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Lee animal cruelty suspect turns self in Faces 9 counts

LEE — A local woman facing nine counts of animal cruelty turned herself in to Lee police on Tuesday after having a warrant out for her arrest for more than a week.

Amy Nason, 27, formerly of 1 Old Mill Road, had not left an address with police after she moved from her Lee residence. Police had issued a warrant on Aug. 26 and said they had given Nason several opportunities to turn herself in to police.

When she turned herself in on Tuesday, police learned she is now residing in Hampton.

The warrant stems from an incident in August where police said they found three dogs, three cats, two birds and a ferret in unsuitable conditions at the Old Mill Road home. Officials said they were helping issue an eviction notice to the residents at the time with the landlord's lawyer.

The residents were not home when police arrived, and New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NHSPCA) officials helped removed the animals from the home.

A deceased turtle and the skeletal remains of a cat were found on the property as well, police said.

The animals had varying ailments according to a report from the NHSPCA, including Lyme disease. Both the cats and dogs were treated for flea infestations.

The ferret was reported as underweight and the two birds were treated with antibiotics and were also infested with mites.

Each animal cruelty count relates to each of the surviving pets.

After turning herself in to police, Nason signed over the animals to the care of the NHSPCA, but claimed the ferret was not hers.

Police are looking into whether the animal can be returned to whom Nason claims is the actual owner. Nason was being charged \$10 a day plus medical expenses for the NHSPCA housing the pets. She will no longer pay those costs since she signed over the pets.

"She was very cooperative and pleasant," Dronsfield said about Tuesday's interaction.

Nason has been released on \$3,000 personal recognizance bail and is scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 11 in Dover District at 8:30 a.m.

If someone is found guilty of acts of animal cruelty, they could be barred from owning pets for up to five years.
