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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 12, 2012

**For additional information contact:**

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**ANIMALS RESCUED FROM  
UNSANITARY CONDITIONS**

GRAND RAPIDS -- The Kent County Animal Shelter is in the process of rehabilitating ten dogs, three cats and a chinchilla, after they were taken from a suspected hoarding situation on Grand Rapids NE side.

Animal Control Officers went to the home last week, after receiving a call about dogs living in their own waste. Officers found unsanitary conditions at the home, and spoke with the owner, who did not want to cooperate. Officers removed the animals while the woman was detained by police. Animal Control has charged the dog owner with misdemeanor animal cruelty and neglect. Her name is not being released, as this is an ongoing investigation.

The animals are being held at the Kent County Animal Shelter, and are in need of medical treatment. Shelter employees are washing and grooming the dogs (various mixes of Terrier, Pomeranian, and Chihuahua) and treating parasites as well as sores associated with flea infestation and living in unsanitary conditions. Animal Control is requesting the owner sign over rights to the animals. "Some of the dogs are shy around humans, and need some socialization," said Carly Luttmann, Kent County Animal Shelter Supervisor. "Most of these dogs seem like they will make great pets once we can get them healthy and we are able to place them up for adoption."

Treating pets like these require time, patience and supplies. The Kent County Animal Shelter is always looking for volunteers to provide environmental enrichment and behavior modification for dogs. The shelter is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Adoptions end one hour before closing. Call (616) 632-7300 for more information.

(MORE: photos of two dogs, post-grooming, on next page)

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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