

Animal Cruelty Charges Filed Against Humboldt Women; Animals Being Treated in Omaha (KTNC) - Two women face animal cruelty and neglect charges, after authorities seized more than two-dozen cats and dogs from a Humboldt residence Friday afternoon.

The Richardson County Sheriff's Department, with help from the Nebraska Humane Society – acting on information from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and several complaints from neighbors – removed 24 cats and four dogs from the residence at 608 Central Avenue.

According to information from the Richardson County Sheriff's Department, an Ag Department inspector had checked the home last Thursday, and found the animals to be “lethargic, lifeless, obviously very ill with discharge from their eyes and noses.”

There also was an extremely high concentration of ammonia inside the home due to the accumulated animal waste. That posed a health risk to both the animal and human occupants of the home. Authorities say there was also a large amount of rotting trash inside the home that created a foul odor that was noticeable outside the house.

Two women, 26-year-old Jessica Horner and 23-year-old Loretta Horner were cited for animal cruelty and neglect. The charges are class one misdemeanors. They're scheduled to make initial appearances in Richardson County Court on September 23.

The animals were taken to the Nebraska Humane Society in Omaha. According to Kelli Brown, a Lead Investigator for the Humane Society, a few of the cats had to be euthanized while the others are being treated for respiratory ailments caused by the high ammonia levels in the home that will require antibiotics. She says some of the cats also have some “social issues,” since they were not used to being around humans that will have to be corrected before the cats are available for adoption.

She says the dogs – which were outdoors – were in better condition than the cats. They are being evaluated by veterinarians, and Brown says they also hope to place the dogs for adoption once their treatment is complete.