

300 Dogs Seized in Puppy Mill Bust

Written by Jessica Carter

Thursday, 16 June 2011 14:42

Animal Control Officers along with staff of the Humane Society of the United States are in the process of seizing nearly 300 dogs from what they are calling a puppy mill operation in the town of Hudson in Caldwell County.

Kimberly Alboum, North Carolina State Director of the Humane Society says she was called by Caldwell County Animal Control officers a month ago about conditions at the Mason Creek Kennels at 4869 Free Mason Road. The property belongs to William "Bill" Thomas Allen. Charges are pending in the case.

Alboum says that animal control officers had conducted a rabies check at the kennels and found the dogs in very, crowded, inhumane conditions and contacted her. Officers began pursuing a search and seizure warrant against the property at that time. During the search and seizure today, several dead animals were found as well as dozens of animals packed in crates with feces and garbage throughout the home and surrounding buildings.

The animals are being taken to the Caldwell County Fairgrounds where crates, food and supplies have been provided by a grant from Maddie's Fund which is part of Pet Smart Charities. The care of the animals will be completely supplied by this grant and could exceed \$100,000.

All of the dogs will stay at the temporary shelter at the Caldwell County Fairgrounds until released by Caldwell County authorities. They will undergo a comprehensive health check by Outback Mobile Veterinary Services of Morganton, NC and Dr. Judy Vogt of the Humane Society of Charlotte over the next few days. After an evaluation, and once they are released, those that qualify will be placed in the Emergency Services Placement Partners with the Humane Society and placed up for adoption.

Anyone wanting to make donations for the care of the animals and their upkeep should contact Donna West with the Caldwell Humane Society, PO Box 1991, Lenoir, NC, 28645. Phone number 828-292-2925 or email at caldwell4pets@gmail.com.

"I appreciate the offers of donations for help, but what we really need from the public is for them to call their local legislatures and support our goal of getting minimum standard requirements for commercial breeders," explains Alboum.

Other agencies assisting in today's search and seizure are Animal Control Officers from Burke, Union and Catawba Counties, representatives of the North Carolina Humane Society and Saving Grace. Donations have been made by American Red Cross, Lenoir Fire Department, Sawmills Fire Department, Caldwell County Emergency Management and the Caldwell Humane Society.

For more information contact Jessica Carter, Caldwell County Health Department at 828-426-8462 or 828-310-4671.