

**ANIMAL CRUELTY CHARGES FILED AGAINST FREELAND WOMAN**  
**Freeland, Luzerne County, PA – September 2011**  
**Reported by Shannon Murphy**  
**[http://pahomepage.com/fulltext?nxd\\_id=194287](http://pahomepage.com/fulltext?nxd_id=194287)**

Animal abuse charges have been filed against a Freeland woman. She's accused of leaving her dog outside to die during the heat wave without water and shelter.

After a nearly two week long investigation into the death of a dog in Freeland, animal cruelty charges have been filed against Sally Ragan.

Ragan's neighbor, Sergio Jaramillo says, "I think they should lock them up in a car and let them outside and let them endure that heat because that's just wrong and a really hard way to die."

According to court documents Ragan tied her dog Max outside in the blistering heat without providing water or shelter.

"An animal is a family member and if that's how you treat your family members than oh well, than how do you treat your kids?" says Jaramillo.

Neighbors who want to remain anonymous say they saw the dog suffering called police. But by the time authorities arrived Max had already died. Ragan would not comment, Wednesday, after charges had been filed but here's what she told our own Andy Mehalshick just a few days after the incident.

"My dog wasn't abused. The bottom line is the neighbors are nose. They didn't like the fact the dog was barking and called the cops around here. They are all nose," explains Ragan.

Dr. Inayat Kathio, veterinarian at Pittston Animal Hospital says he sees cases of animal cruelty every single week. He believes these violators should be educated about animals and as part of their punishment should have to work in a shelter.

"They have to be educated. Education is much more important than throwing them in the jail. You throw them in the jail they'll get even angrier," says Dr. Kathio.

If convicted Ragan could face a 750 dollar fine and up to 90 days in jail.