



## **Central Falls Police Department Office of Public Information**

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### **Central Falls Police Charge Subject with Animal Cruelty:**

CENTRAL FALLS – John Montegio (38) of 352 Central Street, Central Falls surrendered himself to the Central Falls Police late yesterday afternoon on charges of animal cruelty.

On February 16, 2013, The Central Falls Office of Animal Control received information from the Attleboro Animal Shelter regarding the possible breeding of pit-bull puppies within the City of Central Falls.

This information was established after one of the puppies was brought to the Attleboro Animal Shelter, by a Central Falls resident, to be micro-chipped and the staff observed that the three month old pit-bull's ears appeared infected and maliciously docked.

Central Falls Police initiated an investigation which led them to 352 Central Street. Upon arrival, officers spoke with Montegio about the incident whereby they observed three pit-bulls, a breed deemed unlawful to own in Central Falls.

Two of the dogs appeared to be adults and it seemed as though the female had recently bred a litter. The third pit-bull, a puppy, noticeably had its ears recently docked. The ears appeared infected with open sores and dried blood on them.

Based on the Central Falls Vicious Dog Act and due to the visible injuries on the puppy, officers seized the animals and issued Montegio a summons for municipal court until further criminal charges could be sought.

Members of the Central Falls Police Detective Division conducted a broader investigation and determined that enough evidence existed to secure an arrest warrant for Montegio. After the warrant was obtained, Detectives attempted to locate Montegio numerous times; however, remained at large until he turned himself in at Central Falls Police Headquarters on Tuesday.

Montegio was arraigned in District Court today where he was charged with two counts of Unnecessary Cruelty to Animals and one count of Unauthorized Practice of Veterinary Medicine. He was deemed a bail violator at District Court and is being held at the ACI until his next appearance in court.

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