



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: Dogs Seized from Brooksville Kennel

Date: December 21, 2018

On 12-16-18, Animal Enforcement Officers (AEO) responded to 12429 Ponce De Leon Boulevard in Brooksville to conduct a mandatory kennel inspection at Blackrock Kennels, owned by Joe Cox.

During the inspection, the AEO noted that the dogs (all Labrador Retrievers) were not being cared for properly and were living in deplorable conditions.

Two dogs, that appeared to be in distress, were immediately removed from the property by an AEO and taken to Hernando County Animal Services to be cared for.

Deputies and Animal Enforcement Officers sought a court order to remove the remaining dogs from the property.

On 12-21-18, the remaining 19 Labrador Retrievers were seized from the property, as per the court order.

All of the dogs are being cared for by the veterinarian at Hernando County Animal Services.

The investigation is still active. There is no additional information available at this time.

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.