



**PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **October 23, 2018**

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### **ANIMAL SERVICES ASKING FOR THE COMMUNITY'S HELP TO LOCATE HORSE OWNER**

#### ***Injured Horse Dumped Off Dominion Road***

**(SANTA MARIA, Calif.)** – On Thursday, October 18, 2018, Santa Barbara County Animal Services received a call of a sick horse dumped in the 6000 block of Dominion Road in Santa Maria. When Animal Control Officers arrived they were led to a Bay Thoroughbred mare, approximately 16 hands tall, very thin, with open abscesses on her neck, swelling on her abdomen and chest, and a few abrasions on her back (see included images). The mare was transported to an equine veterinary hospital for care and her prognosis at this time is guarded.

Community members watched as the horse was unloaded from the trailer and the driver quickly fled. Santa Barbara County Animal Services has received photos of the vehicle and trailer used when the horse was dumped but the license plate was not legible. The vehicle appears to be a tan colored Suburban and the trailer appears to be a brown and white, two horse, bumper pull, trailer (see included images). We are seeking the public's help to identify the person responsible for abandoning this horse. If you recognize this vehicle or have any information that may assist with this investigation, you are urged to contact Santa Barbara County Animal Services at 805-934-6119 dial extension 6.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services takes animal abuse very seriously. Abandonment is illegal and punishable by California Penal Code 597s. Santa Barbara County is an animal friendly community and there are many resources available to animal owners who feel they can no longer provide care for their animals.

Santa Barbara County Animal Services is committed to the welfare of all animal species in Santa Barbara County. Donations to help with the care of this horse and other abandoned animals can be made at [www.sbcanimalservices.org](http://www.sbcanimalservices.org). Once medically cleared, this abandoned mare will be searching for a new pasture. If you are interested in meeting her once cleared send an email to [smadoption@sbcphd.org](mailto:smadoption@sbcphd.org).