

**Tehama County Sheriff's Office**  
22840 Antelope Blvd, Red Bluff, CA 96080  
(530) 529-7900

**DAVE HENCRATT**  
SHERIFF-CORONER

**PHIL JOHNSTON**  
UNDERSHERIFF

---

# ***PRESS INFORMATION***

---

**INCIDENT:** Animal Neglect and Seizure of dog in need of Medical Care

**CASE NUMBER:** 17-01897

**GENERAL LOCATION:** 16925 McCoy Road, Cottonwood, CA 96022

**DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT:** October 14, 2017 at approx. 3:12 pm

---

**Suspect: Erickson, Heidi Anne**  
16925 McCoy Road,  
Cottonwood, CA 96022

**AGE: 43**

---

**SUMMARY OF INCIDENT:** On October 14, 2017, a Tehama County Sheriff's Deputy on routine patrol located three dogs in the roadway near 16925 McCoy Road, Cottonwood. One of the dogs appeared to be sick or wounded. The Deputy was not able to locate anyone claiming ownership of the animals and was able to contain them in the yard although they could escape it easily. The Patrol Deputy requested our Animal Regulation Officer respond and evaluate the sick dog.

At about 3:15 pm, a Tehama County Sheriff's Animal Regulation Officer (ARO) responded to the residence and observed four dogs in the yard. A neighbor contacted the ARO and reported the dogs had been left unattended for about two weeks. The dogs had been coming to the neighbor's residence for food.

The ARO also observed the sick dog and immediately recognized the dog needed medical attention. While at the scene, one of the dogs escaped the yard

through the gate. The ARO gave that dog a treat in attempt to determine if it was friendly. Because the enclosure was not adequate to keep the dog contained it was leashed and placed into the ARO vehicle. While doing this, the other dogs exited through the gate as well and were contained by the ARO. The sick dog was also contained and later treated at a local veterinary clinic.

The dog was found to be suffering from stage three dental disease, severe alopecia, open sores on her back and abdomen, ear infections, parasites and fleas with skin lesions over her entire body. (Refer to attached photographs).

Upon taking the dogs to the Animal Shelter, Staff recognized the dogs as belonging to Heidi Erickson. They recognized them due to several prior contacts. They immediately attempted to make contact with Ms. Erickson. Shelter Staff identified the sick dog as "Tilly".

On October 16, 2017, Ms. Erickson contacted the ARO and admitted to owning "Tilly" and the other dogs. All of which were not current licensed or vaccinated. Ms. Erickson admitted she could not provide or afford to pay for the medical treatment needed for Tilly and surrendered the dog to the shelter.

The Tehama County Sheriff's Office is aware of a video posted by Ms. Erickson on Facebook that has received some attention including threats of harm toward the ARO. The Tehama County Sheriff's Office takes threats like this very seriously and is investigating further.

At the time of this release Ms. Erickson has not filed a complaint. We are looking into this matter further.

On October 22, 2017 at 3:47 pm, Ms. Erickson had a conversation with a Sergeant at the Tehama County Sheriff's office in which she asked to be paid a sum of money or she was going to go to the news media. This was a recorded conversation.

Investigation is continuing.

**Assistant Sheriff  
Phil Johnston**









