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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. At the time, the suspect was arrested and booked into the Snohomish County jail.

Ten (10) horses were seized and placed in protective custody. Five horse carcasses were discovered in various stages of decomposition on the property at the time of the seizure. The cause of death has not been determined at this time. Snohomish County Animal Control Services immediately engaged the services of local veterinarians to perform a necropsy and for diagnosis and treatment of the live animals. All of the horses had heavy infestations of external and internal parasites, a severe skin fungus and appeared to be extremely malnourished. The horses are responding to the treatment regiment prescribed by the veterinarians and continue to make progress. The long term prognosis for full recovery is still uncertain at this point in time.

Snohomish County Animal Control Services wishes to thank the many organizations and private citizens that have offered their suggestions and assistance for help with the horses. The Snohomish County Animal Control Services officers are professionally trained and every precaution to protect the horses from further harm was taken. The attending veterinarians are experienced and bring years of professional knowledge in treating animals in these conditions.

All of the horses will remain under the supervision and care of the veterinarians until further notice.

Criminal charges were filed on March 6, 2008 – 5 counts of Animal Cruelty in the First Degree (Class C Felony).