

# How Palm Beach Pet Shop Owners could be Facing Animal Cruelty Charges

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**Author:** [Andrew Stine](#)

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A Lantana pet shop owner has been arrested and charged with animal cruelty. A discovery at Forever Puppies led authorities to search her apartment where they found a gruesome scene. The woman had been known to stockpile animals in her home, but authorities were hardly prepared for what they found there.

## The Case

According to an article in WPTV News, Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control workers moved through the apartment of Debora Van Oort, the owner of Forever Puppies, taking in one disturbing sight after another, until they reached the kitchen and pulled open the freezer.

Throughout the search, they found five dead dogs and cats, miniature victims of neglect and cruelty, authorities said. By Monday evening, animal care and control workers had seized 26 animals including dogs, cats, a rabbit, a bird and a hedgehog. Police immediately arrested the owner.

Before the search of her apartment, animal control workers found two dead golden retriever puppies inside the shop, which had been without air conditioning in the heat. Necropsies soon showed that the puppies did not have food in their systems. There were 12 animals seized at the shop, including dogs, cats, and a rabbit.

From her apartment, they seized eight dogs, five cats, and a hedgehog. The hedgehog was the only animal in her apartment lucky enough to have food or water.

Authorities say they could not find any documentation for the animals seized at the pet shop, and did not have any proof any of them had ever seen a veterinarian.

Van Oort was booked into Palm Beach County Jail Monday night, and is expected to appear before a judge today.

## Animal Cruelty Defense

Because of the new laws that were recently passed, you might be facing animal cruelty charges without even knowing you did anything wrong. If you have been [accused of animal cruelty](#), you need a criminal defense lawyer who understands the new regulations that have been passed. Contact a [criminal defense lawyer](#) to help you build a case. If your animals are important to you, your lawyer is the only one that can help.

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