

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff
News Brief

November 28, 2007

Sheriff's Office Investigates Abused Feline

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Animal Abuse Unit is investigating the abuse of an adult female cat, and has arrested its owner, Jeffrey Hetherington of Phoenix, on animal cruelty charges.

Sheriff's investigators were called to a groom salon located at the Bethany Animal Hospital at 2524 W. Bethany Home Road, Phoenix, where Hetherington brought his pet feline in for grooming.

Investigators found that the cat was extremely emaciated and dehydrated. As well, the feline was extremely matted, so much that it could not move and cried when handled. The hair matting was actually pulling out of the pet, causing open sores.

Due to the condition poor condition of the feline, a veterinarian working at the animal hospital ordered the pet to be immediately euthanized to prevent further suffering.

According to the Sheriff's Animal Unit, Hetherington (DOB 05/21/57) told the hospital staff that the cat had been in that condition for over three months.

Sheriff's animal cruelty detectives booked Jeff Hetherington into the county jail for failing to provide food, water, and medical care to his pet.