


**INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

Office of the State Veterinarian  
805 Beachway Drive, Suite 50  
Indianapolis, IN 46224-7785  
Phone: 317/227-0300  
Fax: 317/227-0330

To: Gary Haynes, Director of Legal Affairs & Licensing, BOAH  
Subject: Improper care of animals in Fortville

March 26, 2008

On 3/26/08, in response to your request, I contacted Jill Dolon, Director of the Greenfield Hancock County Animal Management agency, concerning the possible neglect and death of animals on a property in Fortville.

On 3/26/08, Director Dolon, Chief Deputy Stella Koch, and I went to the residence of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was present. The following species of animals were present on [REDACTED] property.

6 horses – The horses were in a small mud lot with no visible signs of food or water. The lot contained a large amount of debris that included metal trash, dilapidated wooden buildings, and a fallen tree. The fencing was in poor repair. The environment presented many opportunities for the horses to be injured. There was a round metal feeder for hay but no hay present. The horses were observed at a short distance. All were bright and alert but somewhat thin.

4 cows and 2 young bulls – The cattle were in a separate mud lot from the horses. This lot contained a large amount of manure and debris. Fencing again was in poor repair. The cattle had access to a small barn, which was caved in. [REDACTED] reported that the barn caved in recently during a storm. There were two carcasses of cows present which reportedly died when the barn caved in. [REDACTED] said he had contacted [REDACTED] to pick them up but they hadn't been there yet. The rest of the cattle appeared in responsible condition.

2 Alpine goats – The goats were in a small chain link pen with a couple of roosters. They appeared to be in good body condition.

Poultry including geese and chickens – Some of these animals were in small cages and others were in the pen with the cattle. All appeared in good body condition.

Rabbits – Several rabbits were in cages and appeared normal.

1 dog – This dog was in a pen in the middle of the cattle pen. He was only seen at a distance. [REDACTED] reported he was approximately 14 years of age.

[REDACTED] is an older gentleman and has some health issues. He is willing to give up most of the animals to good homes. He does care about his animals and was trying to do the best he could but the situation was getting out of his control. He had tried to make some arrangements with people to remove the horses and cattle.

Director Dolon called [REDACTED] and they will pick up the carcasses on Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. She also called the people who had indicated they would take the horses and cattle. Arrangements were made to remove the horses today and the cattle by the end of the week. She was also working on arrangements to remove the rabbits, some of the poultry and the goats. She indicated that she was not going to press charges since [REDACTED] was cooperative and willing to give up the animals.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cheryl Miller*  
Cheryl Miller, DVM  
Area Veterinarian, BOAH

CC: File  
Director Jill Dolon

**Safeguarding Indiana's animals, food supply and citizens for over 100 years.**  
An equal opportunity employer and provider.