

APPANOOSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

OWNER OF HAPPY PUPPYS ARRESTED FOR ANIMAL ABUSE & NEGLECT

Appanoose County - Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at approximately 4:50 p.m. Henry Sommers, the owner of Happy Puppys, located at 31264 141st Ave, Cincinnati, Iowa, was arrested at the Appanoose County Sheriff's Office and charged with two counts of Animal Neglect with Serious Injury (Aggravated Misdemeanors); three counts of Animal Neglect with Injury (Serious Misdemeanors); and two counts of Animal Neglect without Injury (Simple Misdemeanors).

The arrest and charges stem from an investigation that began on January 11, 2023, after the Sheriff's Office received a complaint of potential animal neglect at the Happy Puppys business.

During the investigation, officials observed two adult Yorkshire dogs and two Yorkshire puppies that were living in an unhealthy environment. All four dogs were relinquished to a local animal shelter and later taken to an area Humane Society. The dogs were further examined by a licensed Veterinarian who determined that the animals

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were being neglected, and as a result of the neglect, the animals sustained injuries in violation of Iowa Code 717B.

During the investigation, officials learned that Sommers had previously relinquished other Yorkshire dogs that had sustained injuries as a result of neglect that required surgical procedures.

Records obtained from the USDA and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Animal Industry Bureau (IDALS), who are responsible for inspections of Commercial Breeders, showed multiple violations of Commercial Breeder License Regulations which contributed to some of the charges being filed against Sommers.

The dogs that were relinquished are currently being cared for by a Humane Society and Veterinarian.

The Sheriff's Office is referring all reports to the USDA and IDALS for review of Sommers Commercial Breeder License.

Sommers was released from the Appanoose County Jail after posting a cash bond.

A person charged with a crime is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.