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Petting Zoo Attack Blamed On Vicious Dogs

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WATKINSVILLE -- A vicious pack of dogs is being blamed for killing all but three animals in an Oconee County petting zoo and other attacks over the past month in rural northeast Georgia.

The dog owners have been cited by Oconee County Animal Control for dozens of attacks on livestock and pets during the frenzy. The attacks ended Monday when the leader of the dog pack was caught and another of the dogs was shot and wounded by farmer John Washington.

Washington said the only animals remaining alive at his petting zoo are a peacock, a turkey and a mule. Some of the killed animals -- including a large porker named "Miss Piggy" -- had been attractions at the zoo since it opened nearly 12 years ago.

Officers said a 7-year-old girl's pet goat also fell victim to the dogs as they rampaged through the county.

A large mastiff named "Nub" is believed responsible for most of the recent slaughter. He was trapped by animal control officers at Washington's farm and will be euthanized.

Animal Control officials would not release the names of the owner of the mastiff and other dogs. The owners must appear in court February 10 to answer to the alleged violations.

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