

Man suspected of starving dog to death arrested

By Staff report, news@fosters.com
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ROCHESTER — Michael Jouvelakas, the man being sought on charges he starved a dog to death, has turned himself in, according to police.

Jouvelakas, 31, now of Dover, was charged by Rochester police with two counts of cruelty to animals stemming from an incident reported Oct. 3.

Jouvelakas was released on personal recognizance bail and is scheduled for arraignment March 30 at 8:15 a.m. at the 7th Circuit District Division Rochester Court.

He had been wanted on two Class A misdemeanor counts of cruelty to animals in connection with the death of a 2-year-old pitbull named Mandy.

Rochester police Capt. Todd Pinkham said Monday an anonymous caller contacted the city Police Department on Oct. 3, 2019, to report they believed Jouvelakas shot and killed Mandy and that Jouvelakas left Mandy's body in his Chestnut Street home's basement. This claim about the cause of the dog's death proved to be false after an investigation, Pinkham said.

Pinkham said officers responded immediately to the home, while other officers located Jouvelakas near the home. At the home, officers found Mandy's body wrapped in a blanket inside a trash bag on the bed of a pickup truck.

Police didn't charge Jouvelakas with cruelty to animals then, Pinkham said, because additional investigation and due diligence was needed. Pinkham said the cause of death was not obvious on Oct. 3 even though there were visible signs of malnourishment.

Police released Jouvelakas Oct. 3 after charging him that day with driving after revocation or suspension.

Since Oct. 3, authorities have conducted a necropsy and consulted with animal forensics specialists about Mandy, Pinkham said. The additional investigation determined Mandy's cause of death was starvation and the dog had not been shot.

Pinkham said Mandy's body didn't show any visible signs of physical abuse while declining to disclose details about Mandy's malnourishment.

Tips can be reported anonymously by calling the Rochester CrimeLine at 335-6500 or by texting tips to CRIMES (274637) with TEXT4CASH in the body of the text. Up to \$1,000 is awarded for tips that lead to an arrest.

Individuals who text tips should start the body of their messages with the phrase TEXT4CASH.