

Eddie Cathey

Sheriff of Union County

3344 Presson Road
Monroe, North Carolina 28112



Telephone: (704) 283-3789
FAX: (704) 292-2700

Email: eddiecathey@co.union.nc.us

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

January 9, 2014

Report of Possible Neglected Mule in Marshville, NC

In response to several media inquiries regarding the status of an investigation of a Neglected Mule at 4222 Lanes Creek Road in Marshville, NC, Sheriff Eddie Cathey issued the following as to the condition of the Mule (Levi).

December 13, 2013, Union County Sheriff's Office Animal Services received a call regarding a possibly neglected mule on this property. An officer responded the same day and found food, water and shelter for the mule at this property. On January 2, 2014, Animal Services received another call concerning the same mule. Again, an officer responded the same day and again found food, water and shelter. The owner of the property and the mule was contacted by Animal Services on this date and has cooperated fully with our investigation. The owner is in compliance with all NC State laws and Union County Ordinances concerning livestock and their living conditions.

The mule (Levi) was examined on January 8, 2014 by an Equine Veterinarian. The results of the exam showed Levi's health as good. The veterinarian recommended use of a different type of feed due to the age of Levi. The owner was happy to comply with the veterinarian's recommendation. The owner of Levi has given Union County Sheriff's Office personnel permission to come onto the property at any time to check on Levi.

Many concerned citizens have taken it upon themselves to feed Levi. This type of behavior could be detrimental and cause more harm than good for Levi. Also, entering private property without permission is Second Degree Trespassing and persons found on this property without permission are in violation of North Carolina General Statute 14-159.13. The owner of the property has posted "No Trespassing" signs for this property. Any concerns regarding animals should be reported to our Animal Services Bureau at 704-283-2308.

For additional information, contact Captain Macky Goodman at 704-283-3789

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