

NEWS RELEASE

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Release Immediately
Thursday, December 13, 2012

ANIMAL NEGLECT INVESTIGATION

On Friday, December 7, 2012, the City received a complaint of animal neglect taking place at a local business known as Global Captive Breeders. Also, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) contacted the City with their serious concerns related to the facility. The City immediately brought together all applicable local agencies that included, Animals Friends of the Valley, the Lake Elsinore Police Department, the Lake Elsinore Fire Department, representatives of the County of Riverside (i.e. County Hazmat, County Public Health, County Animal Control), and others to ensure that the health & safety of the public and animals were taken into consideration.

Yesterday, the City inspected the facility and found evidence of animal neglect. The animals in question are exotic snakes and other types of reptiles as well as rodents. Mayor Magee stated "the City of Lake Elsinore appreciates the support that we have received from our regional partners. The City's primary focus is the health and safety of our residents, and in this case, for the welfare of the animals involved."

PETA spokeswoman Daphna Nachminovitch commented that PETA's mission in this case is to ensure all animals receive necessary treatment and the organization is thankful to the City and its partners for their quick response in addressing the situation.

Willa Bagwell, Executive Director of the Animals Friends of the Valley, also commented that all agencies and City Staff are working efficiently to address this situation. Ms. Bagwell also stated, "Animal Friends of the Valley, the City, and their friends are in the process of assessing the situation at the facility. Our Primary focus at this point is to ensure the health and well-being of the animals on site."

For further information, please contact Grant Yates (City Manager) (951) 674-3124 or Willa Bagwell (Executive Director of the Animal Friends of the Valley) at (951) 471-8344.

City website: www.lake-elsinore.org

Telephone: 951-674-3124 Fax 951-674-2392

Business Hours: Monday through Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm.

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The City of Lake Elsinore features Southern California's largest natural freshwater lake. The City's current population is estimated at 53,024. The City's brand and slogan, "Dream Extreme," exemplify the scenic beauty and active life style of this 124 year old boom town. Visitors and residents enjoy water sports such as skiing, power boating and fishing, world-class sky diving drop zone and thermals, a regional motocross track, professional baseball, an 18 hole golf course, outlet shops, plus dining and entertainment in Historic Downtown. The City's Web site is www.lake-elsinore.org.