

Gila County Animal Control Leaves

Diseased Cats In Filthy Conditions for Over 2 Weeks 8/12/10



2 recent deaths in Claypool left 24 sick and starving cats living in a filthy home without food or water. A veterinarian on scene, the day the homeowner's body was found, explained the cats are sick and diseased and need to be put down. The home was saturated with cat urine, feces among other things. There were fly's everywhere.

Gila County Rabies Animal Control told a concerned citizen, after she asked them about removing the diseased cats, that they could not catch them.

After the story aired on KQSS and was picked up by ABC 15 news in the valley, Gila County Rabies Control sent out a press release saying, "Gila County Rabies Control has been diligently trying to trap these cats." And that "The traps are live traps which will not harm the animal." The said that "These traps are checked several times per day."



3 different neighbors told our reporter that they had only seen animal control at the property a couple times in the 17 days since the deceased man and the cats were discovered.

Our reporter first went to the home on Wednesday, August 11, at approximately 5 p.m. the temperature outside at that time about 97 degrees. She found over a dozen sick cats. Two of the cats had been trapped in live traps, set by Gila County Animal Control, outside the home.

The cats were very friendly. Our reporter often had to move back to take a picture because the cats came right up her wanting to be petted, even after being fed.

A neighbor reported that Animal Control had been there about 4 hours earlier to set the traps. No water was made available to trapped cats. About a dozen other cats roamed in an out of home through an opened window.



When our reporter gave the two cats in the cage water, all of the other cats gathered around seeking food and attention.

We checked back the following morning, the trapped cats were still outside in the cages without water.

Animal Control did not pick up the trapped cats until after 11 a.m.; the temperature at that time had already reached 92 degrees. Over 16 hours had passed from the time our reporter first found the trapped cats and the time Animal Control picked them up.

16 hours outside, in a cage with no water would be considered animal cruelty under any other circumstance.



Gila County Animal Control is overseen by Gila County Health Department, both departments funded by the taxpayers. The concerned citizen that we spoke with said that when she called the called the Health Department about the situation, they did not seem concerned.

We asked an animal control agent from another county about the timeline for removing animals in situations like this. She said that when they go on a scene such as this, they do not leave until every animal has been removed. Their motto, "No Animal Left Behind." She called the situation, "Unbelievable!"