



**BOROUGH OF HALEDON
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Office of the Police Administration
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For Immediate Release:
January 19, 2024

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HALEDON POLICE DEPARTMENT TAKES SWIFT ACTION AGAINST ANIMAL CRUELTY

HALEDON, NJ - The Haledon Police Department is sending a strong message against animal cruelty, following a recent incident involving the rescue and subsequent investigation of a malnourished dog left outside in freezing temperatures.

On January 15, 2024, Corporal Andrea Boos, Officer Nasir Mora, and Officer Antonio Parisi responded to a report of a dog being left outside for an extended period of time in below freezing temperatures. Upon their arrival, they found a young gray pit-bull collapsed on the ground, severely emaciated and exhibiting signs of frostbite and hypothermia. Officers took immediate action, providing emergency care and transporting the dog to an Animal Hospital for treatment.

Corporal April Latona, the Haledon Police Department's Humane (Animal Cruelty) Law Enforcement Officer, led the investigation and, in cooperation with the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, identified the owners of the dog. Both individuals, Ms. Johanna Marie LaRosa, age 31, and Mr. Devon Johnson, age 30, both from Haledon, New Jersey, have been charged with 3rd degree Animal Cruelty under Title 4:22-17c(3).

Chief of Police Angelo J. Daniele expressed gratitude to Jersey Pits Rescue for their support and praised the swift and decisive action of the officers, acknowledging that their intervention saved the dog's life. The Haledon Police Department strongly encourages all community members to report any instances of animal cruelty or negligence, emphasizing a clear stance of zero tolerance towards such behavior.

The dog is currently in stable condition and will be made available for adoption through Jersey Pits Rescue once it has made a full recovery.

The Haledon Police Department reiterates its commitment to ensuring the welfare and safety of animals within the community and will take necessary measures to prosecute any act of cruelty and negligence towards animals. For any information related to animal cruelty or to report a case, please contact the Haledon Police Department at 973.790.4444 or tips@haledonpd.org.

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