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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Teddy's Broken Jaw and Whole Heart

Bright-eyed and brimming is a great way to describe Teddy. But the poodle mix hasn't always been this way.



At 6 months he was admitted to the HSSA with a broken jaw. After some investigation, it was determined that Teddy's jaw was broken as a result a residential burglary. Teddy was most-likely kicked in the mouth when the burglar broke in to his family's home, breaking his jaw in half.



"When I saw Teddy I thought it was a perfect example of a violent person willing to harm a pet while committing a felony crime," says Mike Duffey, HSSA's Cruelty Investigator. "It proves the point that people who cause harm and people without compassion are a threat to us all."

Teddy was immediately taken to our veterinarians, who fixed him up with some metal plates, pins and pain pills. Teddy was sent out to foster care for about eight weeks, where he was on a soft food diet and was forbidden to play with any toys to allow proper healing.

"My heart went out to this dog. He couldn't play with toys and basically had to slurp his food for eight weeks, no dog deserves that," says Michelle Kleckner, HSSA Shelter Lead.

Teddy was brought back to the HSSA and was quickly adopted into a beautiful family; he had a great ending. He now lives with his new mom, Alma.

Yet, many pets don't have such a happy ending. Animal cruelty is a reality in Southern Arizona and the HSSA is sharing these stories so people can learn how to identify and report animal cruelty.



(Continued)

Duffey, HSSA's Cruelty Investigator, has a list of things to look for when identifying animal cruelty:

Physical Signs

- Fur infested with fleas, ticks or other parasites
- Open wounds
- An ongoing injury or illness that is not being cared for
- Extreme thinness or emaciation - bones may be visible
- Signs of inadequate grooming, such as extreme matting of fur

Environmental Signs

- Pets are tied up alone outside for extensive time without adequate food or water without proper sheltering
- Pets are kept in an area littered with feces, garbage, broken glass or other objects that could harm them
- Animals are housed in kennels or cages that are too small

"If you see someone abusing or neglecting a pet, don't second guess yourself, report it," says Samantha Esquivel, HSSA spokeswoman.

Use common sense! If you witness animal abuse or witness a pet suffering call 9-1-1 or 88-Crime immediately!

For more information visit hssaz.org/report.

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