



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Michael Terry
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Re: Brooksville Man Charged with Animal Cruelty

Date: December 27, 2016

On 12-21-2016 at 2:20 p.m., a Hernando County Sheriff's Office Animal Enforcement Officer responded to the 800 block of Leonard Street in Brooksville in reference to a report of a dog bite.

The caller stated he was bitten by a pit bull that was running loose in the neighborhood.

The officer was able to determine the owner of the dog, **Deandre Goodson, B/M DOB/2-20-1995**, lived nearby at 871 Josephine St.

The officer made contact with the homeowner, who stated that Goodson cared for all the dogs living on the property.

The homeowner gave law enforcement permission to search the property.

Once in the backyard the officer noted three pit bulls, two of which were on heavy chains and did not appear to have any water.

A third pit bull, a female named Chi Chi, was found on the side of the house and appeared to be in distress. The officer noted the dog appeared malnourished and had extensive scaring on her face and on the front of her body.

The dog was unable to walk under its own power. The officer also noted the dog's ears appeared to be mutilated and healed over.

The homeowner noted in December the dog had puppies and had eaten them. Deputies received permission to remove the dog from the property.

The dog was transported to Animal Services for immediate medical attention.

Upon examination, the veterinarian said the dog had numerous injuries and was suffering from neglect.

Authorities were able to contact Goodson by phone who agreed to meet deputies at the Hernando County Animal Services offices in Brooksville.

Goodson said a friend, Breon Wyatt, had given him the dog about a year ago. He indicated the dog got out of the yard a couple of months ago and he had only recently found Chi Chi and brought her back home. Goodson confirmed Chi Chi gave birth to two puppies about two week ago, but she had eaten them.

Goodson said he feeds Chi Chi regularly and wasn't sure why the dog was so skinny. He also stated the dog's injuries were the result of the other two dogs attacking her. Goodson said he chose not to seek treatment for the injured dog.

Goodson was charged with one count of **Animal Cruelty**. He was transported to the Hernando County Detention Facility where his bond was set at \$5,000.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.