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MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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## PRESS RELEASE

Edwardsville—Madison County State's Attorney Tom Gibbons filed animal cruelty charges today against an Edwardsville woman who was found to be living with 59 animals in her home earlier this week.

Officers with the Edwardsville Police Department executed a search warrant after consulting with prosecutors at the State's Attorney's Office on Monday, October 15, 2012. They found 56 cats and 3 dogs which were taken to the Metro East Humane Society in Edwardsville. One cat and one dog had to be euthanized.

Shawn D. Scherer (d.o.b. 9/23/60) is facing two counts of misdemeanor Cruelty to Animals. Count 1 states that as the owner of 56 cats, she kept them in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, resulting in the cats suffering from upper respiratory infections and other untreated injuries; Count 2 states that as the owner of 3 dogs, she kept them in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, resulting in the dogs suffering from untreated injuries and illness. Both counts also accuse Scherer of not providing adequate shelter and humane care for the animals.

Maximum penalty for a Class A Misdemeanor is up to one year in county jail, 24 months probation and \$2500 fine. State's Attorney Gibbons stated that "this appears to be a case of hoarding gone out of control, putting so many innocent animals at risk and in harm's way. We anticipate that there may be a need for an evaluation of the mental condition of the defendant to determine if there are issues contributing to these extraordinary circumstances."

He also noted that although the animals have been removed from her home on Birdie Court, the repercussions of Scherer's actions are still reverberating. Gibbons commended the Metro East Humane Society for their heroic work in rescuing the animals and restoring them to good health. "Kathy Turner and everyone at the M.E.H.S. deserve a lot of credit for the good work they have done and continue to do in this case. But we also want to remind everyone that there are still over 50 animals at our Humane Society who need food and medical care and will eventually be ready for adoption into good homes. If you can help out in any way, I encourage you to contact the Metro East Humane Society at 618-656-4405."

Scherer's bond was set at \$3000. She is expected to turn herself into authorities.

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