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Animal Services takes 13 more dogs from home

By: Loryll Nicolaisen, Journal Staff Writer

Placer County Animal Services has taken 13 Afghan hounds from a Meadow Vista couple that relinquished 28 of the same breed last month.

Animal Services personnel served a warrant Friday to Robert and Irene Robocker, and took 13 of the dogs from their Pinewood Way residence, following an ongoing investigation that raised questions about how the dogs were being cared for, according to a news release and an animal services activity report.

"The dogs are in protective custody while an investigation is under way and they're going to be evaluated by a veterinarian," Anita Yoder, Placer County public information officer, told the Journal Friday afternoon.

The Robockers voluntarily surrendered 28 Afghan hounds to animal services in early January after the agency received a complaint about the dogs' welfare. Of the 28, 20 are adults and eight are puppies.

The adult dogs have been placed in foster homes with the help of Afghan hound rescue groups, and the puppies have been kept at the Placer County Animal Shelter in Auburn, where the 13 dogs taken Friday will also be housed.

"We have had an ongoing investigation since the initial complaint was filed and continued to monitor the animals that remained at the premise," Michael Winters, animal services manager, said in the press release. "Animal control officers were attempting to work with the owners of the dogs to ensure that the hounds that remained on the property were receiving necessary veterinary care to help correct medical conditions, were licensed and were being kept in clean and humane conditions."

Yoder said Friday that there are no plans to return the dogs to their previous owners.

See Tuesday's Journal for more information.

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