

## **North Phoenix Woman Faces Animal Cruelty Accusations**

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Sheriff's deputies found more than 100 animals on a property near I-17 and Carefree Highway on Monday. They have classified this as an extreme case of hoarding.

On the property, they found several malnourished animals including pigs, dogs, and zebras. Deputies reported receiving complaints about odor and noise. [The owner could be facing animal cruelty charges](#), according to Deputy Joaquin Enriquez.

Oddly enough, neighbors of the accused are not pleased with the charges and have come to the woman's defense.

### **Neighbors Rush to the Defense**

One neighbor, Diane Calderon, explained, "She may have been a hoarder but she took good care of the animals." Calderon told authorities there was food and hay on the property and she would help the woman feed the animals.

### **Taking Care of the Animals**

The accused hoarder claims to be helping the animals and is attempting to find them safe homes. Neighbors say the animals are all healthy and the owner has spent a vast amount on vet bills and food.

According to Deputy Enriquez, feces covered the property and home, and were even found in the woman's bed. While neighbors agree there may be a problem, they feel it is exaggerated and the criminal charges are unnecessary.

The owner is currently in the hospital after swallowing a soda can tab.

### **Animal Cruelty in Arizona**

According to [A.R.S. 13-2910](#), a person can be guilty of animal cruelty in Arizona if they:

- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly subject an animal under their care to cruel neglect or abandonment.
- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly fail to provide medical attention necessary to prevent suffering to any animal under their custody.
- Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly inflict unnecessary physical injury to any animal.

Animal cruelty is considered a class 1 misdemeanor in AZ and can come with up to six months in jail. Fines can add up to \$2,500.

In cases that are more serious, individuals found guilty can be charged with a class 6 felony and can face 1.5 years in prison and fines up to \$150,000.

Jeremy Geigle is a criminal defense attorney and shareholder at JacksonWhite. He has been practicing for more than ten years and has handled thousands of felony and misdemeanor cases across Arizona. He works in both adult and juvenile court handling DUIs, aggravated felonies and sex crimes in Arizona. He works in federal, state and local jurisdictions including courts in Phoenix, Mesa, Gilbert, Chandler, Scottsdale, Glendale, Tempe, and Peoria. Mr. Geigle is a 5-Star-Client-Rated Attorney on Avvo. To read more about what former clients are saying about hiring Mr. Geigle or to set up a free consultation, please visit [www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law](http://www.jacksonwhitelaw.com/criminal-defense-law).

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