



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 21, 2022

Macomb County Veterinarian Charged with Animal Cruelty

Mt. Clemens, MI - The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office has charged Wayne Gilchrist of Ray Township with one count of animal abuse.

The Prosecutor's Office reviewed a warrant request that included a video posted on social media depicting alleged mistreatment of a dog in Ray Township around Oct. 9. The action allegedly occurred at the veterinarian's private home. Macomb County Animal Control has examined the dog and determined it was not injured. It was also discovered that the dog in question bit a juvenile and a puppy in the home.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's Office reviewed all the information provided and conferred with veterinary experts. Wayne Gilchrist has been charged with a misdemeanor charge of Animals - Abandoning / Cruelty to One Animal. It is punishable by 93 Days, \$1,000.00, up to 200 hours of community service, or any combination of penalties pursuant to MCL 750.50(4)(a). The Macomb County Sheriff's Office did not expressly request a felony on the Request for Warrant Authorization.

Gilchrist was arraigned October 21, 2022 in 42nd District Court in Romeo before Hon. Jennifer Andary. He was given a \$25,000 personal bond and bond conditions stating that he have no contact with animals whatsoever, enroll in cognitive therapy, no drugs or alcohol with testing three times per month, and no aggressive or threatening behavior. The pre-trial is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 9:30am.

In Michigan, there are only two statutes for animal abuse, a misdemeanor and a felony. The felony charge was not issued because the incident did not meet the requirements set forth in the statute.

"I would welcome improvements to Michigan's animal cruelty statute and ask that you contact your legislators in both the House and the Senate to change the law in Lansing so these crimes can be charged appropriately. Animals are part of our family and anyone who sees animal abuse is encouraged to contact their local police department and report the incident," said Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido.

The Macomb County Prosecutor's office represents the people. We are committed to achieving justice and following the laws of the state of Michigan.

All that are accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.