



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Abandoned Animals Taken to Hernando County Animal Services

Date: May 22, 2013

On May 21, 2013 at approximately 1:25 p.m., the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center received a call from a Pasco County Code Enforcement Official regarding them observing a U-Haul Truck full of animals reference an active case they are working. They located the vehicle to the rear of the Publix on County Line Road and Mariner Boulevard where it was apparently abandoned. Hernando County Deputies and Animal Services Officers were dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival, units located the U-Haul and could hear animals in obvious distress inside the vehicle. The door to the U-Haul was opened and “numerous” animals inside plastic containers (similar to Tupperware containers) were located inside. The temperature inside the back of the truck was extremely hot.

The Pasco Code Enforcement Officials identified the driver and owner of the animals as Frances Terry Evans W/F DOB/ 08-02-1960; due to the active case they were working regarding animal hoarding. They believed she took the animals to the Publix parking lot in an effort to hide them, as she was court ordered to turn them over to Pasco County officials by 05-21-13.

The Hernando County Animal Service Officers on scene determined that there were 50 cats on board and three dogs. It was also determined that most, if not all, of the animals were in need of immediate veterinary attention. Due to the rapid deteriorating condition of the animals, Pasco County Code Enforcement Officials refusal to accept the animals, and the extreme heat environment, Hernando County Animal Services Officers rightly determined that immediate and emergency veterinary attention was necessary. The animals were transported to Hernando County Animal Services facility for care.

On 05-21-13 Evans was issued one citation for 53 counts of Animal Abandonment. The fine for this is \$500 per count, totaling \$26,500. After conferring with the State Attorney's Office, a warrant has been obtained for 53 counts of Animal Cruelty, with a total bond of \$26,500.

Additional information can be obtained in a Media Release issued by Hernando County Community Relations.