

MEDIA RELEASE

Man Arrested for Feeding Rat Poison to Neighbor's Dogs

August 5, 2021

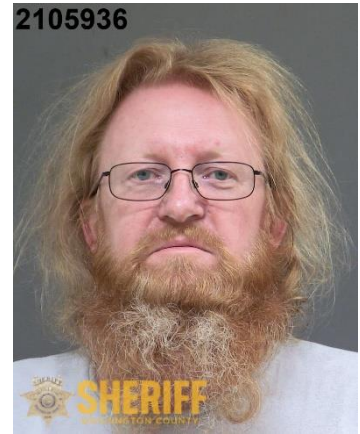
On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies contacted a husband and wife who said they thought their neighbor was trying to kill their two small dogs with rat poison. A deputy responded to a home in the community of Bethany, located in the [Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District \(ESPD\)](#).

After speaking with the husband and wife, deputies learned that cooked hamburger meat had been stuffed with the rat poison and thrown over their fence and into their backyard on three different occasions. The first time this occurred, the night of August 2, one of the small dogs ingested some of the rat poison.

The dog was treated at a local veterinary clinic and will require several follow-up visits over the next few weeks before they know if the dog will make a full recovery.

On August 4, deputies contacted the couple's neighbor, 57-year-old Erik Mighells, and determined he was responsible for throwing the meat containing rat poison into the victim's yard. Mighells was arrested and lodged in the Washington County Jail for animal abuse in the first degree.

The [Enhanced Sheriff's Patrol District \(ESPD\)](#) provides law enforcement services for more than 237,000 residents in the urban areas outside of cities in Washington County, including Bethany, Cedar Mill, Cedar Hills, Aloha, Reedville, Garden Home, Metzger, Rock Creek, Raleigh Hills, Bull Mountain, Bonny Slope, West Slope, Oak Hills, and more. Voters first approved the ESPD in 1987 and all local option levies since then.



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