

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: October 26, 2009

ANOTHER SERIAL CAT KILLER ON THE LOOSE IN THE EAST VALLEY

Sheriff Says Volunteer Posse Will Be Called in to Assist

(Phoenix, AZ.) Cat owners in the southeast valley area beware – someone appears to be intentionally inflicting severe injuries to a number of domestic cats.

According to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Animal Crimes Division, at least 14 cats have been injured or killed by a person or persons cutting the animals, inflicting a long deep stab wound along the back of each cat.

Two of the felines have died as a result of the injuries. Others required costly veterinarian care.

The cats have all been owned by people or families living in the east valley communities of Mesa, Tempe, Chandler and East Phoenix.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio says, "We need help to find these perpetrators. At this point in our investigation, we have no leads and no suspects. But someone out there knows who is doing this and we need that person to contact us with the information." Arpaio has ordered the volunteer posse into the investigation to assist deputies.

Anyone with information can phone the Sheriff's animal abuse hotline at (602) 876-1681.

The Sheriff adds that his investigators do not believe there are any ties to satanic activity in this serial cat killing case despite their proximity in time to Halloween.

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This case differs from the first serial cat killing case investigated by Sheriff's deputies in October 1998. In that case, 13 cats were found mutilated in the Ahwatukee area, an east Phoenix community.

In that case, Sheriff's deputies arrested a 17-year-old boy who did have ties to a satanic cult. After the boy's arrest, the cat killings ceased.

The Ahwatukee case garnered a lot of public attention locally and nationally, and prompted Arpaio to start his Animal Crimes Unit, a specialized group of Sheriff's deputies and posse whose aim is to investigate crimes of animal abuse and neglect.

"This new cat killing spree is a bit more perplexing," Arpaio says.

The Humane Society of the United States, based in Washington, D.C. is assisting the Sheriff's Office by offering a \$2500.00 reward leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s).

"Keep your cats indoors," Arpaio warns. "It's better for cats for a variety of health reasons not the least of which is the fact that there is a sick person on the loose right now looking to harm them."

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