

Illinois Conservation Potice

FIELD REPORT

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FIELD REPORT NUMBER

Page 1 of 7

2019-5-378-017J

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Illinois Conservation Police

Page 2 of 7

FIELD REPORT NUMBER

2019-5-378-017J

Reporting Officer and ID

CPO Dan Lewis #378

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SYNOPSIS

This report documents the investigation into the Facebook video depicting Jordan Anheuser kicking a deer.

NARRATIVE

On December 9, 2019, I (CPO Dan Lewis #378) received a complaint regarding a video on Facebook. The video depicts a male subject brutally kicking a deer in the head repeatedly. The deer is lying on a roadway and kicking its legs violently. As the subject strikes the deer, he is laughing and making taunting statements towards the injured deer. At one point in the video, he squats down and says to the animal, "You're fucked up!" As the video continues, it kicks its back legs while blood and other parts are coming from the deer's head. The deer is kicked eight times by the subject until it appears to die.

Additionally, voices can be heard in the background as the video plays, indicating there were multiple subjects present during the incident. Numerous Facebook users commented about the incident and referred to the person kicking as Jordan Anheuser. Anheuser himself posted comments to the posted video confirming him as the individual in the video. I printed the comment section of the post and made a recording of the video for preservation.

The time stamp on the video shows the incident occurred on September 23, 2018, at approximately 2:23 AM. Maximillion Burger recorded and posted the video on his Snapchat story. A screenshot was taken of the video, and then it was posted on Facebook. The video was shared too many times to determine where it originated on Facebook. As stated above, Jordan Anheuser was the person kicking the deer in the video. Anthony Baker, Deben Jennings, Hunter Wilcox, and Caleb Blythe were also present. Burger, Wilcox, Jennings, and Blythe were under 18 years old on September 23, 2018.

On December 12, 2019, at approximately 3:35 PM, CPO Brian Tapley and I met with Anthony Baker at the residence of his brother-in-law in Murphysboro. Before speaking with Baker, I advised Baker his statement was voluntary, and he could end our conversation at any time. Baker informed us the incident occurred in Perry County at Pyramid State Recreation Area in the Denmark Unit. They drove two vehicles to go "mudding" in "Mud-hole #37", which is near waterfowl hunting stake #37 in the southwest corner of the Denmark Unit. Baker drove his truck while Hunter Wilcox followed with his father's pick-up. Baker stated they were on their way out of the park when he hit the deer. When he saw the deer standing alongside the road, Baker sped up with the intent of getting past the deer before it had a chance to run in front of the truck. The maneuver didn't work; the deer ran, and he hit it. There was no damage to his vehicle because he had a brush guard mounted on the front. After hitting the deer, Baker stopped, and Anheuser told Baker to back up. Anheuser then got out and walked towards the rear of the vehicle and began







Illinois Conservation Potice

Page 3 of 7

2019-5-378-017.I

Reporting Officer and ID

CPO Dan Lewis #378

kicking the deer. Everyone left after the deer died. Baker denied pulling it with the truck or running over and doing burnouts on the deer's head.

Baker offered to show us a video he had taken of the muddy vehicles before they left and hit the deer. He showed me the video with both trucks and offered to send it to me. While he had his phone out, I asked if he would mind opening his Google Maps application and look at his timeline for September 23, 2018. Baker agreed, and the map showed he was in the Denmark Unit on September 23, 2018. He took a screenshot of the map and sent it to me. Baker agreed to submit a written statement about the incident, and it is attached to this report.

On December 13, 2019, at approximately 11:20 AM, CPO Tapley and I met with Anheuser at his residence to request a voluntary statement. We advised him he was not required to speak with us and was free to stop at any time. Anheuser agreed to give the statement. Anheuser admitted to being the person kicking the deer in the video. He confirmed they had gone to the park to go mudding. When they were on their way out of the Denmark Unit, they hit the deer. Anheuser advised Baker was driving and hit the deer intentionally.

After hitting the deer, Anheuser told Baker to stop so he could check on it. Because the deer was paralyzed and no one had a knife, he kicked it in the head to put it out of its misery. When the deer was dead, he got back in the truck. Initially, Anheuser informed us they only took Baker's truck to the park with all six people. Later during our conversation, he advised there were two trucks. The second truck was driven by Wilcox, and Blythe was riding with him. Next, Anheuser advised Baker and Burger may have tied the deer up to the truck with a rope and dragged it behind. He did not know for sure. He didn't think it was right, so he stayed in the truck. Anheuser then added that Baker did "burnouts" on the deer's head after he killed it. Again, he couldn't be sure either happened even though he was in the vehicle. As Anheuser was telling this part of his story, his father, Ken, was present. Ken asked, "how could you not know if they were dragging a deer, son?". Anheuser is the only person who mentioned the deer being hit intentionally, being pulled by a truck, and "burnouts" on the deceased deer during the course of this investigation. He voluntarily completed a written statement about the incident. The statement is attached to this report.

I met with Caleb Blythe at his residence on 12/16/2019 at approximately 1:00 PM. His mother was present during the interview. I advised Blythe his statement was voluntary, and he could tell me to leave at any time. Blythe stated that they all went to Pyramid to go mudding. When they were leaving the park, Baker hit a deer. He advised Baker did not hit the deer on purpose. After hitting a deer, they stopped and got out to check on the deer. This was when Anheuser started kicking the deer. When the deer was dead, they left the park. Blythe advised the deer was not dragged by a vehicle or run over after it died. Blythe's written statement is attached.

On December 17, 2019, at approximately 2:00 PM, I spoke with Hunter Wilcox at his residence. Wilcox's parents were present. Wilcox confirmed they had gone "mudding" at Pyramid and hit the deer as they were leaving. He was driving his father's truck and was following Baker. Wilcox advised, when Anheuser began kicking the deer, he got back in his truck and found a knife. When he told Anheuser he found the knife to cut the deer's throat, Anhuesur ignored him and continued to kick the deer. Wilcox advised he did not believe Baker hit the deer intentionally, and they left as soon as it was dead. Wilcox stated he was initially afraid to reach out to me about the incident as Anheuser had warned him that he and I are friends. Anheuser told him that we hunt together. If they reported him, they would get in trouble. I assured Wilcox that Anheuser and I are not friends and added it would not matter if we were. Wilcox's written statement is attached.







Illinois Sonservation Police FIELD REPORT

Page 4 of 7

FIELD REPORT NUMBER

2019-5-378-017J

Reporting Officer and ID

CPO Dan Lewis #378

have not been able to meet with Maximillian Burger for an interview. However, I spoke with him via phone on December 18, 2019. Burger confirmed he had witnessed Anheuser kicking the deer and had recorded it. It is his video that was posted on Snapchat and subsequently shared on Facebook. Burger emailed me the original video. He is going to complete a written statement. I delivered blank copies of the form to his residence. I will submit his statement via a supplemental report at a later date.

Deben Jennings is currently attending school in Nashville, TN. I have attempted to contact him, and he has not returned my calls. If Jennings submits a statement, I will submit it at a later date.

This report is being forwarded to the Perry County State's Attorney for review. The following is a list of violations found during the investigation for those who were present during the incident. Anheuser's violations are listed on page one of this report.

*Anthony Baker

- -Enter IDNR Lands while area closed (20 ILCS 835/6-7 AR 110)
- -Operation of a motor vehicle in an area not specifically posted as a traffic-way (20 ILCS 835/6-7 AR 110)

*Hunter Wilcox

- -Enter or remain on IDNR Lands while area closed (20 ILCS 835/6-7 AR 110)
- -Operation of a motor vehicle in an area not specifically posted as a traffic-way (20 ILCS 835/6-7 AR 110)

*Caleb Blythe

- -Enter IDNR Lands while area closed
- -Operation of a motor vehicle in an area not specifically posted as a traffic-way (20 ILCS 835/6-7 AR 110)

*Deben Jennings

- -Enter IDNR Lands while area closed
- -Operation of a motor vehicle in an area not specifically posted as a traffic-way (20 ILCS 835/6-7 AR 110)

*Maximillian Burger

- -Enter IDNR Lands while area closed
- -Depiction of animal torture
- -Operation of a motor vehicle in an area not specifically posted as a traffic-way (20 ILCS 835/6-7 AR 110)

*Attachments:

- 1. Baker Statement
- 2. Jordan Statement







Illinois Conservation Potice

Page 5 of 7

FIELD REPORT NUMBER

2019-5-378-017J

Reporting Officer and ID

CPO Dan Lewis #378

3. Blythe Statement

4. Wilcox Statement

5. Copy of Facebook comments off Braden Miller Facebook site

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Illinois Conservation Police PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

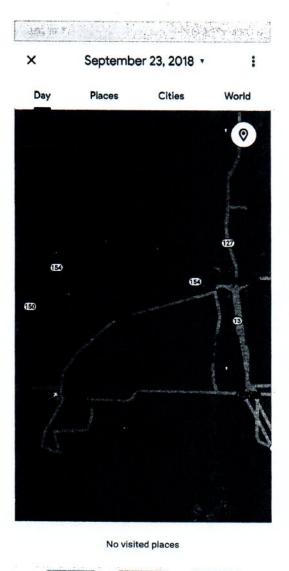
Page 6 of 7

FIELD REPORT NUMBER

2019-5-378-017J

Reporting Officer and ID

CPO Dan Lewis #378





Screen shot taken by Anthony Baker of his "Google Timeline" for September 23, 2018. The blue line shows he was in the Denmark of Pyramid.

On X application screen shot of approximate area of Baker's timeline screen shot. The green shaded area is Pyramid



Description





Illinois Conservation Potice EVIDENCE REPORT

Page 7 of 7

2019-5-378-017J

Reporting Officer and ID

CPO Dan Lewis #378

Code O	Anhei		First				tim W- Witness X- Other P- Passenger C- Co				City Pinckneyville		State	Zip 62274	
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