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**NEWS  
RELEASE**

09/27/2021

# El Paso Firefighter Arrested for Cruelty to Animals Causing Death

**Date:** 05/28/21

**Location:** 2700 block of Fierro

Arrested: 48-year-old Shawn Michael Hanke, East El Paso resident.

On May 28, 2021, residents in the 2700 block of Fierro called the El Paso Police Department to report suspicious behavior. Residents observed a man placing plates of cat food in the area, which neighbors found suspicious. Days later, five cats and one dog became ill and died due to the tainted food. An investigation by the El Paso Police Departments Animal Cruelty Investigation unit (ACIU) determined that 48-year-old Shawn Michael Hanke was responsible for the poisoning deaths of the animals. The case was presented to Judge Hamilton, who issued six warrants for Cruelty to Animal Causing Death with bail set at \$2,500 for each count. On October 26, 2021, Hanke turned himself in for the Animal Cruelty Warrants and was booked into the El Paso County Detention Facility with a total bond of \$15,000.00. Animal cruelty causing death is a third-degree felony in Texas and punishable for up to 10 years in prison, with a fine of up to \$10,000.

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