



Hampton Police Division Media Release

40 Lincoln Street
Hampton, VA 23669
757-727-6608



For Immediate Release

April 30, 2014

Owner Identified in Animal Cruelty Canine Investigation: 3700 Block of Abbey Court

The Hampton Police Division's Animal Control Unit is investigating a complaint of alleged animal cruelty to canines on April 29, 2014.

At 1:11 p.m., Public Safety Communications received an anonymous tip through the non-emergency line in reference to the alleged neglect of multiple dogs at a residence located in the 3700 block of Abbey Court. Animal Control Officers responded to the scene and made consensual contact with owner. Animal Control Officers inspected the premises and located multiple pit bulls residing in conditions considered to be neglectful.

As a result of the investigation, probable cause was established and fourteen Pit bulls (adults and puppies) were seized from the property. The canines will be transported to a local SPCA located in the 500 block of J.Clyde Morris Boulevard, Newport News, where they will be evaluated. At this time in the investigation there is no evidence to substantiate any dog fighting activity was taking place.

Animal Control Officers have obtained thirty-two summonses for the owner, **Vernon Alonzo Silver**, a 48-year-old Hampton man who resides in the 3700 block of Abbey Court.

They are as follows:

- Sixteen counts of Misdemeanor Failure to Provide Duties of Ownership
- Sixteen counts of Misdemeanor Animal Cruelty.



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Anyone with information that will assist police is encouraged to contact the Hampton Police Division at **727-6111** or the Crime Line at **1-888-LOCK-U-UP**. Tipsters can also send an anonymous tip via text message to the Crime Line by texting "**HAMPTONPD TIPS plus your tip**" to **274637 (CRIMES)**. Crime Line callers remain anonymous and never appear in court. If a Crime Line call results in an arrest, the caller is eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.00.

Corporal Mary Shackelford will receive questions about this release at 757-727-6608.

END