

MILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

August 9, 2011

On August 2nd, 2011 the Milton Police Department responded to 88 River Street in Milton to speak with Scott Webster about an incident that occurred a couple of days earlier. Upon arrival, Officer Thomas DuPont found the owner was not home. Officer DuPont observed (2) two dogs inside the residence. The house seemed to be abandoned and both dogs appeared neglected and malnourished.

It was determined that **Scott C. Webster (Age 31 years)** was the owner of such property. There were no personal belongings that would suggest anyone was currently living at this residence.

In order to rescue the dogs, a search warrant was obtained for 88 River Street through the Chittenden Superior Court-Criminal Division. The search warrant was executed by members of the Milton Police Department and Chittenden County Human Society. Upon entering the property, Officers located the two dogs that were severely malnourished and neglected.

The house was uninhabitable with feces and vomit from the dogs throughout the entire house. Officers had to wear face and mouth mask as the odor was extremely nauseous. The residence had a severe mold problem caused by holes in the roof, which caused the ceiling insulation to fall onto the floor. The dogs were so malnourished and hungry it appeared they were eating this insulation, garbage left in the residence, as well as a bag of plant fertilizer. It was discovered the dogs had been sleeping on a pile of rotten and moldy wet cloths.

A search of the residence revealed no dog food or water available for the dogs. However, Officers did locate a marijuana plant growing in a closet. This marijuana plant had been maintained and had a fan and lighting sources to help it grow.

The dogs were taken to the Milton Veterinary Hospital where they were evaluated and subsequently placed in the care of the Human Society.

On August 5th, 2011 Webster was located and charged with (2) two counts of Cruelty To An Animal and Possession of Marijuana. In an interview with Webster, he did not deny the dogs were neglected and malnourished. He did subsequently relinquish ownership of the dogs over to the Human Society.

Webster was issued a citation to appear in Chittenden County Superior Court-Criminal Division for the date of September 19th, 2011.

Cruelty to an Animal: Carries a penalty of imprisonment of up to one year, or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both

Possession of Marijuana: Carries a penalty of imprisoned not more than six months or fine not more than \$500.00, or both



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Locke".

Detective Corporal Paul Locke
Milton Police Department