



COLUMBIA COUNTY
ANIMAL CONTROL PROGRAM
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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information contact Animal Control Officer, Roger Kadell at 503-397-3935

On April 2, 2009, Columbia County Animal Control Officer Roger Kadell and shelter staff with the assistance of the City of Saint Helens Code Enforcement Officer Laura Snyder and Columbia County Deputy Dave Peabody responded to a call from a property owner at an address on Delena-Mayger Road, between Clatskanie and Rainier Oregon. The property owner reported that she had become hospitalized and had been unable to attend to her large number of dogs for two days. The owner requested that Animal Control remove the dogs from her property.

At the address, Officer Kadell found and removed 26 dogs that were living in very bad conditions. The home was destroyed by the dogs and years worth of fecal waste had piled over 1/2 foot in many locations throughout the home. One deceased dog was located on the property and appeared to have been killed by the other dogs. Many of the dogs were in poor conditions and covered with fecal waste. Officer Kadell notes that it was the worst conditions he had ever been seen in his career in law enforcement.

The 26 dogs were picked up and taken to the Columbia County Animal Shelter in Saint Helens. Each dog was examined. The process has begun to clean and prepare of the dogs for future adoption. The dogs will be prepared for possible new homes once ownership can be relinquished.

The addition of 26 extra dogs to the Columbia County Animal Shelter has required many extra hours of labor by the staff. The shelter normally maintains under 10 dogs and considers 25 dogs to be their normal maximum number. The shelter advises that, due to liabilities and concerns over the dogs lack of socialization, only volunteers with proven history of animal handling experience can be used. For others, donations of funds to assist in paying for worming medications, DHLPP, and others vaccinations for 26 dogs is needed and would be greatly appreciated by the County. Several of the animals will require Veterinary care and other costs associated with caring for neglected animals.

The Animal Shelter medical fund used for the care of animals comes from donations received. The Animal Control program is self funded through license fees and donations and avoids using tax payer dollars to fund the program. Community donations would be used for animal care.

The County Animal Shelter hopes to adopt out or find rescues for these dogs as soon as possible. Most of the dogs seem friendly although a little scared. Under the circumstances, they lack manners when it comes to being inside a home. Most may need to be maintained as outside dogs, but several puppies can be trained as good household pets.

The owner of the dogs is cooperating with Animal Control and the District Attorney's office in working to resolve the issues with these dogs and the neglect of the animals. Possible animal neglect charges are pending.