



GASTON COUNTY POLICE

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Joseph D. Ramey
Chief of Police

Captain M. S. Hensley
Animal Care and Enforcement

April 29, 2022

Gaston County Police Investigate Animal Cruelty and Possible Dog Fighting

On Thursday, April 28, 2022 around 9:00 am, Gaston County Police Animal Care and Enforcement responded to 1911 Hemlock Avenue in Gastonia, NC after receiving a report of dogs fighting in the back yard of the residence. When Animal Care and Enforcement Specialists arrived, they found a deceased dog in the back yard. They also found other dogs caged in the back yard living in poor conditions. Additionally, there was an immediate concern for their health as some were found suffering from obvious injuries.

After efforts were made to contact the residents, search warrants were obtained to search the residence for evidence related to possible animal cruelty and dog fighting activity. Over 30 animals were located at the residence. All of the animals were removed from the property and taken to the Gaston County Animal Shelter for evaluation and medical treatment.

We would like to thank Humane Society International, Dr. Erika Mastalerz with Lincoln County Animal Services, Dr. Robert Neunzig and Gaston Low-Cost Spay & Neuter Clinic, Chester County Animal Control, Double N Kennels, Gaston Veterinary Hospital and AJ's Landscaping for their assistance. With their contributions to this effort, these animals are being well cared for and receiving the medical attention they need.

The Gaston County Police Criminal Investigations Unit is assisting with this ongoing investigation. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to contact Detective J. Brienza at 704-866-3320, or CrimeStoppers at 704-861-8000.

No further information to be released at this time.