



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR HOWARD COUNTY

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For Immediate Release:

Woodbine Couple Found Guilty of Animal Cruelty Charges

Howard County, MD (January 23, 2020) – Glenn Andrew Hopple, age 58, and Candace Berry, age 66, were found guilty by a Howard County District Court Judge today to a total of 16 counts of animal cruelty between them (Hopple to 5 counts and Berry to 11 counts) which include failing to provide sufficient food, shelter, space and veterinary care to several animals on their property, and causing unnecessary pain and suffering.

HOPPLE CASE---On July 10, 2019, Howard County Animal Control received a call regarding skinny horses at Hopple's home in the 16400 block of Frederick Road in Woodbine, MD. Howard County Animal Control Officers responded to the home and observed several skinny horses as well as a miniature horse with overgrown hooves. They also discovered there were 14 miniature horses, three horses, one cow, one goat, and 10 donkeys in their pastures. The officer provided a notice requiring Hopple and his wife, Candace Berry, to take 4 of the miniature horses to a veterinarian within 24 hours, trim the hooves on the miniature horses, and get the horse's weights back up.

On July 12, 2019, a Howard County Animal Control Officer went to Hopple's residence with his veterinarian to check on the four skinny horses. The vet did a visual exam and, in his opinion, determined it was a food problem, not a parasite or teeth problem. Based on the information provided by Hopple's vet, Animal Control contacted the county's veterinarian to assess all the animals.

On July 19, 2019, a Howard County Animal Control Officer and veterinarian visited Hopple's home. Upon examining the horses, the vet ordered seven miniature horses be impounded because of their poor condition and low body condition score. A donkey was also impounded due to its poor condition and low body condition score. The horses and donkey were taken to Days End Horse Farm for further treatment.

BERRY CASE- On September 17, 2019, Howard County Animal Control received an anonymous letter regarding animals on Berry's property in Woodbine, MD, including the basement and barn areas. Animal Control Officers responded to the address and were provided access to the residence by Berry. The officers observed feces and urine tracked throughout the house. Eight dogs in the residence were in poor condition and impounded by Animal Control. Two, specifically, were extremely thin and in need of medical attention, which the county's veterinarian provided. Three turtles and one bird were also impounded.

On September 20, 2019, Howard County Animal Control received a phone call from a woman who said she was an acquaintance of Ms. Berry. Ms. Berry told this woman that Animal Control had impounded a number of her animals but did not inspect the basement, where additional dogs were housed at the time. Ms. Berry asked the acquaintance to help her by taking the dogs so Animal Control would not find them if they returned to her home for another inspection.

On September 21, 2019, the acquaintance turned over 33 dogs to Howard County Animal Control, including a female Boston Terrier with three puppies. The Boston Terrier and the puppies were dogs that had been given to her by Berry. The puppies looked to be days old and were still nursing from the mother. The officer took possession of the dogs and brought them back to Howard County Animal Control. The Boston Terrier had skin, dental, and other medical issues and were treated by the County's veterinarian. This woman also advised Animal Control that Berry had another dog that recently had puppies remaining in the residence.

On September 23, 2019, Howard County Animal Control obtained a search and seizure warrant for Berry and Hopple's home in Woodbine, MD. While in the residence, Animal Control located a black adult Labrador Retriever with 8 puppies inside a dog enclosure. The small room that the dogs were in was hot and dirty with urine and feces built up. The dog and puppies had no water and the adult dog needed medical attention for an ulcerated mass and infected ears. Animal Control impounded the dog and puppies and the dog received treatment by the county's veterinarian.

Hopple and Berry will be sentenced on April 24, 2020 in Howard County District Court.

Senior Assistant State's Attorney Devora W. Kirschner, who is also the Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Unit, prosecuted this case.

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