

Montgomery County seizes neglected, deceased dogs from Willis residence

By Jennifer Summer Updated 1:08 pm, Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Montgomery County Animal Control Officers and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office worked quickly to save several dogs from a Willis residence after a concerned citizen called regarding the welfare of the dogs on the premises.

According to Ronald Chin, an Assistant County Attorney with the litigation division, one of the dogs had recently given birth to puppies and experienced complications, prompting the animal welfare call.

"Neighbors reported the dogs to be in distress," Chin said. "The puppies were in bad shape, a few were already deceased when officers arrived at the residence, and the mother dog had complications with birthing the last puppy and had maggots. Kids would walk by the yard and see the deceased puppies."

According to an affidavit filed in the Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Court, an animal control officer identified as Barbara Owens arrived at the residence on May 21 where she observed several dogs on the property in various states of apparent neglect and malnourished.

"Owens further noted two deceased puppies on location and the mother dog with a deceased puppy three-fourths the way out of the birth canal," the affidavit stated.

The animal control officer and MCSO deputies, with a civil warrant in hand, made contact with the owners who voluntarily agreed to surrender all but one animal which lives inside the home. "Not all animals on the property have access to water, food and shelter," the affidavit stated. "No medical care has been provided to the animals."

In total, a black and white Shepherd mix dog with a litter of seven puppies, alive; two deceased puppies, one brown and white Pit Bull mix dog, one white and brown Terrier mix that lived inside the home, a red Retriever/Shepherd mix dog were seized from the property.

"In my conversations with the owner, they stated the weather was bad so they couldn't take care of the deceased puppies and didn't have the means to take care of the animals," Chin said.

Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Wayne Mack ruled May 30 that all animals from the residence be remanded to the custody of the Montgomery County Animal Control and Animal Shelter.

"Any of these animals that are rehabilitated by the shelter, we hope will be adopted out to families who will care for them," Chin added. "At the civil hearing, Mack made the point of saying that when people in his precinct take in pets, they need to take on the responsibility to take care of them properly. If not, they will be seized. We want people to think before taking on the responsibility of pet ownership."

MCSO and the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office continues to look into the case to determine if criminal charges for animal abuse will be filed.