

# SPCA says horse rescued with dozens of other animals will need surgery

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STRATHAM — A 12-year-old horse that was one of 50 animals rescued during an animal cruelty investigation and brought to the New Hampshire Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will need to undergo costly surgery to fix her contracted tendons that make walking difficult.

The horse named Molly is known as a “tippy-toed mare” and was born with two club feet due to the contracted tendons.

According to the SPCA, the problem can be fixed in yearlings, but Molly has suffered with the condition throughout her life. The shelter is now trying to raise the \$3,500 needed for the surgery.

Molly was one of 50 animals rescued on June 1 after police from a community in northwestern New Hampshire and the Field Services Division of the SPCA responded to a complaint of animal cruelty.

Charges are expected, but at this point SPCA officials have not identified the community where the animals were living.

The animals rescued included Molly and a second horse, a dog and her four puppies, 27 rabbits and 15 guinea pigs. They are now in the care of the SPCA and their conditions are being evaluated.

SPCA officials said the animals were living in overcrowded, filthy conditions. The veterinarian on site ordered the horses, which were described as underweight, and the dogs, which had worms, be removed immediately from the property.

Officials said the rabbits and guinea pigs were surrendered by the owners at the urging of police to reduce the number of animals in their “breeding facility.”

SPCA officials are expected to return to the facility this week to remove another horse and additional rabbits and guinea pigs.

Officials said the owners are cooperating with the investigation.

SPCA Executive Director Lisa Dennison said the animals “suffered at the hands of humans seeking to make a profit from their offspring.”

Officials expect the rescue will have an impact on the SPCA's financial resources.

"The numbers associated with this rescue is definitely straining resources, including human resources. The small animals are quarantined in our only conference room at this time, which is definitely not set up for caring for animals. Thus, it takes longer and is more difficult to clean, feed and water 48 bunnies and guinea pigs," said Sheila Ryan, the SPCA's director of development and marketing.

The SPCA is asking for the public's assistance in caring for the rescued animals.

Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the SOS Fund through the SPCA's website, [www.nhspca.org](http://www.nhspca.org). Gifts to the SOS Fund can also be made by phone at 772-2921, ext. 102 or by mail: New Hampshire SPCA, P.O. Box 196, Stratham, N.H. 03885.