

December 8, 2006

An Open Letter to the Citizens of El Paso County:

On November 16, 2006, deputies from the El Paso County Sheriff's Office were called to 34780 Funk Road in eastern El Paso County regarding a report of numerous neglected pets and farm animals. In addition to the scores of neglected animals, deputies discovered the remains of approximately two dozen animals.

Deputies teamed with agents from the Colorado Department of Agriculture and the Pikes Peak Humane Society to investigate this horrific event. An extensive investigation resulted in the arrest of Jacqueline Gray and James Shughart on multiple counts of Animal Cruelty. The case has been filed with the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

The remaining animals have been examined, treated (if necessary), and have now been transported from the property to various licensed pet and animal care facilities where they can be properly cared for. The Department of Agriculture will continue to monitor the animals' welfare.

As a pet owner myself, I'm aware how an event like this can effect a community. Rest assured, the members of my Office take this incident very seriously. I have confidence that the District Attorney will prosecute the defendants to the full extent of the law.

Sincerely,

Terry Maketa
El Paso County Sheriff

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