



PRESS RELEASE

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PAWTUCKET WOMAN FACES ANIMAL CRUELTY CHARGES FOR NEGLECT RESULTING IN THE DEATH OF DOG

[Riverside, Rhode Island, March 24, 2023] — On March 14th, The Rhode Island SPCA responded to a call from Ocean State Veterinary Specialists in regards to a dog that was brought to their facility deceased. The dog, an elderly terrier mix, showed clear signs of neglect including substantial matting, significant hair loss and two very large abdominal tumors. At the time the dog was brought in, the name of the owner was not disclosed. Following up on information provided when the dog was presented for treatment, we were able to identify the owner, Dawn Abbenante, from Pawtucket.

Attempts to contact Abbenante were unsuccessful and a warrant was issued for her arrest. With the assistance of the Pawtucket Police Department, she was taken into custody, without incident, at her residence in Pawtucket.

She was arraigned in District Court on March 22, 2023 for one felony count of unnecessary cruelty and one misdemeanor count for care of dogs. Abbenante was released on \$3000 personal recognizance and given a pre-arraignment date of June 3rd in RI Superior Court.

About the Rhode Island SPCA: Founded in 1870, the Rhode Island SPCA is not only the oldest humane organization in the state of Rhode Island but the third oldest in the United States. As a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, we do not receive any local, state or federal funding nor are we affiliated with any national humane organization. We rely solely on donations from individuals, businesses and foundations.
