



NEWS RELEASE



City of Los Angeles Department of Animal Services
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Animal Cruelty Task Force Finds Panorama City Cat Hoarder ACTF Removes 96 Cats from Motor Home; Owner Could Face Charges

Los Angeles: On January 5, 2011, the Los Angeles City Animal Cruelty Task Force (ACTF) served an animal hoarding search warrant in Panorama City based on complaints from animal rescue personnel, veterinarians and neighbors that the owner had refused medical care for his cats and was maintaining numerous sick cats inside a small motor home.

The ACTF removed 96 cats from the home, many suffering from upper respiratory ailments with obvious eye and nose secretions, dental issues exhibiting mouth and facial abscesses and untreated ear mites causing ear deformity. In addition, several cat and kitten remains were discovered wrapped in towels and plastic inside the motor home's freezer. The case will be forwarded to the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office for review and the owner could face criminal charges.

One neighbor noted that the smell from the motor home during the late summer had been pervasive and that he had seen cats come onto the property, but had never seen any leave.

"Animal hoarding is dangerous for humans, for animals and for the neighbors," said LA Animal Services General Manager, Brenda Barnette. "While cases involving a significant number of animals are rare, our ACTF stands ready to protect the community when we learn about such instances."

The ACTF is made up of Los Angeles police officers and detectives, Animal Control officers from the Department of Animal Services and Deputy City Attorney's from the LA City Attorney's Office. They investigate blood sport crimes and cruelty against animals.

Reports of animal cruelty can be reported to the ACTF at (213) 486-0450.