

# Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

RENÉE M. ROBESON  
PROSECUTOR

STACEY M. GEURDS McCLEESE  
FIRST ASSISTANT PROSECUTOR



TIMOTHY J. DREW  
CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

Justice Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
65 Park Avenue  
PO Box 756  
Flemington, NJ 08822-0756

Telephone 908-788-1129  
Fax 908-806-4618

[www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/prosecutor/](http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/prosecutor/)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2022

### JOINT INVESTIGATION LEADS TO ARREST OF HUNTERDON COUNTY MAN FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY

Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renée Robeson, Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office's Chief of Detectives Timothy Drew, and Raritan Township Police Chief Al Payne announced today that a joint investigation by the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, Raritan Township Police Department, and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture resulted in the arrest of Michael B. Featherston, 52, of Flemington, NJ. Featherston was arrested on May 26, 2022, and charged by the Raritan Township Police Department with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree unlawful possession of a weapon (assault rifle), 3<sup>rd</sup> degree purchasing firearm parts to manufacture a firearm without a serial number, 3<sup>rd</sup> degree cruelty to animals (bodily injury-failure to provide necessary care), 4<sup>th</sup> degree prohibited weapons (large capacity magazines), 4<sup>th</sup> degree possession of CDS Marijuana. Mr. Featherston is the owner/operator of Rooster's Rescue Foundation, Inc., a 501 c3 Non-Profit Corporation.

On May 20, detectives from the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office, Raritan Township Police Department, and the Department of Agriculture responded to 940 County Route 579, Flemington, NJ. A search of a home and other structures on the property uncovered 71 animals (equine, cows, goats, pigs, rooster, and sheep) believed to be neglected and in poor living conditions. All the animals on the property were seized, given proper medical attention, and surrendered to various rescue groups. Additionally, several deceased animals were also found on the property. Finally, an assault rifle, large capacity magazines, and marijuana were recovered. The assault rifle is considered a "ghost gun" because it has no serial number.

This is an ongoing investigation, and anyone with relevant information is encouraged to contact Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office Sergeant Jessica Neiber at (908) 788-1129.

Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 1-800-321-1000, going online at [www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com](http://www.CrimeStoppersHunterdon.com), or through the free "P3 Tips" smartphone app. All tips are anonymous and kept confidential. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards for valid tips.

