

## MEDIA RELEASE - Animal Cruelty

Ray Township, Mi. – On 10/12/22, Macomb County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a residence on 29 Mile Road to meet with Macomb County Animal Control Officers regarding an animal abuse complaint.

Upon arrival, deputies were notified that a video had been posted to YouTube, depicting the resident, a 52-year-old male, yelling at a German Shepherd dog and physically putting his hands on the dog. The video which was taken by the male's son shows the man yelling at the dog in a bedroom of the home. The man's wife is also in the bedroom. The man physically removes the dog by its collar from the bedroom. The dog is walking around the kitchen area as the man continues to yell commands at the dog. The man then grabs the dog putting it on its back in a submissive position. The man is holding the dog by its neck and moving it around the floor on its back. The dog is screaming/whimpering. The man grabs the dog's neck with both hands as he lowers his head to the dog's head. The man appears to be squeezing the dog's neck and/or possibly biting the neck of the dog. He then lifts the dog's head slamming it on to the floor as he continues to yell at the dog. The dog is then forcefully pushed backwards and walks around the kitchen and bedroom area until it is let outside.

Deputies attempted to contact the man at the home but was told he was at an animal care clinic in Shelby Township where he works as a veterinarian.

Deputies conducted several interviews and learned that the video was taken several days prior on 10/9/22. The German Shepherd in the video is 5 years old and had gotten into a fight with a second dog in the home; an 8-year-old German Short Haired Pointer. The owner stated that he disciplined the dog over the two dog fight but would never hurt his dog.

No visible injuries were observed on the dog however, 3 dogs were removed from the home.

Macomb County Sheriff's Office Anthony M. Wickersham

The investigation was completed and turned over to the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office on 10/13/22. On 10/18/22, the Macomb County Sheriff's Office received a warrant for the man. After reviewing the information presented, the Macomb County Prosecutor's Office charged the following:

Count 1: Animals – Abandoning/Cruelty To One Animal (misd)

At this time, all dogs removed are in good health and remain in the custody of the Macomb County Animal Control. The man, who has been cooperative will be arraigned through the 42-1 Romeo District Court on a date to be determined.