



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: UPDATE #1 - Deputies and Animal Enforcement Officers Investigating Animal Neglect in Spring Hill

Date: March 9, 2020

Update #1

On 03-06-20, Hernando County Sheriff's Animal Enforcement Officers removed 24 cats from the deplorable conditions at 6257 Spring Hill Drive. All cats were taken to Hernando County Animal Services for evaluation by the veterinarian.

At least one cat was left at the residence as AEOs were unable to catch it. A cat trap was left at the residence in hopes of catching the cat, so it too can be removed.

The 24 cats at Hernando County Animal Services have all been examined by the veterinarian. Other than flea infestation, no significant medical issues were noted in any of the cats.

Animal Enforcement Officers are issuing a Fitness Petition for the owner of the cats in order to permanently remove ownership from that individual.

Deputies continue their Animal Neglect investigation.

Arrest warrants are forthcoming.

There is no additional information available at this time. An update will be sent when additional information is available.

Original Information – 03-06-20

Hernando County Sheriff's deputies and Animal Enforcement Officers (AEO) are currently investigating an Animal Neglect complaint in Spring Hill.

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office received an anonymous call earlier today regarding numerous cats that were being kept in the garage at 6257 Spring Hill Drive. The caller believed the cats were not being cared for properly.

Upon arrival, AEOs spoke with a person inside the residence who allowed them entry into the garage. Inside the AEOs observed approximately 30 cats living in deplorable conditions.

There was no food or water available for the cats, and the numerous litter boxes were overflowing. There was little to no ventilation in the garage for the cats, and the smell of ammonia was overwhelming.

AEOs are currently removing all of the cats from the residence. The cats will be taken to Hernando County Animal Services and will be evaluated by the veterinarian.

Deputies are actively conducting an investigation into this incident; criminal charges are pending.

Hernando County Fire Rescue is on scene to check for any environmental hazards related to this incident.

There is no additional information available at this time. An update will be sent on Monday.

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, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.