

For Immediate Release:

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Horrors of Horse Cruelty in Sumter County on the Rise

Recently the Sumter County Sheriff's Office notified the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County that they were going to serve an eviction notice on a property off Hwy. 50 which involved 30+ horses, dogs, and numerous fowl.

It was a good thing for these animals that the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County showed up with the Sheriff because what they found was horrific neglect. It turned out that the animals' owner is in jail on other unrelated charges.

A sandy weed field FULL of starving, dehydrated and horses and donkeys and two carcasses were what they had to immediately assist with emergency veterinary care.



With no water or food sources, these thin and some crippled animals were on their last legs when they saw the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County show up to not only to provide fresh water and hay but veterinary evaluation.

Many of these horses are likely pregnant since they were pastured with a Percheron stallion who was so critical when found, he was confiscated by the local authorities to receive emergency care.



Another confiscated horse had to be euthanized due to the irreparable suffering it experienced. The remaining horses received hay from the HS/SPCA and the landlord who was very helpful in restoring the pump to get water to these horses. They had to be introduced to food and water again slowly as their digestive systems were so deprived of any nutrition except the weeds and sand in this forsaken place. The remaining animals will be auctioned off September 1st by the landlord.

- *Sheri Evans, Sumter County's volunteer and only Animal Cruelty Investigator stated that "neighboring counties huge equine industry is overflowing into Sumter and with the good comes the bad. With good intentions, people don't have back up plans if their horse businesses fail. They go beyond their financial limits and then the animals are left to suffer the consequences. Animals are not disposable like office equipment or to be just thrown out like the daily garbage. Give them a fighting chance at another home-sell them early on if things get financially tight."*

The Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc. is asking the public for donations and foster homes to help these and other animals in their custody while they recover, receive rehabilitation and await adoption into permanent loving homes. The Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc. is one of the few HS/SPCA's in Florida that take in abused horses but they must come from Sumter County sadly due to the high volume of abuse cases.

For more info on how you can help, contact the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc. at humane@sum.net or call 352-793-9117.