



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

From: Michael Terry
Community Relations Specialist, 352-238-4801

Re: Spring Hill Man Sought for Dragging Dog Down Roadway

Date: May 8, 2019

On 05-01-19 at 9:28 a.m., 911 dispatchers started to receive calls reporting a dog was being dragged behind a truck that was traveling down Northcliffe Boulevard in Spring Hill.

Witnesses indicated the dog was tied to the truck's back bumper by a piece of rope that was attached to the dog's collar.

The dog, a 1-year-old pit bull terrier mix, was able to free itself from the collar.

A witness at the scene tended to the injured dog and proceeded to take the dog for additional treatment. The dog is expected to make a full recovery.

While a suspect wasn't immediately identified, through investigation, deputies were finally able to identify the dog's owner as **Gregory Tousignant W/M DOB/07-02-1960**.

Witnesses said it appears Tousignant was unaware the dog had jumped out of the bed of his truck. It is illegal to carry any pet in the bed of truck that is not properly secured and prevented from jumping out of the moving vehicle.

On 05-08-19, County Judge Kristie Ruppe issued a warrant for Tousignant's arrest on a misdemeanor charge of **Cruelty to Animals**, which carries a \$1,000 bond.

As Tousignant is a transient, anyone with information regarding his whereabouts is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830.