

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE _____

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WOMAN ARRESTED ON MULTIPLE CHILD AND ANIMAL CRUELTY CHARGES

SUFFOLK, VA (January 21, 2020) Suffolk Police advise of the arrest of Jennifer Eileen Harrell, age 43, of Suffolk, on February 7, 2020, following Direct Indictment on charges of Cruelty to Animals (4 counts).

Harrell has been in custody at Western Tidewater Regional Jail since her initial arrest on October 4, 2019, on charges of Child Cruelty (2 counts), and Child Neglect/Abuse – Reckless Disregard (2 counts), following a complaint to Child Protective Services and subsequent investigation after two juveniles were found to be living in unsanitary conditions in addition to other issues. The residence in the 3200 block of Deer Path Road was condemned at that time and the children were placed in the custody of a family member.

Suffolk Animal Control received notification on October 6, 2019, for a welfare check for animals at the condemned residence in the 3200 block of Deer Path Road. Upon responding to the padlocked residence, a dog could be heard barking inside, and multiple cages were located holding rats and a bearded dragon inside a garage on the property and under a trailer near the residence. All of the cages had no access to food or water and didn't provide adequate space or shelter. A family member responded to the scene and a total of 160 rats and the bearded dragon were

surrendered to Suffolk Animal Control. The dog was determined to be in good health. The rats and bearded dragon were later turned over to a rescue group.

The investigation remains ongoing at this time and additional charges may be forthcoming. Mug shot attached.

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