

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

El Paso brothers pick up pit bulls

By Ashley Meeks Sun-News reporter

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LAS CRUCES - As scheduled, Daron and Duryea Scott began picking up the pit bulls seized from them more than two years ago, said county animal control director Curtis Childress.

The El Paso twins picked up 12 of their 17 dogs from the Animal Services Center of the Mesilla Valley on Tuesday, all of which shelter director Beth Vesco-Mock said "were in very good health when they left."

"They claimed they didn't own five of them," Childress said. "They were their dogs, but the problem of it is, we've had the dogs for three years. Some of the dogs were puppies, so they obviously look different and I'm not going to stand around and debate with them whether or not they're their dogs or not."

The Scott brothers told authorities the dogs would be going to Virginia, Houston, El Paso and Mexico, Childress said.

The remaining dogs will be spayed or neutered if they are able to be adopted out, Vesco-Mock said.

"We will hopefully, maybe be able to adopt them out," she said. "They're very shy. They came in as puppies and they're very, very shy, so we're going to hopefully be able to find them a home."

Charges that the Scotts had used the animals for dog fighting were dropped last month, after the New Mexico Court of Appeals ruled the search warrant had been obtained improperly, and District Judge Lisa Schultz on Nov. 10 ordered that the state return the dogs within 30 days.

The Scotts have maintained the dogs were part of a show dog breeding operation.

A condition on the court order was that the animals be returned only when the Scotts could show they wouldn't be violating any ordinances by possessing the dogs.

Their eight remaining dogs will be returned next Tuesday at 1 p.m., Childress said.

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