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MCSO ANIMAL CRUELTY UNIT RESCUES COCKER SPANIEL

“LILLIE” NOT GROOMED FOR MANY YEARS IS NOW SHAVED
AND UNDER VETERINARY CARE

(Queen Creek, April 24, 2017) Maricopa County Sheriff’s Animal Cruelty Deputies rescued a Cocker Spaniel named “Lillie” from the home of an elderly Queen Creek resident on April 21, 2017. Unfortunately, a horse named “Santos” found at the residence had to be euthanized.

Deputies were conducting a welfare check on Sandra Wood (DOB 10/24/50) at 18551 E. Via De Palmas, Queen Creek, when they discovered a malnourished horse and dog. Ms. Wood was transported to a local hospital to receive medical care. She told MCSO investigators that she loved the animals very much and was too ill to care for them. Ms. Wood said that neither animal had received veterinary care for an unspecified period, possibly years. She signed a Voluntary Surrender Form allowing MCSO to take control of and provide care for the animals.
“Santos” a dark brown bay gelding was weak, extremely emaciated and had a hard time standing. Every bone was seen protruding through the skin. “Lillie” was heavily matted with large clumps of hair weighing down her ears and legs. The dog had difficulty walking and was very dirty.

MCSO Deputies immediately began rescue efforts for “Santos,” giving him water, and he gulped large amounts. Emergency veterinarians arrived and through an assessment, found “Santos” to be malnourished, dehydrated, covered in parasites, and suffering from a major heart murmur. His health had deteriorated to a point that required euthanasia.

“Lillie” the cocker spaniel was removed to the Palm Glen Animal Hospital where Dr. Bernard Mangone, DVM shaved large clumps of matted hair off of her. Dr. Mangone said it was the worst case of this kind of neglect he’d seen in 21 years. “Lillie’s” condition is improving. It is not clear if or when she’ll be healthy enough to be considered for adoption.

Rescued Cocker Spaniel “Lillie” feeling better after grooming. Her adoption status has not been determined pending veterinary review. Mandatory Photo Credit – Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office

Ms. Wood, who remains under treatment for her illnesses, faces four (4) counts of Animal Cruelty for failing to provide food, water, and medical care to her animals. Three (3) of those charges could be upgraded to felonies after the veterinarians complete their reports. Ms. Wood acquired “Santos” when he was five (5) years old and he was believed to be 23 when euthanized. She had acquired “Lillie” at age 12 weeks and the cocker is now believed to be about 12 years old.

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office respectfully requests that when, for any reason, you can no longer care for your pets or livestock that you contact a local rescue or shelter for assistance.