



## Residents concerned about horses in Butler County



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Viewer photo courtesy, Susan Law

ROSE HILL, Kan. (KSNW) – Some Rose Hill residents are very concerned about the condition of more than a dozen horses in Butler County.

Rescue groups and other non-profits now are teaming up to get the animals some help, but there are some hurdles they'll need to clear to save them.

The 13 horses are located at a private residence just outside Rose Hill's city limits. The Butler

County Sheriff's Office told KSN that there were 15 horses, but two of them have died.

KSN has received more than a dozen phone calls, emails and Facebook messages from concerned citizens in the area who are willing to do anything to get the animals out of danger.

Cindy Ford, one of residents, say she and others are upset after hearing about the case.

"It's just so sad to see this go on and know that there is nothing that we can't do anything about it," said Ford.

The 13 horses currently are being boarded on private property. Viewers sent KSN numerous photos of horses with protruding ribs and lesions.

"There's been a smell back here that smells like dead horses," Ford Said. "Somebody has been coming in and putting feed and hay or water, and my understanding, by someone doing that that slowed the process of being able to get these animals [help]."

There was no one home when KSN knocked on the door to talk to the owner of the land. We then reached out to the Butler County Sheriff's Office who said deputies have made five visits to the home in the last year. The department said, though, "Each time our Deputies have checked these horses they have had ample food and water, clearly indicating they are being cared for. Physical appearance alone does not indicate cruelty." The agency then went on to say their decision on how to handle the case is based on Kansas statutes.

Ande Armstrong with the group Hope in the Valley Equine Rescue said the law is not helping in this case.

"People need to understand that law enforcement and animal control that their hands are tied somewhat because of our Kansas laws are not what they need to be," Armstrong said.

Armstrong also was contacted this week by a concerned resident to see if her equine rescue organization could provide hope for these animals. But, she said there's nothing she can do.

"The only time we can really go on site is if an owner requests us to come get one of our horses or animal control or law enforcement requests us to come to the scene of a seizure for cruelty and neglect."

Armstrong said because deputies saw food and water on the land, all they can do is sit and wait.



**Butler County Sheriff's Office**

last Thursday

**\*\*Update\*\***

We are in contact with a veterinarian to go out with us and look at the horses. If the veterinarian is able to determine there are neglect issues present, we are going to do what is necessary to protect them. If there is proof of neglect based on the word of an expert, we will seize the animals and get them the medical treatment they require. Further, if neglect is proven, we will request prosecution for those responsible. We are not finished with this investig... [See More](#)

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