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Woman sentenced for animal cruelty in Snohomish County

Jean Elledge was sentenced today to 12 months of jail and 12 months community custody after pleading guilty to 5 counts of animal cruelty in the first degree for the death of 5 horses in her care and custody in Snohomish County. This was the maximum sentence under law. She will serve her sentence consecutively with the sentence she received in King County on similar charges.

On February 22, 2008, Snohomish County Animal Control Services served a search and seizure warrant on Jean Elledge for Animal Cruelty in the first degree. She was arrested and booked into the Snohomish County jail.

Ten (10) horses were seized and placed in protective custody – two (2) of the horses seized were too ill to survive. Two mares gave birth in custody delivering one live foal and one dead foal. Five horse carcasses were discovered in various stages of decomposition on the property at the time of the seizure. Snohomish County Animal Control Services engaged the services of local veterinarians to perform necropsies and diagnose and treat the surviving animals. All of the horses had heavy infestations of external and internal parasites, severe skin fungus and were malnourished.

Over the last eight (8) months the remaining horses have slowly responded to treatment prescribed by the veterinarians and continue to make progress. Eight (8) of the horses have been adopted while two (2) are still awaiting good homes.

Snohomish County Animal Control Services wishes to thank the organizations and veterinarians that provided care and treatment of these horses under difficult circumstances throughout this case.

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