

## Candia horse owner faces 17 charges

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**CANDIA** – A dozen horses seized during a raid at a 456 Critchett Road farm last month lacked proper care, police said yesterday as they filed 17 charges against Heidi Fredrick.

Fredrick, 45, turned herself in last night and was charged with nine counts of cruelty to animals and eight counts of providing inadequate shelter.

Police Chief Mike McGillen said some horses had both issues.

The search warrant and supporting affidavit have been sealed in the case. Police have not commented on the probable cause that led to the warrant, or the specific condition of the animals.

In addition to the 12 horses seized, 17 remain on the property.

Two independent veterinarians examined the animals, and determined they were in need of help.

Several complaints or concerns were raised over several months about horses at the property, McGillen said.

Accompanied by her lawyer, Fredrick turned herself in last night and was released on \$5,000 personal recognizance bail. Nine of the charges are misdemeanors and eight are violations.

Brian Travis, the owner of the Critchett Road property and Fredrick's husband, was not available for comment.

Previously, he said the horses were perfectly healthy and alleged they were taken because of a dispute with Steve Sprowl, an investigator with the New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

In November, Sprowl attempted to search the property to determine if there was adequate shelter for the horses, but was denied access.

The interaction was caught on tape and posted to YouTube.com, as was the horse seizure.

On March 9, police issued a search warrant for the property. Twelve horses deemed by two veterinarians to be at risk were taken.

All 29 horses are under quarantine because they lacked health certificates and proof of an equine infectious anemia test as required by state law.

Fredrick and Travis moved to New Hampshire from Colorado last summer, Travis as a member of the Free State Project.

The Free State Project is an agreement among 20,000 people to move to New Hampshire, with a goal of creating a society in which the maximum role of government is the protection of life, liberty, and property.

Travis has said the grueling winter, including the December ice storm, damaged many horse shelters on the property.

Over the past two weeks, friends and fellow Free-Staters have assisted Travis and Fredrick in building new shelters, in addition to repairing the damaged ones.

McGillen said they are in the process of talking to Fredrick's attorney about the possible return of some of the horses.