



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-713-2503 Fax: 860-713-2516
An Equal Opportunity Employer



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2010

Contact: Raymond Connors
860-713-2506

Hamden Man Arrested on 56 Counts of Cruelty to Animals

Hartford, CT– After a lengthy investigation by State Animal Control Officers from Connecticut Department of Agriculture, Paul Novicki, 50 Doolittle Lane, Hamden, turned himself in to Connecticut State Police on Monday, March 8, 2010.

Mr. Novicki was arrested and charged him with 56 counts of Cruelty to Animals and two counts of violating conditions of bond set for a previous arrest on Animal Cruelty charges. The previous arrest on January 12, 2010, was for six counts of Cruelty to Animals for animals he had been boarding at the Rambling River Ranch in North Haven, which was the subject of a Connecticut Department of Agriculture investigation that led to the seizure of neglected horses, ponies, and mules on December 16, 2009. As a condition of bond for the January 12, 2010, arrest, the court ordered Mr. Novicki to have “no possession or control of any animal.”

Bond for the two counts of violation of conditions of release in the second degree was set at \$150,000. Bond for the 56 counts of Cruelty to Animals was set at \$250,000. Mr. Novicki was arraigned on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, and was unable to post bail. He is being held by the Department of Corrections.

On January 14, 2010, and January 21, 2010, State Animal Control Officers, with the assistance of Hamden Police, local Animal Control Officers, and Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Econ Police, seized three Scotch Highlander cattle; two horses; two

burros; two mules; two dogs; and several chickens, rabbits, pheasants, and ducks from Mr. Novicki's property in Hamden. The number of domestic animals seized on these two dates totaled 56. Additionally Mr. Novicki was cited by Department of Environmental Protection Econ Police for failure to obtain a game breeders license in connection with six wild Mallard ducks found in a cage on the property. The total number of animals seized on these two dates was 62.

Mr. Novicki has been the subject of several investigations by Connecticut Department of Agriculture State Animal Control Officers. In 2003, Novicki was convicted on Animal Cruelty charges after State Animal Control Officers seized 27 horses and one mule from his property. In 2005, he pleaded guilty to violations of Animal Cruelty law. In 2007, State Animal Control Officers seized five horses and three mules. Novicki has violated court-imposed probation for the animal cruelty convictions several times and has an extensive arrest record for other violations.

“With the recent civil injunction permanently barring Mr. Novicki from owning animals, issued by the Hartford Superior Court, and this arrest on criminal animal cruelty charges, the Department of Agriculture hopes the long saga of animal neglect by Mr. Novicki is over,” Agriculture Commissioner F. Philip Prelli said.

www.ct.gov/doag

###