



GASTON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Post Office Box 1578 Gastonia, NC 28053-1578
Street Address: 420 West Franklin Blvd. Gastonia, NC 28052
Telephone: (704) 866-3320 Fax: (704) 866-3314
Website: www.gastoncountypolice.org



Stephen M. Zill
Chief of Police

Captain E.K. Yancey
Animal Care & Enforcement

MEDIA RELEASE:

Gaston County Animal Care and Enforcement Animal Cruelty Investigation

Gaston County (February 19, 2024, 12:30 pm)

On Saturday, February 17th, 2024 Gaston County Animal Care and Enforcement (GCACE) responded to a residence on Boulder Court in Gastonia, NC in reference to an animal cruelty investigation. A black doodle dog at the residence was in need of shelter. GCACE contacted a community partner who assisted by providing a new dog house, straw bedding and water bucket for the dog. During this visit, it was discovered that the dog, "Bentley" had severely matted fur and a wound on his neck that was possibly infected. GCACE was made aware of vultures congregating in the area where the dog was located, however, no vultures were seen in the area when GCACE was at the residence. Nevertheless, the potential injury and the report of vultures in the area was concerning. GCACE advised the animal owner that "Bentley" would need to be seen by a veterinarian before the end of the day.

Later that day, the dog and dog owner were escorted to an emergency vet for a medical assessment. The veterinarian advised that "Bentley" needed further medical treatment involving sedation, medical grooming, and wound treatment that was outside the capabilities of their facility.

On Sunday, February 18th, "Bentley" was taken to a full service veterinarian clinic for treatment. "Bentley" was sedated, medically groomed, and the wound on his neck was flushed. He received an antibiotic shot and was released from care with a follow up appointment in 10-14 days.

The animal owner is cooperating with GCACE, as well as the citizen currently caring for "Bentley", to ensure he is receiving the medical attention he needs.

GCACE is committed to working with all Gaston County animal owners to ensure our animals are receiving proper care. GCACE shares in the community's concern for "Bentley" and would like to thank those who are partnering with us to assist in this matter.

Responsible animal ownership requires an animal owner to provide sufficient shelter, food and water for their animals. Additionally, animal owners are required to keep their animals updated on vaccinations and provide them with necessary vet care.

In order to best serve our animals, GCACE will continue to assist Gaston County residents with resources, education and enforcement action when applicable. This is an ongoing investigation. GCACE will be discussing this matter with the Gaston County District Attorney's Office.

--30--



Photos of "Bentley" after grooming and medical evaluation.