

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

August 11, 2008

**SHERIFF'S ANIMAL CRIMES UNIT MAKES FELONY ARREST**

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office arrested Mesa resident Wayne Alston Fuller DOB 07/25/1963 on animal cruelty charges. Fuller was booked into the Maricopa County jail on one felony count of animal cruelty (cruel mistreatment) and one misdemeanor count of animal cruelty (failure to provide medical care).

Sheriff Arpaio's animal cruelty detectives began investigating Fuller in 2007 after he had neglected and mistreated his Bulldog "Sampson" to the extent of the puppy had to be euthanized.

Sampson was seen at a Mesa animal hospital for a shattered front leg, at which time the veterinarian informed Fuller that surgery was necessary. Fuller failed to act on the surgical recommendation and within a month returned Sampson to the animal hospital with a bump on his head. Shortly after that visit, Fuller gave the Bulldog to a woman after he admitted to hitting Sampson.

The new owner immediately took the injured animal for treatment. A veterinarian found several injuries consisting of a hematoma on Sampson's head, numerous fractures throughout his body, including an untreated neck fracture. These injuries were so severe Sampson had to be euthanized.

Sheriff's deputies received information that Fuller fled to California to avoid arrest. A warrant was then issued. Fuller was subsequently taken into custody and booked on the animal cruelty charges.

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