

Man accused of mistreating petting zoo animals faces judge

Animals found sick, malnourished seized from Davie property

Posted: Jul 07, 2015 12:56 PM EDT



FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (WSVN) -- The owner of dozens of malnourished animals found at a Davie property faced a judge, Tuesday.

Seventy-year-old Alvaro Ramirez, is being charged with obstruction after an altercation with officers broke out Monday night, while the animals were being removed from his care.

The nonprofit rescue group Animal Recovery Mission was tipped off several weeks ago about the deplorable conditions of Ramirez' petting zoo animals. "For a pony even to show remnants of a bone in his body, it's extremely hard to do," said Richard Couto,

who leads the nonprofit group. "This isn't like a regular horse. This is long-term neglect here."

Alvarez is being held with no bond, due to a violation of probation from a previous domestic charge. He has not been charged with animal cruelty, but that could change as the investigation continues.