

Alleged Puppy Smuggler Arrested

Customs agents at the Otay Mesa border checkpoint near San Diego found more than two dozen puppies in the vehicle of a Los Angeles man.

Twenty-eight puppies of various breeds all of whom needed medical attention were found hidden in a van that was trying to cross from Mexico into the United States, authorities revealed Wednesday.

The driver of the van, Carlos Lopez of Los Angeles, was cited for 28 counts of animal cruelty. After being stopped, he allegedly told officers he was on his way to sell the pups at a Los Angeles-area swap meet.

The puppies, which ranged from 3 to 5 weeks old and included Boxers, Chihuahuas, Cocker Spaniels and Poodle mixes, were found jammed under the front seats of the van, which arrived at the U.S. border checkpoint Tuesday night.

Most of the pups were taken to a county shelter in San Diego, although some had to be treated at an emergency veterinary clinic.

According to the San Diego County Dept. of Animal Services, the dogs will be placed in foster care until they are at least 8 weeks old, then they'll be put up for adoption.

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