



FRANKLIN COUNTY **SHERIFF**

PRESS RELEASE

CASE # 22FRC000233
DATE(s)/Time(s): 01/15/2022 – 01/27/2022
Address: Dunsmore Road, St. Albans Town, VT

On 01/15/21, while on patrol in the Town of St. Albans, a Franklin County Sheriff's Deputy came upon horses in the road on Dunsmore Road. As the Deputy was attempting to make contact with the owner, the deputy believed that horses appeared to be in need of care. As the investigation continued, it was discovered that there was a total of seven (7) horses and twenty-one (21) sheep that were without adequate food, water, or shelter. Further, they were not confined which allowed them to roam freely about the property and into Dunsmore Road. It was also discovered that at least one of the horses had a laceration to its leg that had not been addressed.

As the investigation continued, it was discovered that there have been several previous complaints, dating back to 2013, of livestock in the roadway near this location. It should be noted that in Vermont, complaints of livestock in the roadways are not uncommon. This was the first instance where it was determined that the animals were not receiving proper care. Since the Sheriff's Office assumed police services responsibility for St. Albans Town, there have been three (3) complaints of animals in the roadway before this incident. Each time, the owner was contacted. However, during this investigation it was learned that the aging owner could no longer could physically complete the tasks necessary to care for the animals, it was not a matter of purposeful neglect.

On 01/27/22, a search warrant/animal rescue operation was conducted at this location and the aforementioned animals were safely removed from the property and relocated to proper care facilities in the southern part of the state. The Sheriff's Office's Crisis Response Team and a representative from Age Well were deployed as a part of this operation to ensure that owner's care needs were addressed.

An animal rescue operation of this size would not have been possible without many participants, most of whom are volunteers. Among the agencies/services supporting this operation were:

Humane Society of the United States (<https://www.humanesociety.org>)
Dorset Equine Rescue (<https://dorsetequinerescue.org>)
St. Albans Town Animal Control Officer
Humane Society of Chittenden County (<https://www.hscvt.org>)
Vermont Agency of Agriculture
HEART Wildlife Removal (<https://www.heartwildliferemoval.com>)
Age Well
Spay ASAP, Inc.



