

Adoption party celebrates next chapter for dogs seized in Marlborough animal cruelty case



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SWANZEY, N.H. —

Dozens of dogs seized from a Marlborough man are now starting a new chapter of their lives.

On Sunday, the Monadnock Humane Society, which has been caring for the dogs, held an adoption party to celebrate the end of a long and difficult journey for the yellow Labs. The dogs

“She’s the sweetest animal we’ve ever had, so it’s just been a great experience for us,” said Mike Thiene, whose family officially adopted Belle. They had been fostering her since the summer of 2018.

“We just signed the papers, and it’s like now she’s ours. And we don’t have to worry about all the rules and regulations that there are and there has to be when you’re fostering,” said Jeanne Thiene.

In July 2018, investigators found 50 dogs and one cat living in unsanitary conditions in Marlborough. Animal cruelty charges [against John Riggieri were dismissed](#), on the condition that he doesn’t commit another crime for two years.

The animals were under protective custody while the case was active.

About 30 dogs were adopted Sunday. The rest of the adoptions will follow in the coming weeks as they continue to battle medical issues.

“This is the biggest case that the (Monadnock) Humane Society has ever taken on,” said Emily Kerylow, director of shelter operations. “Everybody is just so excited that we are here. We are so pleased with the outcome, that all of these dogs get to stay in their foster homes. It’s been a huge amount of work.”

All the dogs and the cat from this case have already been matched with families. The hope is to have all of them in homes by the end of the year.