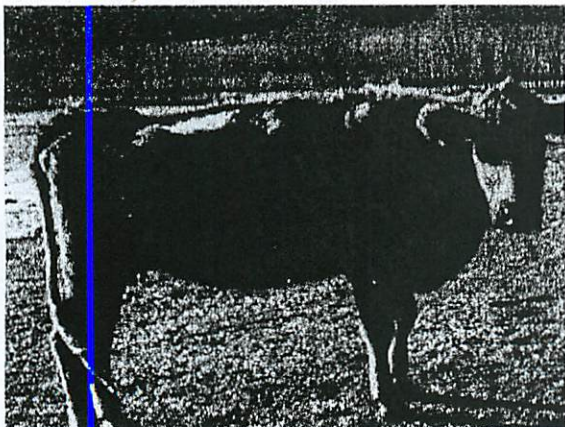


# Intimidation complaint lodged against man standing trial in animal cruelty case

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Submitted photo



Posted on May 13, 2015  
by Don Aines

Several of the 318 misdemeanor animal cruelty charges against a Boonsboro-area farmer were dismissed Wednesday in Washington County

District Court, but a new charge was filed against Daniel A. Rohrer Jr. by a county humane society field service officer who accused him of trying to intimidate her.

The defense case took up almost all of the second day of testimony in Rohrer's bench trial, which began Tuesday and was originally scheduled for two days but did not come to an end on Wednesday.

## Animals seized from Wheeler Road Farm

This is one of ninety-five allegedly malnourished and neglected animals that were seized from a Boonsboro-area farm in November.

In an unusual move, District Judge Terry A. Myers recessed the trial until Saturday, May 30, to accommodate the schedules of attorneys and witnesses.

Field Service Officer Crystal Mowery of the Humane Society of Washington County testified Wednesday that

she filed a private criminal complaint and a temporary peace order after seeing Daniel A. Rohrer Jr. drive slowly past her house Tuesday evening in his Ford F-250 pickup truck.

"I panicked .... I yelled for my husband," and they followed Rohrer's truck, Mowery testified.

Mowery called Maryland State Police and continued to follow the truck, which at one point drove into a cemetery before re-entering the road. Rohrer was stopped and questioned by police, she testified.

"I was terrified. I was afraid to come here today," she said.

On cross-examination by Rohrer's attorney, John Salvatore, Mowery testified that police did not file the intimidation of a witness charge against Rohrer, but she did so after consulting with her supervisor.

Both the criminal charge and the peace order were filed Tuesday, according to court records.

A summons was issued for Rohrer on the intimidation charge. A hearing on the peace order is scheduled for this morning in district court.

Mowery was the last prosecution witness against Rohrer, from whose farm more than 90 livestock — cattle, sheep and goats — were seized in late November 2014. The state alleges abuse of his livestock by failing to provide proper feeding and care.

Salvatore asked Myers to grant a motion for judgment of acquittal on all charges. The prosecution failed to show that Rohrer had not provided proper food, water and space to the animals, and the law is not specific about what constitutes "proper," he said.

Salvatore also argued that the state misidentified a number of cattle on a chart that listed them by number and body score.

"The list is not reliable, and you cannot rely on it at all to convict a person," he said.

Myers granted a judgment of acquittal on a half-dozen charges related to misidentified cattle.