

National

Mysterious poisoning of animals causes residents to fear for kids

United Press International
PLACITAS, N.M. — Residents who lost at least 14 dogs through poisoning last weekend fear the unknown toxin may be ingested by small children.

Authorities Tuesday continued searching for leads in the deaths, all of which occurred within a square half-mile. The animals died from eating suet and beef bones that had

been treated with a poison, probably an insecticide, veterinarians said.

Rick Levin, who lost four dogs and a cat to the poisonings, said he is upset about losing his animals but more worried about the potential threat to children.

"The scary thing is that small kids may get into the poison," he said.

"Some kids who are not so well off, may get hungry and eat it."

Levin said health officials were trying to identify the poison so that an antidote can be found.

"The poison seems to be all over the area," said Cindy Colter, who found her dog dead early Sunday. "And who knows, it could end up in the water system."

Would Rather rather walk?

Newsman gets taken for a ride

United Press International
CHICAGO — The next time he has to consider taking a cab in Chicago, CBS newsman Dan Rather might prefer to walk.

A cab driver, identified as Eugene Phillips, 38, allegedly tried to "kidnap" Rather as he drove the veteran newscaster from O'Hare Interna-

tional Airport Monday, police said. Police said Rather had asked Phillips to drive him from O'Hare to the home of interviewer and author Studs Terkel, where Rather was to meet his producer and crew for an interview.

The cabbie, however, drove Rather about six miles out of his way

and accused him of trying to get out of paying his cab fare.

"The whole case doesn't make any sense," Officer Harry Jaroszynski said. "Mr. Rather got in the cab, asked him (the driver) to take him someplace. The cab driver, for reasons unknown, was just riding around with him. He was arrested."

Phillips was charged with disorderly conduct and refusing to let his passenger out of the cab. He was freed on a \$35 bond and scheduled to appear in Traffic Court Jan. 23.

Rather was rescued in part because an alert driver saw him waving frantically in the back seat.

Marthie Lee, 30, a guard at the Cook County Jail, was on her way to work when she saw a man waving madly from the back seat of a taxi cab.

"I saw a passenger in the back of the taxi and he seemed to be excited about something," Lee said.

"I pulled up and I thought, 'well, perhaps it was a tipsy passenger,'" she said. "But then I thought that as each car ... (came) up towards the taxi, he was really asking for help and I thought well, maybe this is really something happening."

"So I pulled alongside, flashed my ID and tooted my horn. But as soon as he saw my ID, he pulled off. Another car on the driver's side of the taxi also saw Rather screaming and asking for help."

"I think after he saw me take off, he also decided to join in and help me catch the taxi. So we finally pulled the taxi over."

"Rather came out and said, 'This man is trying to kidnap me, and wouldn't let me out of the car,'" Lee said.

They called the police.

Stranded Haitians to go home

United Press International
NASSAU, Bahamas — More than 100 Haitians, stranded on a tiny island for 48 days with so little food and water that five of them died, will be returned to their native land despite their pleas to be taken to the United States.

A Bahamas government rescue vessel was prepared Tuesday to steam for the island of Cayo Lobos at the southern tip of the Bahamas, 20 miles from the coast of Cuba, to pick up the refugees.

The government tender Lady Moore had been scheduled to leave early Monday, but the skipper said the vessel had steering problems and couldn't leave Nassau harbor until repairs were made Monday night.

The tender planned to return the Haitians, who were bound for Miami when a storm forced them ashore at the island the size of a football field, to the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince.

Five Haitians died on the island, their leader said, before they were discovered and food was dropped to them.

Reporters said Monday some Haitian refugees appeared to be suffering from scurvy and others from hunger. Refugees reported there was only a two-day supply of food remaining.

Claude Peter, who said he was captain of the sailboat that brought the Haitians to Cayo Lobos, told reporters there were 118 of them on the island. The Coast Guard had previously estimated there were 102 Haitians on the uninhabited island.

Peter said the 33-foot sailboat had been at sea for 13 days when they were forced ashore on Cayo Lobos in September.

The Haitians were spotted by the crew of a U.S. Coast Guard plane Oct. 9 and food and water was dropped to them. But Peter said five refugees starved to death.

A Coast Guard vessel visited the island Oct. 20 and brought more supplies and three more air drops of supplies have been made since then.

Seaman gets good news and bad news

United Press International
LITTLE ROCK — The Navy doesn't care who you are, even if your uncle becomes the new governor of Arkansas. Just ask Seaman Recruit Robert Justice.

The 19-year-old recruit from North Little Rock had been at the Navy's San Diego training center about a month when his maternal aunt's husband, Frank White, upset Gov. Bill Clinton in the Nov. 4 general election.

Justice's mother, June, decided the news was worth a phone call to her son. Navy officials refused to let her talk to Justice — regulation during the first five weeks of training — but promised to pass the message along.

Mrs. Justice said her son was standing on a ladder painting when a loudspeaker blared: "Seaman Recruit Justice, Robert, your uncle has been elected governor of Arkansas."

Justice let out a whoop. Then came the rest of the message: "Do 50 push-ups."

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