



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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From: Jessica Burns  
Community Relations Coordinator, 352-797-3660

Re: Teamwork in Action: 31 Cats Safely Removed and Rehabilitated –  
202600118773

Date: February 20, 2026

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On 01-26-2026, deputies responded to a home in the 6400 block of Spring Hill Drive after receiving a call that numerous cats had been left inside a foreclosed residence.

Upon arrival, deputies encountered extremely unsafe living conditions inside the vacant home, which had been without power or water since 2024. The ammonia levels and accumulation of waste required deputies to utilize protective equipment before entering. A total of 31 adult cats were safely removed from the residence.

These animals were not simply collected; they were cared for.

Each cat was medically evaluated by our Shelter Veterinarian, Dr. Bogart. The cats were treated for upper respiratory infections and eye conditions, vaccinated, and sterilized. One cat underwent surgery to remove a severely damaged eye.

All 31 cats were then successfully transferred to approved rescue organizations where they will have the opportunity to recover and find loving homes.

We are proud of the teamwork between our deputies and Animal Enforcement Officers who stepped in to remove these animals from unsafe conditions and ensure they received the medical care and second chance they deserved.

This is exactly how Animal Enforcement is supposed to work.

***Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips***

***If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!***

**Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or \*\*TIPS from a cell phone.**

**You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .**

**You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!**