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Date: 3-23-22

Gila County Sheriff's Office  
Investigation Narrative

SECONDARY DISSEMINATION PROHIBITED

16890

DR Number/Nature: 200900997, Animal cruelty

Deputy: C. Sanks #1102

Date/Time: 09/21/2020, 16:07

Involved Persons:

██████████ Complainant

Attachment:

Release of evidence property

Synopsis:

On 09/21/2020 about 16:07 hours, ██████████ reported to have found several dead dogs at GPS cords 34.292910, -111.117091. No suspects or leads this report taken for information only.

Narrative:

On 09/21/2020 about 16:07 hours, ██████████ reported to have found several dead dogs at 34.292910, -111.117091 near the Ponderosa campground. ██████████ advised dispatch she was camping in the area and could smell the corpses. The GPS cords provided were about 70 feet off of the forest service 331 road. Upon arrival in the area I talked with ██████████ at her campsite ( a few hundred yards from the dogs). She advised the following,

- \*she had been camping in the area for a few days
- \*she did not see or hear anything suspicious
- \*she smelt what she believed to be something dead
- \*she located the pile of dogs and contacted the S.O.

██████████ pointed to where the dogs were and I proceeded to walk there from where her campsite was located, before I could make it half way there I observed one of the dogs bodies laying about 70 feet West from the road way. Once at the dump site I observed the bodies of five large dogs (50-80 lbs), one puppy (a few weeks old) and the skeleton of what I believe to be another large dog. There were several different drag marks leading from the road to where the dogs were laying. Several of the dogs did have what appeared to be bullet holes in them, they appeared to have been shot in the head at a downward angle with the bullets exiting them in their side around their front legs. Based on the evidence the dogs appeared to have been shot elsewhere and dumped in the forest. None of the dogs had collars or distinctive markings. I contacted the Humane Society who were going to check and see if any of the dogs were microchipped, at the time of this report I have yet to hear back with the results. The HS was also going to get a group of volunteers to go out and bury the dogs with the permission given to them by the S.O.. Pictures were taken of the scene and later entered into evidence. This case was sent along to both Payson Animal control as well as Forest service law enforcement as information. No suspect or leads this report taken for information only, nothing further from this Deputy at this time.

Case Status:

Active/ dead file

klf/9-29-2020

**Carbajal, Jessica**

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**From:** campaigns ladyfreethinker.org <campaigns@ladyfreethinker.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 1:07 PM  
**To:** Shepherd, Adam; sheriffsrecords  
**Subject:** MEDIA INQUIRY: Circling back on animal cruelty case

**CAUTION:** Please VERIFY the actual email address matches sender name to avoid phishing attempts. Since this email originated from outside of Gila County, please be careful when deciding to click links or open attachments.

Hi, Gila County Sheriff Staff:

My name is Lex, and I am a reporter with Lady Freethinker. I hope this finds you well!

I wanted to circle back to you about an [animal cruelty case](#) that your department investigated a while ago, involving five dogs and one puppy found shot to death in a forest in Payson, Ariz. [Local news](#) reported this happened on or around Sep. 29, 2020.

Can you please let me know if your department ever connected anyone to this crime? If not, can you please tell me what measures your officers took? Is the case still open, or has it since been closed?

Our readers will appreciate any information that you can provide. Thank you for your time and consideration of this media request.

Hoping to hear from you by **Wednesday, 3/23, by 5 p.m.** but please let me know if you need more time!

Best,  
Lex

Campaigns Staff/ Lady Freethinker  
campaigns@ladyfreethinker.org

*Lady Freethinker is a top-rated and award-winning nonprofit media organization dedicated to creating a more compassionate world for all species.*



GILA COUNTY SO ADMIN  
MAR 22 2022 16:27

Lex

Campaigns Staff/ Lady Freethinker

[campaigns@ladyfreethinker.org](mailto:campaigns@ladyfreethinker.org)

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