



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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

Re: Brooksville Man Charged with Beating Dogs

Date: December 22, 2017

On 12-11-17 at 4:47 p.m., HCSO Animal Enforcement Officer Mandy Rowe responded to 8389 Evergreen Ave., Brooksville, in reference to an animal complaint.

Numerous callers told dispatchers that **Ronald Demille Jr. W/M DOB/08-30-1956** was outside hitting his dogs with chairs and other objects, because they were fighting.

Upon arrival, Rowe was able to observe 10 pit bulls on the property owned by Demille.

On 12-15-17, Rowe returned to the area to speak with three subjects who contacted law enforcement in reference to the animal complaint.

The witnesses told Rowe that they observed Demille hitting the dogs with a shovel between six and eight times. He then hit the dogs with a chair before returning to hitting them with a shovel. At least one of the witnesses told Rowe this wasn't the first time Demille has been seen beating the dogs.

After completing her interviews, Rowe found there was probable cause to obtain a warrant charging Demille with three counts of Animal Cruelty.

On 12-21-17, Demille was arrested at his home on three counts of Animal Cruelty.

Demille was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he was being held on a \$6,000 bond.

In addition to the charges, the warrant also stipulated Demille was to have no contact with dogs or any animals.

All 10 dogs on Demille's property were taken to Hernando County Animal Services.

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.