



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Kootenai County Sheriff's Department
MEDIA RELEASE
October 31, 2007

On Wednesday, October 24th, Animal Control Officers from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department along with an Agent from the Idaho Department of Agriculture executed a search warrant at the old Coeur d' Alene Auction Yards located on Seltice Way near Atlas Road. The Search Warrant was issued as a result of information received from a non-involved party which indicated there was evidence of animal neglect and/or abuse at that location.

Upon executing the warrant, officers located two deceased horses on the property. Both horses were in a condition that could indicate a lack of nourishment. Additionally, thirteen other horses were found on the property, eight of which showed signs that could indicate a lack of proper nourishment. The investigating officers gave the owners guidelines how to resolve the issue. On October 29th as a result of a follow-up visit by the Animal Control Officers, the animals were seized since it appeared that the recommendations had not been followed. Additionally, investigating officers have located two more deceased horses associated with the former Coeur d' Alene Auction Yards at another location near Stateline, Idaho.

The investigation is continuing by the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department. Once the investigation is completed, it will be forwarded to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for charging decisions. The name of the owner of the horses will not be released until a charging decision has been made.

The Kootenai County Sheriff's Department wants to inform the public that due to recent severe increases in the cost of hay and feed, that there is a likelihood of similar events during the upcoming winter months. The Sheriffs Department is asking the public to report any suspected cases of abuse when noticed.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff