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## **Warrant issued in Lee animal cruelty case: Police say woman faces nine counts**

LEE — A warrant has been issued for an area woman who police said will now face nine counts of animal cruelty.

Lee Police recently removed three dogs, three cats, two birds and a ferret from 1 Old Mill Road after they said the animals were living in unsuitable conditions. A deceased turtle and the skeletal remains of a cat were found on the property as well, police said.

The New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NHSPCA) has determined the animals taken into custody from an Old Mill Road home have varying ailments, including Lyme disease and flea infestation.

The pets are currently in the custody of the NHSPCA while police conduct the investigation.

Now police are saying that the tenant of the residence, Amy Nason, 27, has been asked to turn herself into police after a warrant was issued last Friday.

Police said she is facing nine counts of animal cruelty based on the NHSPCA's veterinarian report that indicated medical tests for the three dogs came back positive for Lyme disease and anaplasmosis, another tick-borne disease. Both the cats and dogs were treated for flea infestations.

Each count relates to each of the surviving pets. Police said they decided to focus on the living animals. Police said it would have been difficult to determine how the turtle and the cat had died.

Though the ferret is eating regularly under the care of the animal shelter, it was underweight when brought in from the home. The two birds are being treated with antibiotics as well, as they are infested with mites.

Sgt. Tom Dronsfield said Nason has yet to contact police, despite being told of the warrant on Friday. Her address is currently unknown, police said.

"We have no idea where she is living," Dronsfield said.

Nason told Foster's last week that she is an animal lover and that the new apartment she is moving into is suitable for the animals. She did not say where that apartment is located.

She said the claims of animal cruelty are untrue and that police are lying about the condition of

the house and animals in relation to the case.

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

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