



**Waukesha Police Department  
Media Release**

**Internet Fraud Alert – Puppies for sale**

**03/29/16**

In the last few weeks, two separate citizens of Waukesha were victimized by an online scam advertising puppies for sale in the Waukesha area. In both instances, the victims went online to the website [www.oodle.com](http://www.oodle.com) and were eventually transferred to multiple different websites advertising the local puppies. Once on the fraudulent websites, the victims searched for puppies of all breeds and sizes and eventually got redirected to fraudulent shipping companies. The victims were sending and receiving emails to subjects who requested MoneyGram transfers of over \$1,000.00 in both cases. The initial investigation has revealed that the suspects are not likely U.S. Citizens and do not have local ties to our community.

There are victims all over the country who have been scammed in a similar fashion. Please read the below tips provided by the FBI for avoiding internet fraud:

- Make sure you are purchasing merchandise from a reputable source.
- Do your homework on the individual or company to ensure that they are legitimate.
- Obtain a physical address rather than simply a post office box and a telephone number, and call the seller to see if the telephone number is correct and working.
- Send an e-mail to the seller to make sure the e-mail address is active, and be wary of those that utilize free e-mail services where a credit card wasn't required to open the account.
- Consider not purchasing from sellers who won't provide you with this type of information.
- Check with the Better Business Bureau from the seller's area.
- Check out other websites regarding this person/company.
- Don't judge a person or company by their website; flashy websites can be set up quickly.
- Be cautious when responding to special investment offers, especially through unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious when dealing with individuals/companies from outside your own country.
- Inquire about returns and warranties.
- If possible, purchase items online using your credit card, because you can often dispute the charges if something goes wrong.
- Make sure the transaction is secure when you electronically send your credit card numbers.

Citizens of Waukesha that have been victimized by this scam are encouraged to report the incident to the Waukesha Police Department. Further, citizens are strongly encouraged to report internet fraud to the Internet Crime Complaint Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

Lieutenant Joe Hendricks  
Criminal Investigation Division  
Waukesha Police Department  
1901 Delafield St, Waukesha, WI 53188  
262-524-3766  
[JHendric@ci.waukesha.wi.us](mailto:JHendric@ci.waukesha.wi.us)