

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT HAINES

STATE OF ALASKA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

STEPHEN HUGO KROSCHER

DOB: 01/25/1961

APSIN ID: 7089522

DMV NO.: 7045126 AK

ATN: 118170468

Defendant.

No. (Stephen Hugo Kroschel)

Related Search Warrant(s): 1JU-25-00116SW

INFORMATION

I certify this document and its attachments do not contain the (1) name of a victim of a sexual offense listed in AS 12.61.140 or (2) residence or business address or telephone number of a victim of or witness to any offense unless it is an address identifying the place of a crime or an address or telephone number in a transcript of a court proceeding and disclosure of the information was ordered by the court.
The following counts charge a crime involving DOMESTIC VIOLENCE as defined in AS 18.66.990: None.

Count I - AS 11.61.140(a)(1)

Cruelty To Animals

Stephen Hugo Kroschel - 015

Count II - AS 11.61.140(a)(1)

Cruelty To Animals

Stephen Hugo Kroschel - 014

Count III - AS 11.61.140(a)(1)

Cruelty To Animals

Stephen Hugo Kroschel - 016

Count IV - AS 11.61.140(a)(2)

Cruelty To Animals

Stephen Hugo Kroschel - 002

Count V - AS 11.61.140(a)(2)
Cruelty To Animals
Stephen Hugo Kroschel - 001

THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS CHARGES:

COUNT I

That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about January 16, 2023, at or near Haines, STEPHEN HUGO KROSCHER knowingly inflicted severe or prolonged physical pain or suffering on an animal; to wit: a moose.

All of which is a class C Felony offense being contrary to and in violation of AS 11.61.140(a)(1) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

COUNT II

That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about November 21, 2024, at or near Haines, STEPHEN HUGO KROSCHER knowingly inflicted severe or prolonged physical pain or suffering on an animal; to wit: a porcupine.

All of which is a class C Felony offense being contrary to and in violation of AS 11.61.140(a)(1) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

COUNT III

That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about June 25, 2025, at or near Haines, STEPHEN HUGO KROSCHER knowingly inflicted severe or prolonged physical pain or suffering on an animal; to wit: a brown bear.

All of which is a class C Felony offense being contrary to and in violation of AS 11.61.140(a)(1) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

COUNT IV

That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about January 16, 2023, at or near Haines, STEPHEN HUGO KROSCHER had a legal duty to care for the animal and, with criminal negligence, failed to care for the animal and, as a result, caused the death

1 of the animal or caused severe physical pain or prolonged suffering to the animal; to wit: a
2 moose.

3 All of which is a class A Misdemeanor offense being contrary to and in violation
4 of AS 11.61.140(a)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

5
6 **COUNT V**

7 That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about November 21,
8 2024, at or near Haines, STEPHEN HUGO KROSCHER had a legal duty to care for the
9 animal and, with criminal negligence, failed to care for the animal and, as a result, caused
10 the death of the animal or caused severe physical pain or prolonged suffering to the animal;
11 to wit: a porcupine.

12 All of which is a class A Misdemeanor offense being contrary to and in violation
13 of AS 11.61.140(a)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

14 The undersigned swears under oath this Information is based upon a review of
15 police report AK25026699 submitted to date.

16 In December 2024, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) received a report from the
17 Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) regarding concerns about STEPHEN
18 KROSCHER, owner of The Kroschel Films Wildlife Center (KFWC), and the fact he had
19 29 animal deaths over the previous five (5) years at the wildlife center. KFWC is subject
20 to regulation and inspections by ADF&G and the United States Department of Agriculture
21 (USDA).

22 On or about November 21, 2024, ADF&G received a report from KROSCHER that
23 a porcupine at his facility had died. The porcupine was sent to the Washington State
24 University Animals Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL) for a necropsy. WADDL
25 issued a report on December 6, 2024, stating “[t]he main finding on gross necropsy is
26 serous atrophy of fat, indicating acute onset of poor body condition” and concluded this
27 porcupine was a “severely underweight adult animal.” AWT contacted ADF&G Biologist
Stephanie Bogle for a layperson explanation of the report. She explained the report’s

1 findings meant the porcupine starved due to lack of food or improper diet. She also reported
2 an adult female porcupine should weigh 16 pounds and the deceased porcupine only
3 weighed 8 pounds. Dr. Annette Roug, a veterinarian with ADF&G, indicated this animal
4 must have suffered before it starved to death (CTN 001 and CTN 014). Following the report
5 from ADF&G, AWT instituted an investigation into KROSCHER and KFWC. This
6 investigation revealed a history of animal neglect and other health and safety issues,
7 detailed below.

8 On February 24, 2010, ADF&G sent a letter to KROSCHER regarding concerns it
9 had with his facility. Specifically, it noted KROSCHER reported feeding tainted food to
10 wolves, leading to the deaths of two of the animals in February 2009. It also noted that
11 KROSCHER failed to seek veterinary care for the four wolves that were obviously sick –
12 with two wolves dying over the course of four days and the remaining wolves appearing
13 ill for two weeks. At no point during that two-week period did he report seeking veterinary
14 care. The letter also detailed an incident that KROSCHER reported occurred on August 12,
15 2009. A fox was found with a swollen jaw believed to be caused by a bite from another fox
16 that became infected. KROSCHER did not seek veterinary care for the animal until six
17 days later due to it appearing dehydrated (although he did administer Baytril, an oral
18 antibiotic, without consulting a veterinarian). At that point, KROSCHER requested fluids
19 be shipped from Juneau, but the fox died before the fluids arrived. KROSCHER reported
20 his practice at times was to check on animals every other day. ADF&G directed him to do
21 daily inspections of all animals.

22 On July 5, 2016, the USDA conducted an inspection and issued a report on July 10,
23 2016. This report noted old and dried meat residue on top of an animal enclosure. This
24 same enclosure had an accumulation of fecal matter that was not cleaned sufficiently. The
25 report directed KROSCHER and KFWC to clean the enclosures more regularly.

26 On June 28, 2017, the USDA conducted an inspection and issued a report on June
27 30, 2017. This report noted that a drinking water receptacle for an animal enclosure had a
moderate buildup of rust and contained dirty water with plant material floating on the
surface. Another enclosure had a drinking water receptacle with a large amount of algae

1 coating the inside of it. The report directed KROSCHEL to maintain clean and sanitary
2 drinking water for the animals.

3 On May 28, 2019, ADF&G sent a letter to KROSCHEL following a March 2019
4 inspection. This letter noted several issues, including the need for a veterinary health exam
5 for multiple animals. He was also instructed to maintain a one-to-two-month supply of food
6 for the animals. KROSCHEL sent a response letter on June 30, 2019, stating he would
7 follow this recommendation.

8 On November 2, 2019, Sidney Campbell, Raptor Program Manager for the
9 American Bald Eagle Foundation, reported to ADF&G and the USDA that she had
10 concerns about KFWC and KROSCHEL. She reported KROSCHEL, or his staff,
11 frequently comes to their facility to “borrow” food for their animals. She reported KFWC
12 communicated as if it was a dire situation, leading to Campbell ordering more food than
13 their facility needed so as to have extra available to share with KFWC. She reported that
14 on November 1, 2019, a KFWC staff member showed up at an American Bald Eagle
15 Foundation staff member’s home and stated KFWC was “desperate, they have 4 quail left
16 and nothing to feed his birds.” KROSCHEL reached out again on November 9, 2019, again
17 asking to borrow more food for his animals, and even stated he resorted to trapping
18 squirrels to feed his animals because they were so low on food.

19 In an email to ADF&G dated February 19, 2020, KROSCHEL stated that having to
20 comply with ADF&G requirements would likely put the KFWC out of business. He also
21 references a November 21, 2019, inspection by ADF&G following reports that animals at
22 his facility were suffering from starvation, showing he was aware of these reports.

23 On or about November 13, 2021, KROSCHEL reported to ADF&G that a two-year-
24 old gray wolf died at KFWC. The wolf was sent to ADF&G for a necropsy. The report
25 indicates the wolf was suffering from end stage polycystic disease and pulmonary edema
26 – chronic kidney disease. AWT reviewed this report with Bogle who indicated that
27 reasonable medical care should have been taken to maintain the wolf’s health and
KROSCHEL did not do that.

1 On January 16, 2023, a moose at KFWC died and KROSCHER reported it to
2 ADF&G. The moose was sent to WADDL and a necropsy was completed. WADDL issued
3 a report on February 21, 2023, indicating “histology confirms the presence of serous fat
4 atrophy in this moose calf, consistent with the gross necropsy findings and suggestive of
5 negative energy balance.” Bogle informed AWT that this meant the moose had a chronic
6 decline due to improper feeding and it starved due to lack of food or improper diet. In a
7 statement dated September 3, 2025, Dr. Roug noted any reasonable person with experience
8 raising moose would have noticed a decline in this animal and sought veterinary care and
9 that this moose must have suffered before it died (CTN 002 and CTN 015).

10 On March 28, 2023, ADF&G sent a letter to KROSCHER stating several concerns
11 with his facility related to cleaning out the fecal matter inside enclosures; record keeping
12 regarding animal medical care and vaccinations; preventing visitors from feeding animals
13 from their mouths; and the need to cover chain link bottoms of enclosures with soil.

14 On April 28, 2023, ADF&G received a report from KROSCHER that a lynx died at
15 KFWC the previous day. The lynx was sent to WADDL and a report was issued on May
16 25, 2023, following a necropsy. The report stated “the most significant histologic finding
17 is severe kidney disease, with evidence of both chronic changes as well as more acute
18 tubular injury” and “Fecal flotation is positive for *Toxocara cati* [Worms].” AWT discussed
19 this report with Bogle, who indicated this report means the lynx was not properly cared for.
20 She reported the chronic illnesses should have been identified by a veterinarian and
21 reasonable medical care should have been used to maintain the health of the lynx. Dr. Roug
22 also stated any reasonable caretaker would have noticed a decline in the health of the
23 animal and sought veterinary care.

24 On August 1, 2023, ADF&G sent a letter to KROSCHER documenting animal
25 welfare concerns, including the lack of food supply stored on the property; the need to have
26 a licensed veterinarian vaccinate and deworm the animals; locating and conducting a visual
27 inspection of all animals listed on the permit for KFWC; providing all animals access to
clean drinking water, which was not done for each animal; adequate dirt/soil covering of
the chain link bottom in enclosures; the health of each animal and the condition of each

1 enclosure must be checked daily and recorded; and reporting animals deaths within 24
2 hours. This letter also stated the moose at the facility was noticeably thin and that it should
3 be examined by a veterinarian.

4 In September 2023, a yearling moose escaped from his enclosure and the facility
5 through an open gate in the perimeter fencing. The moose was not located after several
6 days of searching. However, on December 23, 2023, the moose returned to the area and
7 was lured back inside the facility. Due to insufficient construction of enclosures, this moose
8 was able to mingle with the wild population, allowing for the possible transmission of
9 diseases and parasites. It was also exposed to the threats of predation and hunting.
10 According to a news article published at the time, KROSCHER reported he fed the moose
11 bananas. ADF&G previously told KROSCHER bananas are not appropriate food for a
12 moose following the death of a moose in 2013.

13 On November 24, 2023, KROSCHER reported to ADF&G that another lynx died at
14 KFWC. This lynx was sent to WADDL and a necropsy report was issued on December 1,
15 2023. It stated that the cause of death was “attributed to acute hepatitis and splenitis” and
16 “these findings are indicative of septic spread of bacterial infection.” Again, Bogle
17 indicated this meant the lynx was not properly cared for and KROSCHER should have
18 sought veterinary care, as reasonable medical intervention could maintain the health of the
19 lynx. Dr. Roug also stated “[t]his case raises concern about the quality of the food given to
20 the animals and the hygiene of the food storage and preparation areas.”

21 During a December 12, 2023, telephonic meeting with ADF&G, KROSCHER
22 reported he lost nearly \$600,000 from the pandemic closures and is no longer able to obtain
23 loans from banks. He repeatedly stated he was broke and no longer had sufficient funds to
24 operate KFWC.

25 ADF&G and the USDA conducted several inspections of KFWC throughout 2024.
26 Both agencies reported numerous concerns to KROSCHER about his facility and animal
27 care practices. During one of the inspections, KROSCHER was asked to provide a log to
both ADF&G and the USDA of the times and amounts of food he was feeding the animals
in his care. KROSCHER was unable to provide a detailed record that met the requirements

1 of ADF&G and the USDA. These requirements were outlined in letters addressed to
2 KROSCHER. When Kroschel verbally provided the information, with some written notes,
3 of what he fed the porcupines, he was told the diet was unsatisfactory by ADF&G and the
4 USDA veterinarian. AWT conducted a follow up interview with USDA veterinarian Dr.
5 Ann Goplen regarding the proper diet for a porcupine. She indicated KROSCHER was
6 feeding two porcupines six biscuits of Mazuri prime ape food. Per Dr. Goplen, the number
7 of calories in the three of the biscuits is less than one-half the required calories for an adult
8 porcupine that needed to be consumed in one day.

9 On February 13, 2024, ADF&G sent KROSCHER a letter itemizing requirements
10 for KFWC facility that needed to be immediately addressed due to animal welfare
11 concerns. This letter instructed KROSCHER to have a veterinarian administer vaccinations
12 and dewormer and provide records to ADF&G. It also instructed him to check the health
13 of each animal and condition of each enclosure daily, including providing fresh drinking
14 water at all times. This letter went on to discuss the lack of onsite feed and instructed him
15 he is required to have one week of food onsite but recommended two weeks' worth of food.
16 It noted again the lack of record keeping, which KFWC's permit required.

17 On May 8, 2024, the USDA conducted an inspection of KFWC and issued a report
18 on June 17, 2024. It documented numerous issues. These included a large amount of rodent
19 droppings near the feed storage. It also documented a large pile of shrimp disintegrating
20 on the ground near the feed storage, which could attract vermin and pests which could then
21 contaminate the feed. This report documented excessive buildup of bedding, debris, fecal
22 material, and food waste in several enclosures. According to the report, KROSCHER stated
23 at least one enclosure containing a lynx had not been cleaned at all that year.

24 On July 17, 2024, ADF&G sent another letter following a May 8, 2024, inspection.
25 This letter documented the same animal welfare concerns as the previous letter.
26 Specifically, this letter detailed concerns regarding carcass remains from feeding of the
27 animals being left out. It noted old carcass parts were found in numerous enclosures, a raw
moose hide found outside an enclosure, and shrimp shells piled outside an enclosure. It
noted this could attract bears to the facility. The letter also detailed the need to have clean

1 drinking water at all times for all animals. The letter notes high levels of fecal coliform, E.
2 coli, and total coliform found in the water for a wolf. It also noted that snow does not count
3 as fresh drinking water in the winter. The July 17, 2024, letter also noted the enclosures
4 needed to be cleaned regularly as several enclosures were extremely unsanitary. It
5 continued to note a lack of routine, preventive veterinary care and record keeping.

6 On August 20, 2024, ADF&G sent a letter to KROSCHER informing him of a
7 suspension of his permit and reiterated the animal welfare concerns. In this letter, ADF&G
8 noted that the suspension of his permit would likely cause a financial impact and ADF&G
9 would work with him to find alternative facilities to care for, maintain, and house the
10 animals governed by the permit. ADF&G urged KROSCHER to reconsider his desire to
11 keep the animals at his facility.

12 On August 27, 2024, the USDA conducted another inspection, issuing a report on
13 August 29, 2024. This report noted continued issues with the fencing around enclosures of
14 various animals. It also detailed continued issues with unkempt enclosures with fecal
15 matter and enclosures with exposed nails, screws, and other sharp objects. It also noted a
16 freezer could not close properly, so the feed inside was at risk of spoiling. It was reported
17 that the brown bear was fed 10-12 marionberry pies and a pot of oatmeal with syrup on a
18 daily basis. The report notes this is not an appropriate diet for a brown bear. However, in a
19 video posted to YouTube on September 1, 2024, KROSCHER documents that he is still
20 feeding the brown bear marionberry pies and specifically references the USDA report.

21 Another inspection was conducted by the USDA on September 25, 2024, with a
22 report issued on the same date. This inspection and report continued to document similar
23 ongoing violations with sharp objects in enclosures and holes in enclosures. It also noted
24 algae growing in various water bottles containing drinking water for the animals, which
25 can harm the animals' health. It also noted enclosures that were not appropriately cleaned.

26 The minimum standard of care for zoos is outlined by the Association of Zoos and
27 Aquariums and the state of Alaska in AS 03.55.100. The enclosures at KFWC did not
provide sufficient access in order to properly clean, feed, and water the animals. Per

1 ADF&G, the KFWC does not meet the minimum requirements for care for each animal
2 under AS 03.55.100(a):

3 The minimum standards of care for animals include

- 4 (1) food and water sufficient to maintain each animal in good health;
5 (2) an environment compatible with protecting and maintaining the
6 good health and safety of the animal; and
7 (3) reasonable medical care at times and to the extent available and
8 necessary to maintain the animal in good health.

9 On or about March 29, 2025, AWT contacted Alaska State Wildlife Liaison Officer
10 Dr. Kimberlee Beckmen, who is an accredited foreign animal disease diagnostician,
11 wildlife health and veterinary services program leader for the Alaska Department of Fish
12 and Game Division of Wildlife Conservation, and a licensed veterinarian. AWT requested
13 her professional opinion as to whether KFWC met the requirements of AS 03.55.100. Dr.
14 Beckman provided a letter stating:

15 It is my professional opinion and determination as a veterinarian specializing
16 in captive and free ranging wildlife care, that based on my experience and
17 knowledge of the animals and condition at the Kroschel Films Wildlife
18 Center, that the care of animals at the facility has not met the minimum
19 standards of care for animals under AS 03.55.100.

20 I, as head of the Wildlife Health and Veterinary Services Program and former
21 Attending Veterinarian for the Division of Wildlife Conservation, as well as
22 our Department staff and veterinarians have documented the multiple failures
23 to provide: adequate food and water to maintain good health, an environment
24 compatible with protecting and maintaining good health and safety, and
25 reasonable medical care at times and to the extent available and necessary to
26 maintain the animal(s) in good health.

27 Dr. Beckman also reported that ADF&G documented “multiple failures to provide
adequate food and water to maintain food health and reasonable medical care at time and
to the extent available and necessary to maintain the animals in good health.” Dr. Beckmen
sent an additional 5-page letter that included multiple synopsis of conversations, and
memos sent between Dr. Beckmen and KROSCHER regarding the well-being of animals
in his care between 2009 and 2025. These conversations and memos included directions
by ADF&G given to KROSCHER to change his care practices for the animals in his

1 possession. Dr. Beckmen reported the initial series of events that led ADF&G to have some
2 concerns about KFWC and KROSCHER's care of the animals occurred in 2009 when two
3 wolves and a fox died at his facility (discussed above). In communications with ADF&G,
4 KROSCHER stated the fox had a swollen jaw and he administered Baytril (which Dr.
5 Beckmen states requires a prescription and there is no record of him obtaining one from a
6 veterinarian), but did not seek veterinary care until several days had passed since discovery
7 of the injury. He also stated the wolves became ill from the food he provided, with two
8 wolves ultimately dying and the others surviving after recovering from the illness. He
9 reported to Dr. Beckmen that he gave the wolves donated food that was spoiled since he
10 could not afford to buy food. He did not seek veterinary care for the wolves.

11 At the end of the letter Dr. Beckmen stated that "I have reviewed or consulted on
12 with the current ADF&G attending veterinarian continue to find poor to dangerous feeding
13 practices, inadequate sanitation and housing, and a lack of adequate veterinary care
14 necessary for animal health at the Kroschel Films Wildlife Center."

15 On May 2, 2025, ADF&G sent a letter to KROSCHER documenting numerous
16 concerns with his facility. The lack of a sufficient Veterinary Plan of Care was a primary
17 concern for ADF&G. Specifically, it was unclear whether there was actually a current
18 consulting veterinarian agreement or who the attending veterinarian was. Further, it
19 appeared KROSCHER was using hot tub and pool treatment chemicals as sanitizing agents
20 for the animals drinking water which could be toxic if consumed regularly. The plan was
21 also missing several referenced appendices and did not have an accurate list of animals at
22 the facility. He also failed to include logs of daily observations and feeding of the animals.
23 KROSCHER also reported he feeds the remaining porcupine chimpanzee biscuits which
24 he was previously told he was not to feed to the porcupine.

25 On May 21, 2025, AWT conducted an interview with KROSCHER. He reported he
26 has raised animals his entire life and has years of experience showcasing animals, including
27 in documentaries and on television. He also indicated he had a veterinarian care plan, which
was required for his ADF&G permit. The permit requires he establish and maintain logs of
the animals and their medical care and history. To date, AWT has not located or been

1 provided any such logs. KROSCHER provided the names of several attending veterinarians
2 for KFWC over the previous five years

3 AWT contacted one of the five, Dr. Michele Oakley, who indicated she originally
4 agreed to assist the facility but KROSCHER refused to follow her recommendations, which
5 were to comply with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) standards.
6 The basic standards from AAZV, according to Dr. Oakley, are to perform deworming,
7 vaccinations, and routine preventive medicine. He would not agree to perform these basic
8 functions. This led to her refusing to be the attending veterinarian. She indicated she was
9 only his registered veterinarian for one year.

10 AWT attempted to contact the other doctors but was unable to.

11 KROSCHER reported the KFWC receives between 8,000 and 10,000 visitors each
12 year and he receives \$45 per person, for a total of approximately \$450,000 per year. He
13 also stated he spends between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per month on food for the animals. He
14 also indicated that he regularly cleans the enclosures and provides water daily. However,
15 AWT was present for multiple inspections in 2024 and observed feces covering the floor
16 of enclosures and enclosures with no water source or containers.

17 On June 25-27, 2025, ADF&G and AWT, following the issuance of search warrant
18 1JU-25-00116SW, went to KFWC and seized a number of animals.

19 Ryan Scott, Director of the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation, assisted in
20 the search for and seizure of animals at KFWC in June 2025. He later submitted a written
21 statement documenting his observations. He noted most of the enclosures were not clean,
22 lacked food and water, and many presented hazards to the animals due to exposed nails
23 and screws. He also observed a rotting carcass inside a building. Outside of this building,
24 near animal holding pens, he observed a medium sized tote full of live maggots feeding on
25 something, but he could not identify what. He also noted observing open sores and
26 extensive dental damage suffered by the brown bear. He documented a three-legged fox
27 that was discovered locked in a dog kennel inside a sealed bus with extensive dental
damage. The fox did not have access to food or water in this kennel. He also noted other
animals appeared to be very skinny, suggesting lack of nutrition.

1 On June 30, 2025, Roy Churchwell, Region I Management Coordinator for the
2 Division of Wildlife Conservation, submitted a written statement regarding his
3 observations of the search for and seizure of animals at KFWC. He noted all the water
4 bottles for mink, marten, and ermine were dirty and lined with algae. He also noted
5 enclosures that had not been cleaned in a very long time. He described the KFWC as being
6 in disrepair and not clean or sanitary. He described the same container of maggots on a
7 rotting substance outside of the building and the building contained a rotting carcass of
8 what appeared to be a moose. He also noted the food provided to animals was placed
9 directly on the ground, rather than in containers, and smelled of rancid fat.

10 On July 8, 2025, Riley Woodford, Public Information Officer for Division of
11 Wildlife Conservation, provided a written statement summarizing his observations during
12 the search for and seizure of animals at KFWC. The brown bear enclosure had barbed wire
13 along the floor. He documented the brown bear only had a few ounces of dirty water inside
14 a metal box serving as a water trough. He also observed the brown bear suffered from sores
15 and cuts on the paws and pads of its feet. He also documented the enclosures were “jury-
16 rigged and cobbled together” with various materials and many were dirty. He also noted a
17 shack with chest freezers smelling of rotten meat and decomposition.

18 Dr. Roug also provided a written statement following the search for and seizure of
19 animals at KFWC. She noted “[m]any of the enclosures were very unsanitary, dark, and
20 small;” “[t]he hair coats of many of the animals were in poor condition, likely a reflection
21 of parasitism or poor hygienic conditions in the pens;” and “[s]ome animals had water,
22 others only dirty water, and some had no water at all.” She noted the three-legged fox found
23 in the bus had no food or water in its kennel. This fox was examined on June 29, 2025, and
24 was in poor body condition and dehydrated. It also “had a poor hair coat, indicating that it
25 was compromised and likely infested with parasites.” She noted the brown bear had
26 inflamed, infected skin abrasions on multiple parts of its body. She further noted its teeth
27 “smelled rotten, indicating that there was an active infection.” She noted the tooth
infections would be painful and cause discomfort, and that “[t]he bear must have been
suffering from the poor dental health for a long time. The tooth problems must have

1 progressed over years, and such problems can be very painful, just like in humans.” Dr.
2 Roug’s statement also discussed a seized snowy owl. This owl was missing a leg and both
3 its stump and the remaining leg had “significant tissue proliferations, likely causing the
4 bird discomfort.” The snowy owl was assessed and eventually euthanized for animal
5 welfare reasons.

6 Stephanie Bogle submitted two written statements to AWT – one on April 21, 2025,
7 and another on July 15, 2025. She was involved in several inspections over the years,
8 beginning in 2022. She noted KROSCHER was unable to provide medical records for any
9 of the animals upon request during her initial inspection. She also noted several enclosures
10 with thick matted hay full of excrement. KROSCHER responded that he received the report
11 and understood it. However, during an inspection in August 2023, many of the same issues
12 remained. KROSCHER was able to provide some medical records, but they were
13 substandard and confirmed a lack of vaccinations or deworming. Additionally, Bogle noted
14 a moose was observed to be thin during this inspection. As of April 2025, ADF&G had
15 never been provided with any documentation of vaccinations or physical exams being done
16 to any of the animals at KFWC. Bogle noted KROSCHER would acknowledge receipt of
17 the reports detailing the animal welfare issues sent by ADF&G throughout her time with
18 the department. She also explained that in May 2024 KROSCHER verbally complained to
19 ADF&G staff about their requirement that he have a contracted veterinarian examine the
20 animals at KFWC on a regular basis. He noted he would go out of business if he had to
21 comply with those requirements. She also noted that KROSCHER was not present during
22 the search for and seizure of the animals at KFWC in June 2025 and, based on social media
23 posts, he was out of town – meaning the animals were left unattended. Her written
24 statement details many of the same ongoing issues were present during the search for and
25 seizure of animals.

26 The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game Educational Permits issued to
27 KROSCHER and KFWC state:

GENERAL CONDITIONS, EXCEPTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

1. This permit must be carried by person(s) specified during approved activities who shall show it on request to persons authorized to enforce Alaska's fish and game laws. This permit is nontransferable and will be revoked or renewal denied by the Commissioner of Fish and Game if the permittee violates any of its conditions, exceptions or restrictions. No redelegation of authority may be allowed under this permit unless specifically noted.

2. No specimens taken under authority hereof may be sold or bartered. All specimens must be deposited in a public museum or a public scientific or educational institution unless otherwise stated herein. Subpermittees shall not retain possession of live animals or other specimens.

3. The permittee shall keep records of all activities conducted under authority of this permit, available for inspection at all reasonable hours upon request of any authorized state enforcement officer.

4. Permits will not be renewed until detailed reports, as specified above, have been received by the department.

5. UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED HEREIN, THIS PERMIT DOES NOT AUTHORIZE the exportation of specimens or the taking of specimens in areas otherwise closed to hunting and fishing; without appropriate licenses required by state regulations; during closed seasons; or in any manner, by any means, at any time not permitted by those regulations.

BAIL INFORMATION

Per the Alaska Public Safety Information Network, the defendant has the following convictions in Alaska: None.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 18th day of September, 2025.

STEPHEN J COX
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: Matthew Kaste
Matthew R. Kaste
Assistant Attorney General
Alaska Bar No. 2102005