



PRESS RELEASE

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THE RHODE ISLAND SPCA ASSISTS IN MULTIPLE ANIMAL CRUELTY ARRESTS IN ONE WEEK

[Riverside, Rhode Island, Aug 11, 2022] — The Rhode Island SPCA would like to thank the Pawtucket Police Department, Fire Department, and Animal Control Officer for their assistance in the arrest of Scott Ellis (21) and his girlfriend Danielle Lefrancois (22) on August 1, 2022. Ellis and Lefrancois have been charged with 3 counts of unnecessary cruelty to animals. Ellis was held at the Pawtucket Police Station due to bail violation of previous arrest (As a condition of prior arrest in May, Ellis was ordered to have no custody of animals pending adjudication). This is the third cruelty case against Mr. Ellis since January 2022. The 36 animals that were seized this month are currently being cared for by the Rhode Island SPCA in addition to the 12 seized in May.

Additionally, the Rhode Island SPCA would like to thank the Foster Police Department for their assistance in the arrest of Chue Her of Providence on August 9, 2022. Her has been charged with 1 count animal fighting and 1 count training animals to fight. The Rhode Island SPCA was first alerted to a possible cockfighting group in 2019. Over the past 3 years, Special Agent Newman, along with the Foster Police Department and RI State Veterinarian, Dr. Scott Marshall, have been gathering evidence.

Lastly, the Rhode Island SPCA would like to thank the Glocester Police Department for their assistance in the arrest of Michael A. Pinto (39) for multiple animal cruelty related charges. On July 29, 2022, officers located a severely emaciated and neglected Great Dane on the property and removed the canine for emergency veterinary care. The dog, named Buddy, was assessed to be severely neglected and required ongoing treatment. Unfortunately, Buddy was unable to survive this cruel mistreatment. Based on the circumstances uncovered during the investigation Pinto was arrested and charged with (1) count of unnecessary cruelty (1) count of overwork, mistreatment or failure to feed animals and (1) count of care of dogs. Pinto was arraigned and released on \$3,000 surety bail with the condition that he not have custody of any animals.

About the Rhode Island SPCA: Founded in 1870, the Rhode Island SPCA is not only the oldest humane organization in the state of Rhode Island but the third oldest in the United States. As a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we do not receive any local, state or federal funding nor are we affiliated with any national humane organization. We rely solely on donations from individuals, businesses and foundations.
