

Horses from A1



COURTESY PHOTO

One of the 61 horses that was removed from a property in Creswell owned by Gwenth Davies, who has been charged with felony animal neglect in the second degree.

veterinarians. The Lane County District Attorney's Office is partnering with the Sheriff's Office and Animal Services to pursue criminal charges against the horse owner, Gwenth Davies, in connection to this case. The District Attorney's Office is also working with Oregon Animal Cruelty Deputy District Attorney Jake Kamins, who specializes in the prosecution of animal cruelty cases.

Davies was arrested Oct. 30 and cited in lieu of custody for felony animal neglect in the second degree.

Davies, who resides at the property along with her husband Michael DeLeonardo, has had previous contacts with Animal Services regarding horses in poor condition in 2018.

As a result of those contacts, she complied willingly and the horses of concern were

brought to minimum care standards.

An additional report of neglect was made in September, however, information to support further investigation was not provided.

This current investigation began when Lane County Animal Services received photographs of horses that appeared to be severely neglected on Oct. 16.

The photographs

were provided by Emerald Valley Equine Rescue after it received multiple complaints from people who used to board their horses with Davies.

Due to the large number of involved horses, Lane County quickly reached out to the Oregon Humane Society and rescue organizations to begin identifying partners who could help with

the evaluation, removal, treatment and housing of so many large animals — which far exceeds local capacity.

"Ms. Davies is known to Animal Services," said Lane County Senior Animal Welfare Officer Bernard Perkins. "While we typically focus on voluntary compliance and education, the level of alleged neglect and Ms. Davies' his-

tory of violations goes far beyond what is acceptable in our community. We are grateful for the support of the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney in the pursuit of criminal charges."

Many of the horses will be transported to an alternate location for further veterinary examination and treatment.

Sound Equine Options, a Gresham-based rescue organization, will ultimately transport horses to its facility near Portland.

Sound Equine Options, a nonprofit was founded in 2009 to assist the growing number of neglected, abused and abandoned horses in the community. Its mission is to save the lives of horses through support, education, rehabilitation, training and adoption.

In addition to Sound Equine Options, Emerald Valley Horse Rescue, Oregon Humane Society, and Lane County Land Management Division are all assisting with the rescue operation and property compliance issues.

This investigation was ongoing as of press time Monday.

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Candy Jaatinen

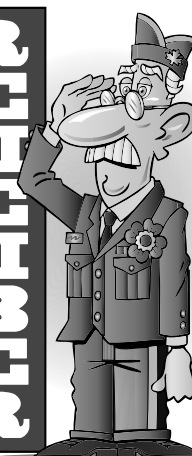
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