

Charges in animal cruelty case- Hamilton Specator-Apr-13-13

A Waterford man, his partner, and the couple's landlord are facing a slew of charges after 149 dogs in "deplorable conditions" were rescued from the kennel they ran out of their home.

The dogs — Italian Greyhounds — were rescued in October after the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA received a complaint of suspect overcrowding at the Waterford kennel.

Officers, along with a team of veterinarians, raided the property and rescued the dogs, most of which were Italian greyhounds.

Lisa Avery, 69, owns the Waterford property where Johnangel Voyager, 43, and his partner Thomas Crapopoulos, 45, were living and running the kennel.

In a previous email to The Spectator, Voyager said 25 of the dogs were his, and he was "babysitting" another 23 animals for clients.

Most of the dogs on the property were puppies, he said, and around 40 were going to new owners.

While the names of those charged in such crimes is public information, the Ontario SPCA has refused to release the names of the accused. However, Court documents revealed Avery, Voyager, and Crapopoulos each face 10 charges of animal cruelty.

Under the Ontario SPCA Act, the three have been charged with one count each of causing an animal distress, permitting an animal to be in distress, failing to provide adequate and appropriate medical attention, failing to provide necessary care for general welfare, and failing to provide adequate and appropriate sanitary conditions.

They face additional criminal charges of causing unnecessary pain or suffering, and failing to provide suitable and adequate food, water, medical attention, and care.

The dogs are in the care of the Hamilton/Burlington SPCA and the Ontario SPCA. Many of the dogs required emergency dental surgery and the remaining dogs will have their medical and dental issues addressed in the next several weeks.

In an email response, Voyager said he does not feel the SPCA's actions were valid, and that the dogs "had a house, vet, and were properly cared for and medicated and vaccinated and loved."

"I am seeking justice for the pet owners who were boarding their dogs at the rental kennel and I will fight this at the courts vigorously," Voyager said.

He alleges the mistreatment occurred under another "owner" of the kennel, whom he did not name, though no other charges were listed.

Avery, Voyager, and Crapopoulos will appear at the Ontario Court of Justice in Simcoe on May 13.

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