

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 10, 2011

YOUNG COUPLE WHO FOSTERED DOGS ARRESTED BY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES FOR KILLING TWO PUPPIES, INJURING A THIRD

(Phoenix, AZ) A Glendale couple who foster dogs for the Arizona Human Society were arrested and booked into Sheriff Arpaio's Fourth Avenue Jail late yesterday on two counts of felony animal abuse and two counts of felony conspiracy to commit animal cruelty.

According to deputies in Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Animal Cruelty Unit, Tierney Baggot (DOB 10/13/85) and Michael David Wasmundt (DOB 3/13/82) were fostering three puppies (photos attached) in their home at 6052 West Irma Lane in Glendale since early January. They had both completed foster care class requirements in February 2010.

But on January 21, 2011, Baggot brought the puppies back to the Humane Society at 9226 North 13 Avenue saying only that she found the dogs in their "current condition" that morning. "You probably will never let me foster again" was a statement she made to employees as employees there who took the dogs in for evaluation.

"This crime is made worse by the fact that this couple acted as foster parents," Arpaio said. "Foster parents go the extra mile caring for homeless animals, yet here we have two who allegedly inflicted serious injury on the animals? If it's proved true, this couple brings shame to foster parents everywhere who are usually giving and generous with their time, energy and money."

The puppies' injuries were extensive, according to the veterinarian and consistent with

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Contact: MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

severe blunt force trauma to the head. One puppy's eye was detached from the retina and had sustained a brain hemorrhage. The other puppy suffered a broken jaw and other facial trauma. Both puppies had to be euthanized. A third puppy survived with only a laceration to the right hip.

The Humane Society employees asked that the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Unit investigate. Deputies conducted interviews as well as executed a search warrant on the Glendale residence.

Wasmundt, an employee of Mountain Vista Hospital who once served with the Army National Guard, invoked his right to an attorney and refused to cooperate with the investigation. His companion, Baggot, told deputies that a large bag of dog food may have fallen on the dogs during the night causing the injuries. (Mug shots attached)
END



100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003
Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081
Media Contact: MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003
Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081
Media Contact: MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov