

14 animals found dead on Scio property

MID-VALLEY MEDIA

A Scio woman has been arrested on suspicion of animal neglect after Linn County Sheriff's officials discovered 14 animals deceased on her property.

Lynette McConnell, 66, was booked into Linn County Jail on Monday on 20 counts of first-degree animal neglect.



McConnell

The arrest comes after Linn County Undersheriff Michelle Duncan and deputies served a search warrant in the 4100 block of Shimanek Bridge Drive, east of Scio.

McConnell was arraigned Tuesday in Linn County Circuit Court for 19 counts of second-degree animal neglect and one count of placing polluting substance in water.

In this case, second-degree animal neglect is considered a Class C felony because the state alleges the offenses were part of a criminal episode involving 11 or more animals.

According to court documents, the pollution charge stems from an accusation that McConnell discarded a dead animal carcass in a body of water.

Among the 14 dead animals were, according to a news release from LCSO, 11 cows, two chickens and a

dog. Six cows and two dogs were taken from the property, but one of the cows did not survive the night.

Early last week, deputies launched an investigation after they received information that multiple cows were in various stages of neglect and some were even dead. Investigators obtained enough information to get a search warrant, entered the location and seized all neglected animals, according to the news release.

After arriving at the scene, deputies learned multiple animals had been neglected for an extended period of time, officials said. The news release notes some animals were too weak to stand on their own, and they were surrounded by other animal carcasses.

Deputies are working with a veterinarian to treat the remaining animals. According to LCSO Capt. Brandon Fountain, the animals have a slow recovery process ahead. They are still getting vet care, and the plan is to foster out the remaining cows. As of now, the dogs are still with the Sheriff's Office.

During Tuesday's hearing, Judge Michael Wynhausen approved McConnell's conditional release from jail. He ordered her to not be in possession of any animals.

Her next court date in the matter is set for Nov. 22.

YOUR COM

Woman arrested for animal neglect

A Monday, Oct. 25, investigation by Linn County Sheriff's deputies resulted in the arrest of the homeowner after deputies found multiple neglected animals and 14 dead ones.

Linn County Undersheriff Michelle Duncan said deputies served a search warrant for animal neglect in the 4100 block of Shimanek Bridge Drive, east of Scio, after receiving information that multiple cows were in various stages of neglect and some were deceased.

Early last week, deputies began an investigation and obtained enough information for a search warrant to enter the location and seize any neglected animals. Upon arrival, deputies quickly learned multiple animals had been neglected for quite some time. Some were too weak to stand without help and stood among carcasses of others.

Fourteen animals were found deceased: 11 cows, two chickens and one dog. Six cows and two dogs were seized from the location, but one of those cows did not survive the night. Deputies are working closely with a veterinarian in hopes of getting the remaining animals on a healthier path, Duncan said.

Owner Lynette McConnell, 66, was arrested on 20 counts of first-degree animal neglect and was transported to Linn County Jail.