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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2012

Contact:

Lisa Caruso
Commonwealth's Attorney
(804) 469-4536

Agreement Reached in Horse Case

~ Dinwiddie County will be made whole through restitution ~

In a signed agreement, Sara Johnson acknowledged today to the Dinwiddie County General District Court, that there is sufficient evidence to convict her of misdemeanor animal cruelty.

In order that they may be re-homed, Ms. Johnson has agreed to relinquish ownership of the animals seized from her property on May 16, 2012. While allowed to maintain the animals currently residing on her property, she is prohibited from obtaining any additional animals for a period of two years. She will be required to submit to scheduled visits to her property by Dinwiddie Animal Control, the Dinwiddie Sheriff's Office and/or any veterinary personnel. Ms. Johnson was further ordered to make restitution to Dinwiddie County in the amount of \$15,086. The matter was continued to September 30, 2013 at which time an appropriate final resolution will be determined.

Commonwealth's Attorney, Lisa Caruso stated that her office "...is pleased with the settlement of this case. Once all invoices are rectified, through donations and restitution, the cost of care and maintenance of these animals will not be borne by the taxpayers of Dinwiddie County. Most importantly, the animals in question have received much needed medical attention and are ready for transport to their newly-secured and suitable homes."

Dinwiddie County Animal Control reports that homes have been found for each of the animals and expects that all will be in place within two weeks.

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