



Hancock County Sheriff's Office

Compact

Print Date/Time: 03/10/2026 08:32
Login ID: cof/mkphillips
Case Number: 2025-00030635

ORI Number: Hancock County Sheriff's Office
OH0320000

Case Details:

Case Number:	2025-00030635	Incident Type:	Assist Other Agency
Location:	7754 SR 103 JENERA, OH 45841	Occurred From:	12/12/2025 09:39
		Occurred Thru:	12/12/2025 09:39
		Reported Date:	12/12/2025 09:39 Friday
Reporting Officer ID:	1611-Smith	Status:	Closed
		Status Date:	12/23/2025
	Disposition:	Assisted Other Agency	Disposition Date: 12/23/2025
Assigned Bureau:	Detectives		

Case Assignments:

Assigned Officer	Assignment Date/Time	Assignment Type	Assigned By Officer	Due Date/Time
1611-Smith	12/12/2025 14:44	Lead Investigator	1611-Smith	

Offenses

No.	Group/ORI	Crime Code	Statute	Description	Counts
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Subjects

Type	No.	Name	Address	Phone	Race	Sex	DOB/Age
Other	1	RITTERSPACH, JAMES F	7754 SR 103 JENERA, OH 45841		White	Male	09/19/1947 78

Arrests

Arrest No.	Name	Address	Date/Time	Type	Age
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Property

Date	Code	Type	Make	Model	Description	Tag No.	Item No.
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Vehicles

No.	Role	Vehicle Type	Year	Make	Model	Color	License Plate	State
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Routing:

Investigative Narrative



Investigative Narrative Sgt. Frederick R. Smith A3 2025-00030635



On December 11, 2025, I was contacted by the Humane Officer Mia Hauenstein regarding assisting with a search warrant on SR 103. Mia advised that she received a complaint regarding the conditions at the property regarding the care of chinchillas. It was reported that there was approximately 350 chinchillas at the property.

On December 12, 2025 at 0930 hours, a briefing was held at the sheriff's office. I reviewed Mia's search warrant and found it was signed by Findlay Municipal Court Judge Hackenberg.

Detectives Sealey, A. Smith and Brown, along with myself followed Humane Society personnel to the residence. Det. Brown and I went to the residence and attempted to contact the property owner, with no success. Det. Sealey and Det. A. Smith made contact with the owner, James Ritterspach, at one of the outbuildings. I entered the building and found numerous chinchillas inside in cages. James advised that there around 1200 chinchillas at the property.

Detectives maintained security at the residence and checked the remaining outbuildings. Additional chinchillas were located in another building and reported to Humane Society officials. No one else was located at the property.

Officer Hauenstein advised that she felt comfortable with our office leaving. I advised her to contact our office via radio if she needed assistance.