

GLENCOE NEWS

Almost 40 dogs found covered in feces, sick rescued from Glencoe home

By **Susan Berger**
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Nearly 40 dogs covered in feces and matted fur, five of whom were later euthanized, were discovered at a Glencoe home this week and were being treated Saturday at two north suburban animal hospitals, officials said.

Officials wearing hazmat suits removed as many as 39 dogs from a home in the 800 block of Greenwood Avenue in the north suburban community, officials said. One neighbor said the crews at the house worked nine hours Thursday and four hours Friday.

Police were called to the home for a well-being check Wednesday, and found 35 dogs, well in excess of the maximum number allowed in a home under Glencoe ordinances, police said late Saturday. A veterinarian who has been helping to care for the dogs said, however, that 39 dogs were found in the home. No charges had been filed against the woman who lived at the home, police said.

Neighbors said a woman who appeared to be in her 60s lived in the house for many years. Dogs could be heard barking, but it did not appear to be more than a couple of dogs, one neighbor said. One neighbor said she had no idea about the dogs and described bursting into tears as she watched the crews remove the animals.

Public records show a woman who recently sold the house is 65 years old and has not been charged with any crimes in connection with the incident.

Sara Grogman, a veterinarian and owner of Glencoe Animal Hospital, said Glencoe Public Safety officials contacted her Thursday and brought 29 dogs to her facility. Eight dogs were taken to Preiser Animal Hospital in Northbrook, she said.

The home where the dogs were found had a Highgate Builders sign on the front lawn, which was full of weeds. A tree to the side of the house had fallen on the home. The person who answered at Highgate Builders would not give his name but said he had bought the house months ago and that the owner was still living there. He said he did not know there were dogs in the house.

Grogman said the dogs, ranging in age from 2 to 5 years old, were so covered in feces that their eyes and ears did not become visible until they were cleaned and shaved. She said the dogs, who appeared to be related, looked as if they had been fed, but many had infections that led to the loss of their ear tips and tails.

The dogs were scared and clearly not used to being handled by people, she said. They were so matted with hair and feces that most moved as if they had never walked on a floor, she said.

"They walked like they were on a hot plate," Grogman said.

Five dogs had to be euthanized because they were too sick or very aggressive, she said.

Most of the dogs were sedated before cleaning, which took about two hours per animal, she said. On Saturday morning, three staff members were working to clean one dog, shaving fur and trimming overgrown, curved nails. One of the dogs, already clean, cowered in a corner of his crate.

"The smell of one dog was horrendous," Grogman said. "I can't imagine what the house smelled like."

Two of the dogs were being transferred to Tails of Hope, a no-kill, nonprofit animal rescue and adoption group in Highland Park.

Kelly Moyer, founder of Tails of Hope, said she expects to receive more dogs from Preiser later Saturday after they are cleaned and vaccinated and more Monday from Glencoe Animal Hospital. Her staff plans to work with the dogs, place them in foster homes and adopt them out.

The two dogs she has received appear to be a cocker spaniel-Lhasa apso mix. They are afraid but seek out people.

"They are more interested in being near people than taking a treat," Moyer said.

Tails of Hope has dealt with similar situations for four weeks in a row, involving 90 dogs and causing a huge financial burden, Moyer said. The organization needs donations, as well as volunteers and those willing to foster dogs, and has set up a [Gofundme](#) page for the dogs. It will be months before the dogs from Glencoe are ready for adoption.

For more information, contact Tails of Hope at 847-557-9554. Tails is at 1628 Old Deerfield Road in Highland Park.

Berger is a freelance reporter.

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