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Canines Find Loving Homes

UPDATE: The Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce that a majority of the canines at the Hanover County Animal Shelter found loving homes on Wednesday, June 29. Over 200 citizens came out yesterday, some showing up as early as 4 a.m. Of the 66 canines that were available for adoption from the case of Commonwealth vs. Stephanie Saunders, 63, were adopted. In addition, five canines not associated with this case found homes.

"I am extremely grateful to our community for their willingness to provide these dogs with loving homes. The donations received from the community assisted us greatly in the overall care for them. I would also like to thank the media for their coverage of this story. With the support of the community and the media, a total of 68 dogs found families," said Colonel David R. Hines, sheriff.

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UPDATE: On June 16, 2016, in the case of the Commonwealth of Virginia vs. Stephanie Saunders, the Hanover County General District Court awarded custody of the rescued canines to the County of Hanover. The canines will be available for adoption on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. The doors to the Hanover County Animal Shelter will be open from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The adoption process and requirements are as follows:

- Driver's license or other issued form of identification.
- Be at least 18 years old.
- Not banned from future adoptions as a result of the court order.
- Pay an adoption fee of $25.00.
- Sign and agree to have the animal sterilized, rabies vaccinated, and licensed within 30 days post adoption.
- Live within the greater Richmond area.
- If you rent, have a signed and dated letter from your landlord/property owner or a copy of your lease stating you're allowed to own an animal.
- Only one animal will be adopted per household. No exceptions.

All animals are available for adoption on a first come, first served basis. Citizens are encouraged to have their documentation ready as to streamline the process. We kindly remind citizens that all animals currently in the Hanover County Animal Shelter are in need of a loving home.

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UPDATE: On Wednesday, May 11, 2016, Stephanie M. Saunders, 33, of the 17000 block of Connie Hall Road, was arrested and charged with five counts of Cruelty to Animals, five counts of Inadequate Care of Animals, and one count of Sale of an Unweaned animal. Ms. Saunders is currently incarcerated at Pamunkey Regional Jail with a $3500 bond.

Stephanie M. Saunders

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office, on behalf of Hanover Animal Control, would like to extend

its sincere appreciation to the public for the generous donations to the Hanover County Animal Shelter. These donations will contribute to the overall care and well-being of the 68 dogs rescued during the course of this investigation.

Hanover, VA – On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, Hanover County Animal Control, with assistance from the Sheriff's Office, executed a search warrant in the 17000 block of Connie Hall Road. The search warrant was obtained concerning the well-being of the animals inside and outside the residence and their living conditions.

As a result of the search warrant a total of 68 canines were rescued. It was found that these canines were living in unhealthy living conditions, both inside and outside the residence. The canines were transported to various animal shelters for safekeeping and veterinary care.

Hanover County Animal Control, in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office, is coordinating with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to determine charges against the owners of the canines.

Anyone with further information about this incident is asked to contact the Hanover County Sheriff's Office at (804) 365-6140 or the Metro Richmond Crime Stoppers at (804) 780-1000. Citizens can also text Crime Stoppers at 274637 (CRIMES), using the keyword "iTip" followed by their tip. Both Crime Stoppers methods are anonymous, and can result in a reward of up to $1,000.

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