

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: September 19, 2007

Sheriff Office Continues Crack Down on Animal Cruelty

Suspects Arrested & Brought to Jail According to Arpaio's Policy

(Phoenix, AZ) In his continuing crackdown on animal cruelty, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio announced today the arrests and bookings of three Valley men in three separate animal abuse investigations across the county.

Arrested for crimes far too common in Maricopa County were:

James Cude on September 18, 2007, for the neglect death of his horse Moe at 22911 E. Galveston, Mesa, AZ;

Christopher Novak today, for the abandonment of 160 reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates at his pet shop at 15693 N. Reems Rd. Suite 117, Surprise, AZ. Numerous animals were found dead after not being fed and watered, having been left without care for a three week period inside the business which had no power, in 110 degree heat;

Loyce Barber today, for the abandonment, neglect and failure to provide medical care for his eleven dogs at 7041 N. 80th Dr., Glendale, AZ.

Well known for his efforts to combat animal cruelty, Arpaio implemented a zero tolerance policy toward those who abuse animals & reptiles, and since August 2003 has ordered his Animal Crimes Unit to arrest and book into jail all violators suspected of animal cruelty or neglect.

"Every animal deserves to be properly cared for," says the Sheriff. "I will continue to have my deputies investigate, arrest, and book into jail anyone suspected of abusing animals, no matter what their profession or occupation may be."

According to Russ Johnson, President of the Phoenix Herpetological Society, this is the first arrest in Arizona for animal cruelty involving reptiles.

The reptiles are in the care of the Phoenix Herpetological Society (PHS); for more information contact PHS at 602.550.1090. The dogs are behind bars in the Sheriff's MASH unit, an air-conditioned jail converted to a safe house for animals seized in the Sheriff's animal cruelty cases.

Contact SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.gov with inquiries.

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News Release

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