



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Deputies Remove Animals from Deplorable Conditions

Date: August 25, 2017

On 08-25-17, Hernando County Deputies and Animal Enforcement Officers responded to 5253 Oney Drive in Brooksville, after receiving a call from a citizen regarding numerous animals on the property, living in deplorable conditions.

Upon arrival, Deputies and Animal Enforcement Officers observed numerous animals, including seven horses, six dogs, several cats, two squirrels, and four exotic birds. All were suffering from malnourishment and lack of health maintenance.

Immediately, the decision was made to impound the animals so they could be evaluated by the veterinarian at Hernando County Animal Services.

With the assistance of Livestock Officer Deputy J. Adkins, all animals were removed from the property and transported to Hernando County Animal Services, where they will be evaluated and/or treated by the veterinarian as needed.

The owner of the animals is Debora Meinhardt W/F DOB/06-01-1966.

The investigation is ongoing with citations pending.

The FWC was contacted regarding the squirrels that were impounded.

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.