



PORT ST. LUCIE

POLICE

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

SUBJECT: Pets rescued by Port St. Lucie Police after pet sitter jailed.

On March 4, 2016 at around 6:25 am, Port St. Lucie Police went to the 500 block of NW Marion Avenue for reports that a dog owner was unable to retrieve his two dogs, a Springer Spaniel and Schnauzer mix, from the pet sitter, Michael Nelson.

The pet owner told police that he went to pick up his dogs from Nelson on March 3, 2016 at 8:00 pm. There was no answer at the door and the pet owner was unable to pick up his dogs. The pet owner stayed all night in the driveway of Nelson's house accompanied by another pet owner who had her Pit Bull being watched by Nelson. After they were unable to make contact with Nelson the police were called.

Port St. Lucie Police Officer Michael Conner responded and was able to locate Nelson, who was currently being held at the St. Lucie County Jail on a petit theft and possession of Marijuana charges stemming from an incident at a WalMart on March 3, 2016 at 4:50 pm. Officer Conner called the Jail and was able to obtain permission from Nelson to enter the house and release the dogs back to their rightful owners. While inside the house Officer Conner located the Springer Spaniel, Schnauzer, and Pit Bull, which were turned over to their owners. Officer Conner also located another Pit Bull, Black Labrador, and Guinea Pig whose owners were not present. Animal Control responded to the house to take custody of these remaining animals.

The pet owners complimented Officer Conner's quick thinking and action in the recovery of their animals, which were caged for hours.



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Attachments: Police Reports and photo of Springer Spaniel and Schnauzer