

NEWS RELEASE



**Russel Burger, Sheriff
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CASE NUMBER: 06-8157

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 09/20/06 10:00 AM

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: 09/20/06 2:30 PM

NATURE OF STORY: Animal negligence

**LOCATION: 3311 Admiral Street
Eugene, Or.**

**INVOLVED: Jo Ann Zeh
Age 61**

DETAILS:

The Lane County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of Lane County Animal Regulation Authority (LCARA), Lane County Zoning Enforcement, and Springfield Animal Control executed a search warrant at 3311 Admiral Street in Eugene this morning.

A search warrant was obtained by the Sheriff's Office after receiving information from LCARA involving animal neglect at the residence.

The scope of the search was to access the property and ensure the welfare of the animals on the property.

LCARA has been to this residence numerous times in the past year investigating complaints regarding dead, dying, infected, infested, and malnourished cats as well as strong odors of feces, urine and decaying animals.

As a result of the search over 50 cats were removed from the property as evidence of animal neglect was present. They were seen by a veterinarian from the City of Eugene's Spay and Neuter clinic. The cats were evaluated for medical treatment as they were removed from the premises.

4 of the cats removed were deceased.

Ownership of the cats has been transferred to LCARA. The cats will be transported and housed at LCARA's animal shelter at 3970 W. 1st in Eugene.

Zeh was charged with Animal Neglect 1.

Oregon Revised Statutes ORS 167.330 defines animal neglect in the first degree as: A person commits the crime of animal neglect in the first degree if, except otherwise authorized by law, the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence fails to provide minimal care for an animal in the person's custody or control and the failure to provide care results in serious physical injury or death to the animal.

Animal Neglect in the first degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

LCARA is asking the public for assistance. They are seeking donations to cover the costs of medical treatments, food, kitty litter, and toys for the cats.

Donations can be made directly at the shelter 3970 W. 1st in Eugene. If you have any questions contact the shelter at 682-3646.

For additional information contact: Mike Wellington LCARA 682-2370

Prepared by: Sgt. Clint Riley