



## **CITY OF CORNELIUS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

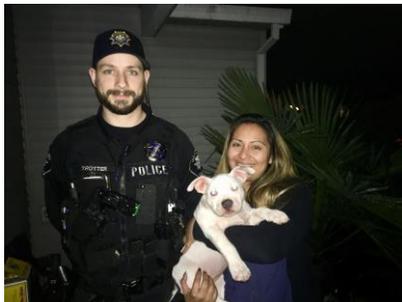
### **Media Release**

#### **Update: Puppies Located Safe and Returned to Owners**

January 17, 2018 – Both puppies were returned to their owners this evening after being spotted at separate locations by alert community members. One was located walking in the 1300 block of South Dogwood Street in Cornelius. The second was found in the 3800 block of Pacific Avenue in Forest Grove, and Forest Grove Police assisted deputies in reuniting it with its owner. Both appeared to be unharmed.

Those who spotted the puppies stated they had seen the news coverage and knew to call law enforcement. The Sheriff's Office wishes to thank the public, as well as the media, for their assistance.

Deputies continue to investigate the incident to determine if any additional suspects were involved. The original media release is below.



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#### **Deputies Ask for Public's Help Locating Abandoned Stolen Puppies**

January 16, 2018 – An 18-year-old Cornelius man was arrested after he stole two puppies and later abandoned them. Deputies are asking for the public's assistance in locating the missing animals.

On January 16, 2018, at 1:38 p.m., Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies serving the City of Cornelius responded to a report of two puppies that had been stolen near a residence in the 2000 block of North Fremont Street in Cornelius.



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During the investigation, deputies learned that two American Bully puppies escaped from their yard sometime before 9 a.m. this morning. The owners posted about their missing dogs on social media and received a tip later in the day that a man had been seen with the puppies at a nearby apartment complex.

Based on the description provided and the location where the suspect had last been seen, deputies interviewed a person of interest, 18-year-old Sheiknoor Abdi of Cornelius.

During the interview, Mr. Abdi admitted to finding the lost puppies and taking them even though he believed they likely belonged to someone else. After realizing he would not be able to keep them, Mr. Abdi told deputies he abandoned the puppies near the railroad tracks in the vicinity of North 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and North Fremont Street.

Mr. Abdi was arrested and lodged at the Washington County Jail for two counts of theft in the first degree, a felony.

The abandoned puppies have not been located, and deputies are asking for the public's assistance finding them. Anyone with information is asked to contact Cornelius deputies by calling (503) 629-0111.