

MEDIA RELEASE

Deputies Arrest Sherwood Man on Multiple Animal Neglect Charges

November 14, 2018

On October 19, 2018, Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies received information regarding possible animal neglect occurring on a property in the 19000 block of Southwest Pacific Highway outside of Sherwood.

During the initial investigation, deputies learned that two pit bull puppies had been surrendered from the property to an animal rescue organization in late September. After speaking with a woman who had picked up the puppies, deputies learned that they had been kept in deplorable conditions. Upon evaluation by a veterinarian, the dogs were found to be in malnourished and had an abnormal gait, likely as a result of being kept in small cages for the majority of their lives.

On November 13, 2018, deputies executed a search warrant on the property. Four dogs were located and found confined to sheds and or wire crates. Deputies found that none of the dogs had access to water and little food was found on the property. Some of the dogs were lying in their own waste. Paraphernalia commonly associated with dog fighting was also seized. All four dogs were taken to local animal hospitals for further evaluation.

54-year-old Russell Fernandez, who resides on the property, was arrested on two counts of first-degree animal neglect, four counts of second-degree animal neglect, and possession of dog fighting paraphernalia.



Two donkeys and two goats were also removed from the property. Their health is being evaluated by a veterinarian and additional criminal charges related to their care are possible.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by Washington County Animal Services and Sound Equine Options.

Anyone with information is asked to contact deputies by calling non-emergency dispatch at (503) 629-0111.



SHERIFF
WASHINGTON COUNTY

MEDIA CONTACT: 503-209-5613

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