



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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

Media Release

From: Michael Terry
Community Relations Specialist, 352-797-3609

Re: 27 Dogs Removed from Brooksville Property

Date: December 8, 2017

Recently the Hernando County Sheriff's Office has received several complaints about multiple dogs being kept on property located at 10380 Preston Road, Brooksville.

On 12-06-17, deputies, along with Animal Enforcement Officers, arrived on scene to conduct a follow up investigation into the complaints.

Upon arrival, deputies noticed four dogs on chains that could be seen from the roadway. Deputies noted the dogs did not appear to have adequate shelter and were in violation of Hernando County Ordinances 6-29c for mistreatment and 6-34 for anti-tethering.

In addition, investigators were unable to find any proof of vaccination or county licensing.

On 12-07-17, deputies obtained an inspection warrant to enter the property and check on the wellbeing of the dogs. Upon entering the property, deputies found 27 dogs. Some dogs were being kept on heavy chains with inadequate, or no shelter. Most of the dogs did not have access to water.

Deputies determined the dogs were in distress and a decision was made to seize all of the animals. The dogs were taken to Hernando County Animal Services.

During the investigation, the dogs' owner, Johnnie Thompson B/M DOB/12-30-1980, arrived on scene to claim ownership of the dogs. He said all the dogs were being cared for.

Thompson was issued multiple citations for violation of county ordinances. A petition for animal owner fitness was completed to set a court date to petition the court to grant the County's request to gain ownership of all the dogs.

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.