

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: November 8, 2007

31 Emaciated Dogs Get a Better Home in the Sheriff's Jail

(Phoenix, AZ) Six Dalmatian puppies and 25 adult Dalmatian or Dalmatian mix dogs were taken from a west valley home late last night by Sheriff's deputies responding to a tip from a caller about possible animal abuse.

Today the dogs, known as "firehouse dogs" are inside the old First Avenue Jail being fed, cleaned and cared for by Sheriff's inmates while the case is adjudicated in court.

The dogs were found inside a residence at 24516 West Peakview Rd in Wittman, AZ about 45 minutes west of the city. Deputies took the dogs' owner, 53 year old Lonnie Sherwood Brown, into custody and booked him into the Fourth Avenue Jail last night on charges of animal cruelty and neglect.

According to deputies who conducted a search warrant on the premises, the dogs were completely emaciated and without water; some were tied to metal poles outside the residence or were unattended in metal crates inside the home. The residence was filled with feces. Virtually no dog food was found in the home. It appeared by the condition of the dogs and puppies that they had gone unfed for several days. (Please see photos attached.)

Sheriff Arpaio's policy on animal abuse and neglect mandates that the abuser be taken to jail rather than simply cited and released. Brown, who admitted to being the caretaker of these animals, remains in custody at this hour on 57 counts of animal cruelty.

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News Release

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