

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

**JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER**



DATE : 10-20-2011
RELEASED BY : Sgt Marty Rolph
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On October 20, 2011 the Butte County Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Unit served a search warrant on Shirley Lane, Oroville. When Deputies arrived at the home they encountered one male in the front yard and another standing in the home's doorway. The male in the front yard was detained without incident but the male in the doorway quickly retreated into the home and slammed the front door. Deputies approached the home and called to the male to exit the home. The male exited the home and was detained without incident by Deputies. Deputies continued to search the property locating three additional suspects.

When Deputies entered the home, they found it was full of processed/drying marijuana. Each room of the home was being used to process, store, or dry marijuana. Deputies also found the crawl space under the home was used to store dry marijuana. As Deputies continued to search the property they found drying marijuana in a green house, a large green canvas tent, and a garage.

As the Special Enforcement Unit searched the property they found 19 adult dogs in kennels and tied to stakes around the property, and 19 puppies, as well as over two dozen chickens and roosters. The investigation showed that the property owner and the residence were operating a puppy mill as well as raising Roosters for fighting. Deputies searching the home located several rooster fighting spurs.

Deputies interviewed the five individuals located at the home and arrested Eldred James Varnado, age 43, of Oroville, for marijuana cultivation and possession of marijuana for sale, and being a felon in possession of ammunition; Also arrested was Phillip L Schamburg, age 48, of

Sacramento, for marijuana cultivation and possession of marijuana for sale, and a parole violation. The other three suspects were questioned and released at the scene.

Deputies confiscated 1,550.5 pounds of processed/dry marijuana and 29 growing marijuana plants from the property.





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