

Press Release
North Fond du Lac Police Department
16 Garfield Street, North Fond du Lac WI 54937
www.nfdl.org

For Immediate Distribution

Date: March 2, 2011

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The North Fond du Lac Police Department is seeking information from the public to help a dog owner recover his stolen pet. Magellan, a 10 year-old male German Shepherd-Lab mixed breed was taken from his kennel at 400 Winnebago Street over the weekend.

The dog has been the subject of numerous calls to police over the past several months. A neighbor has contacted police to express concerns about the dog being kept in an outside kennel over the winter. Officers checked on the dog a number of times and have found it to be properly fed and watered, and they noted that the dog does have access to a sheltered kennel inside the garage. Police are assuming that someone took the dog in what they view as a rescue attempt when they heard about the situation after the neighbor went public with concerns in the newspaper and at a televised Village Board meeting.

“This is a fairly large dog,” said Captain Darren Pautsch. “Assuming the person who took the dog is keeping it at their home, neighbors should have noticed.”

The dog is described as mostly black with some brown portions. He weighs approximately 70-90 pounds and most closely resembles a Rottweiler. Magellan was wearing a nylon Harley-Davidson collar when he was taken.

While police appreciate residents sharing concerns about what they view as animal neglect or mistreatment, they stress the importance of trusting authorities to handle the situation. An individual’s personal views on what lifestyle animals should be afforded does not justify stealing a family pet. In Wisconsin, Theft of a Domestic Animal is a Class “H” felony and is punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment up to six years, or both.

Police are asking anyone with knowledge of the incident, or anyone who has noticed a neighbor recently in possession of a dog matching this description to contact them at 906-5555 or anonymously at 906-4777, ext. 3.