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News Release

On Sunday, June 1, 2025, at 12:00 PM, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office responded to the Walmart parking lot located at 3585 W State Road 45 following a 911 call reporting an unresponsive person inside a vehicle. Callers also reported the vehicle had struck a concrete light pole base and that numerous aggressive dogs were inside the vehicle, preventing access to the driver.

Monroe Fire Protection District personnel were first on scene and confirmed the presence of a deceased adult inside the vehicle. They also observed approximately 8 dogs within the vehicle that were acting aggressively and preventing any approach to assess the person's condition. In an effort to render aid, firefighters opened the door, which allowed several dogs to escape and begin aggressively charging at bystanders and emergency responders.

Sheriff's Deputies arrived shortly thereafter and established a containment zone in a low-traffic section of the parking lot. One civilian and one firefighter were bitten during the incident. Deputies from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office Animal Management Division responded and were able to capture five of the dogs as they roamed the property. The animals were safely transported to the City of Bloomington Animal Shelter. Three additional dogs were captured later the same day.

The deceased individual had been living out of the vehicle; regularly seen parked on the west side of the Walmart property.

Detectives with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office and the Monroe County Coroner's Office are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death. Surveillance footage from the parking lot indicates the vehicle struck a light pole at low speed at approximately 8:20 AM. The incident was not reported until nearly four hours later, when a concerned citizen contacted Monroe County Central Dispatch. Preliminary evidence suggests that they may have suffered a medical emergency prior to the crash. At this time, no foul play is suspected, and the coroner's investigation remains ongoing with identification and notification of next of kin.

The injured parties received minor treatment at a local hospital. It is believed all the dogs are accounted for; however it is uncertain the exact number of dogs that were in the vehicle to begin with. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office Animal Management Division will be patrolling the area over the next few days to ensure any remaining dogs are captured.