

2 People Cited After 14 Cats in Found Crammed in Crate

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CLAREMONT (AP) — Police in New Hampshire have accused two people of cramming 14 cats into a medium-sized dog crate left outside a house. One of the cats was found dead and a second has since died.

Claremont Police Chief Mark Chase says city residents Dwaine Lord and Crystal Lamonda were cited on 14 counts each of cruelty to animals.

Sullivan County Humane Society Director Cheryl Bromley said the cats were underweight and had respiratory infections. They were found earlier this month. Bromley says they ranged in age from 2 to 4 years old and estimates they were in the crate for more than 24 hours. She said the crate would be acceptable for up to two adult cats.

"The repulsive odor of feces, urine and blood was such an overpowering stench that we all gagged," the Sullivan County Humane Society posted on its Facebook page. "We pulled out the

first few; they were covered in feces and soaking wet with blood and urine. We were able to wring their tails out and the disgusting filth just ran off of them."

The shelter said an autopsy on a cat found dead inside the crate showed it did not have a disease that contributed to its death and they think the animal died from "severe hypothermia and dehydration." Another cat that at first was believed to also be dead was in fact alive, but was later euthanized due to its poor health.

Numbers listed for Lord and Lamonda were out of service.