



St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

Public Information

260 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, LA 70070
Voice (985) 783-0205 • Fax (985) 783-1138

Greg Champagne
Sheriff

News Release

*Sgt. Jenni Barrette
Public Information Officer
January 14, 2025*

ANIMAL CRUELTY INVESTIGATION LEADS TO THE ARREST OF TWO DESTREHAN RESIDENTS

St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office deputies and animal control agents responded to 214 Murray Hill Drive in Destrehan about animal cruelty allegations. Deputies spoke with 49-year-old Doug Russell and 48-year-old Melissa Leblanc, both of Destrehan, about the allegations. Deputies learned that Mr. Russell allegedly used a machete to discipline a dog that was attacking another dog at the residence the previous night but then neglected to render aid to the injured dogs. A machete believed to be used was found in the front yard of the residence.

When deputies and animal control agents entered the deplorable home, they discovered multiple emaciated and injured dogs throughout the house. The animals were removed from the home by animal control agents and transported to the Animal Shelter for medical treatment. Mr. Russell was arrested on seven counts of Simple Animal Cruelty, two counts of Aggravated Animal Cruelty, and seven counts of Rabies Vaccinations (required). Ms. Leblanc was arrested on seven counts of Simple Animal Cruelty and seven counts of Rabies Vaccinations (required). Mr. Russell and Ms. Leblanc were transported to the Nelson Coleman Correctional Center and booked accordingly.