

Bend woman cited for neglect of 3-dozen animals

by Cheryl McDermott

Sheriff's deputies raided the home of a 58-year old Bend woman Wednesday and cited her for 19 counts of animal neglect when they found that three dozen goats, horses, chickens and peacocks had not been adequately cared for.

Donna E. O'Kula - DCJ photo According to Deschutes County Sheriff's Lt. Gary Decker, they were notified of the situation by Equine Outreach, a local horse rescue organization, on January 25 when a citizen expressed concerns over the condition of the animals.

An investigation led to the execution of a search warrant at 62540 Dodds Road, east of Bend and about three miles from Alfalfa. Ten goats, two horses, 22 chickens and two peacocks were removed from the property and placed in the care of the Human Society of Redmond, Decker reported.

Deputies and the Humane Society were assisted by an Oregon State Animal Welfare Officer and Blissful Acres Rescue Reserve, he added.

Donna E. Oâ€™Kula, 58, was cited to appear in court in lieu of physical custody, the lieutenant said. She was charged with seven counts of first-degree animal neglect and 12 counts of second-degree animal neglect.

In explaining the difference between the first- and second-degree charges, Decker said that both crimes are defined as when a â€œperson intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence fails to provide minimum care for an animalâ€•, but in first-degree animal neglect the failure to provide care results in serious physical injury or death.

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