were clearly defined under the skin. Finally, and similar to what a human experiences after rapid weight loss, Katie's skin laid flat on the floor, as if stacked in layers, indicating excess skin.

Within the same room were two dog beds. Each were stained with a dried liquid and discolored. Dog fur was collected in clumps across the floor, under the furniture, and against the baseboard of the walls. The dog fur was the same color as the fur of Darcy and Katie. Leaning on the wall in this same room was an unopened bag of dog food. The bag was a red bag of Alpo dog food which was marked, "Prime Cuts." On the back of the dog food bag was the insignia for "Purina" brand dog food. The dog food bag appeared to have been in the same place for an extended period of time, because there was dirt, dust, and dog fur collected around the bottom of the bag. **Joseph Alex Farkas** informed Your Affiant that his friend, Mr. Matthew Pringle, brought him that dog food.

No dog food bowls were nearby. One bowl rested on the ground near Katie, and had a small amount of water within it. One empty dog food bowl was at the base of the staircase, approximately 8 feet from where Darcy was still lying. Two empty bowls rested on the floor in the kitchen, but were also out of reach for both canines, who at this time, had been determined by Supervisor Anderson to be unable to walk or move on their own.

Your Affiant began a dialogue with **Joseph Alex Farkas**, who stated that Katie had hip dysplasia, but did not address why he still insisted she could move on her own. He then stated Katie's "problem" [the apparent paralysis], began three days ago. He informed Your Affiant that Katie had been lying there, in that position, for three days. He acknowledged that Katie was lying "in her urine, but not feces." When Your Affiant began looking at drops of a red, dried liquid on the floor, **Joseph Alex Farkas** advised "that was from her last period." He did not specify which dog he was referring to.

Joseph Alex Farkas informed both Supervisor Anderson and Your Affiant that he last sought veterinary treatment for Darcy and Katie three months ago. Then, when asked to confirm that timeline, **Joseph Alex Farkas** changed his response to "I don't remember." Supervisor Anderson conducted a query within "petparentusa.com," the licensing partner utilized by BCSO for storing vaccination and licensing records. The query returned results for both Katie and Darcy. Those results indicated that Katie and Darcy had not been registered with required vaccinations in more than two years prior to this day.

Utilizing the *Tuft's Animal Care and Condition Scales*, which assists animal control officers, animal cruelty investigators, and veterinarians when determining an animal's living environment, I determined the house at 2289 Holder Road, where Katie and Darcy were found, to be a **four (4) on the environmental health scale**. *Tuft's* provides a scoring between one (1), which is considered "Acceptable," and five (5), which is considered "Filthy." With a score of four (4), **which is considered "Very Unsanitary,"** **Joseph Alex Farkas**, was exposing Katie and Darcy to an environment with "many days of accumulation" of urine (puddles of fresh, wet urine and several areas with dried urine). It would have been "difficult for animal[s] to avoid contact with waste matter" (Katie and Darcy lied in their own urine). There was a "moderate amount of trash, garbage, or clutter present that may inhibit comfortable rest and / or movement of the animal" (significant waste, clutter, and clumps of dog hair spread throughout, as depicted in photographic evidence captured at the scene; Katie and Darcy unable to remove themselves from the collection of such elements). Finally, Your Affiant found breathing "unpleasant" due to the "odor" of urine.

Based on the observation of the apparent deplorable conditions of Katie and Darcy, Supervisor Anderson explained, to **Joseph Alex Farkas**, the urgent need for Katie and Darcy to receive immediate medical treatment. **Joseph Alex Farkas** did not feel that his canines were in such a condition to require emergency medical intervention, however he completed and signed a Pet Surrender Form. **Joseph Alex Farkas** also advised Your Affiant that he would contact his previously used veterinarian, Titusville Animal Clinic, located at 940 Cheney Highway, Titusville, Brevard County, Florida, 32780, and request they release the veterinary medical records for both Katie and Darcy.

On this same day, at approximately 1535 hours, Animal Enforcement Officer (AEO) S. Fleming, ID# 4985, responded to assist with the transportation of Katie and Darcy. Upon his efforts to secure the two canines, he observed that neither was able to walk or stand under their own strength. AEO Fleming was compelled to physically secure both canines by picking them up, utilizing a towel to keep himself separated from the urine saturation and unknown skin conditions of Katie and Darcy. AEO Fleming and Your Affiant exited the house, as AEO Fleming carried Darcy.

Utilizing his agency issued iPhone 12, Your Affiant activated his video recorder to capture Darcy's behaviors and movements. AEO Fleming placed Darcy on her feet onto the ground, holding her up with his hands. As AEO Fleming began to release his supportive grasp, Darcy began to fall forward, and then sideways. **It was confirmed that Darcy could not stand under her own strength.** Darcy was placed into AEO Fleming's agency vehicle for transport.

AEO Fleming and Your Affiant then returned inside the residence to secure Katie, who was still lying on the ground, in the same position she had been since Your Affiant's initial arrival. **Katie was unable to stand, or walk.** AEO Fleming secured Katie in a towel and carried her out of the house. Your Affiant observed a yellow moisture, believed to be the aforementioned urine, saturating Katie's lower torso and hind quarters. This liquid flowed abruptly downward toward Katie's paws, ultimately dripping profusely from Katie's untrimmed toe nails and onto the ground. A urine drip trail followed Katie from the position she was on the floor all the way into AEO Fleming's agency vehicle. Katie lied inside the vehicle in a similar position to which she was lying inside the residence. The suspected urine began to quickly drain onto the floor of the compartment where Katie was being secured.

On this same day, at approximately 1600 hours, AEO Fleming, Supervisor Anderson, and Your Affiant transported Katie and Darcy to the Rockledge Animal Specialty and Emergency Hospital (RASEH) for immediate medical intervention. Upon arrival at RASEH, Katie's compartment was opened. Katie attempted to exit her compartment, but was only able to drag herself using her front paws. As she neared the edge of the compartment, she was supported by the veterinary staff and transferred to a gurney, still unable to walk or stand on her own. Katie was left in the care of veterinary staff at RASEH.

When Darcy's compartment was opened, the behavior exhibited by Darcy seemed to have improved. Darcy's body movements had become more prevalent, as she moved her head and began to slightly move her tail back and forth. Darcy was also now sitting upright, supporting some of her weight on her front legs. Still unable to walk, however, Darcy also required a physical transfer to the gurney. Darcy was left in the care of veterinary staff at RASEH.

On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, Your Affiant authored a Search Warrant for Animal Care Clinic of Titusville, located at 940 Cheney Highway, Titusville, Brevard County, Florida, 32780, in reference to the verification that **Joseph Alex Farkas** did or did not provide any veterinary care to either of his

animals in need. On this same day, Your Affiant presented said Search Warrant to the Honorable Judge Jennifer Taylor, who granted the issuance of the Search Warrant.

On this same day, Your Affiant also learned that, the day previous, on Tuesday, September 6, 2022, five (5) days after Katie and Darcy had begun emergency treatments, RASEH had returned Katie and Darcy to BCSO and both canines were processed into the South Animal Care Center (SACC), located at 1500 W. Eau Gallie Boulevard, Melbourne, Brevard County, Florida, 32935. Upon their return, Dr. C. Guzman, DVM, a licensed veterinarian, having practiced veterinary medicine for approximately 10 years, and currently employed by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office as a veterinarian, conducted a forensic examination of Katie and Darcy.

On this same day (September 7, 2022), at approximately 1400 hours, Your Affiant met with Dr. Guzman at the BCSO SACC. Although Dr. Guzman was unable to invest the time for a detailed, sworn-audio recorded statement, she provided Your Affiant a few moments to summarize her interpretation of the results received from the forensic examinations performed by RASEH. Your Affiant first presented Dr. Guzman with the photographic and video evidence he had gathered during the initial investigation at the scene of 2289 Holder Road. This evidence was labeled as "2022-00309434 (1) – 2022-00309434 (52)."

During Dr. Guzman's review of these photographs and videos, she opined the medical report provided by RASEH appeared accurate, based on the condition of Katie and Darcy as observed through those evidentiary photographs and videos she had just viewed. Dr. Guzman stated that, during her initial examination, it was apparent the health of both Katie and Darcy had improved under the care of RASEH when comparing their current appearance to the medical findings of the veterinary staff at RASEH. Dr. Guzman was unavailable, at this time, to provide any more detailed information, and requested more time to review all medical findings documented thus far. Your Affiant scheduled an interview with Dr. Guzman to take place at a later time.

On Thursday, September 8, 2022, at approximately 0800 hours, Sworn Senior Animal Enforcement Operations Supervisor J. Straight, ID# 0442, served Your Affiant's aforementioned Search Warrant upon Animal Care Clinic of Titusville. The evidentiary medical records she discovered were secured by her and documented on a BCSO Property Receipt. Refer to Supervisor Straight's Case Supplement for more information regarding her service of Your Affiant's Search Warrant.

Supervisor Straight provided the evidentiary documents to Your Affiant. Upon review, Your Affiant learned that both Katie and Darcy had last been treated at the Animal Care Clinic on and around February of 2020. This treatment on record was only Rabies vaccinations for both canines. Prior to that, normal, consistent care seemed to have been administered for the majority of Katie and Darcy's ownership by **Joseph Alex Farkas**. However, according to the records recovered from Animal Care Clinic, **neither Katie nor Darcy had been provided any type of veterinary care for more than two (2) years leading up to this investigation.**

On Thursday, September 8, 2022, at approximately 1500 hours, Your Affiant responded to 4230 Peoples Street, Mims, Brevard County, Florida, 32754, and attempted to locate Ms. Crook, the original caller who witnessed, and reported, the horrific conditions of Katie and Darcy. To date, Your Affiant has made several additional attempts to conduct an interview with Ms. Crook, however, all attempts have been met with negative results.