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**DISTRICT IV**

**FILED**  
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**COURT OF APPEALS**

May 21, 2026

To:

Hon. Stephen E. Ehlke  
Circuit Court Judge  
Electronic Notice

B. Chris Carraway  
Electronic Notice

Jeff Okazaki  
Clerk of Circuit Court  
Dane County Courthouse  
Electronic Notice

Eric M. McLeod  
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Kristin M. Schrank  
Electronic Notice

You are hereby notified that the Court has entered the following order:

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2026AP466                      Approximately 2,000 Beagle Dogs and Puppies v. Ridglan Farms, Inc. (L.C. # 2026CV347)

Before Blanchard, Kloppenburg, and Nashold, JJ.

The appellants, by counsel, have filed a motion for relief pending appeal in the form of a temporary injunction. This appeal stems from the circuit court's dismissal of a petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by counsel on behalf of approximately 2,000 beagle dogs that were in the custody of the respondent at the time the petition was filed.<sup>1</sup> The respondent moved to dismiss the petition, arguing that the relief available by writ of habeas corpus does not apply to animals. The circuit court granted the motion to dismiss, and counsel for the appellants initiated this appeal.

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<sup>1</sup> The memorandum in support of the appellants' motion states that, since the time their habeas petition was filed, Ridglan has reportedly agreed to release 1,500 dogs to sanctuaries and rescues.

A party seeking relief pending appeal must either first seek relief in the circuit court or demonstrate that it would be impractical to do so. *See* WIS. STAT. § 808.07(2)(a)3. and RULE 809.12. The appellants previously filed a motion for temporary injunctive relief in the circuit court, and the circuit court denied the motion on the ground that the appellants do not have a reasonable probability of success on the merits. This court reviews the circuit court's decision under an erroneous exercise of discretion standard. *State v. Gudenschwager*, 191 Wis. 2d 431, 439-40, 529 N.W.2d 225 (1995). The circuit court's decision will be sustained if it: (1) examined the relevant facts; (2) applied a proper standard of law; and (3) using a demonstrated rational process, reached a conclusion that a reasonable judge could reach. *Id.* at 440.

The appellants' motion and supporting memorandum do not show an erroneous exercise of discretion on the part of the circuit court in denying a temporary injunction. The circuit court denied the request for injunctive relief on the basis that the appellants did not have a reasonable likelihood of success on the merits of their habeas petition. The court considered the relevant case law and concluded that dismissal of the appellants' petition was warranted because habeas corpus does not extend to animals. Having so concluded, it was reasonable for the court to also deny the appellants' motion for injunctive relief.

IT IS ORDERED that the motion for relief pending appeal is denied.

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*Samuel A. Christensen*  
*Clerk of Court of Appeals*