

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Star Valley Veterinary Clinic, P.C. Agrees to \$65,000 Settlement to Resolve Biohazardous Medical Waste Violations

PHOENIX (Oct. 4, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that Star Valley Veterinary Clinic, P.C. has agreed to a \$65,000 settlement in a consent judgment for biohazardous medical waste violations in the Town of Star Valley in Gila County.

The clinic will pay a \$5,000 penalty and conduct a \$60,000 Supplemental Environmental Project in which veterinarian services will be used to treat animals for the Humane Society of Central Arizona. In addition, information will be provided about the proper management and disposal of biohazardous medical waste in the animal care industry.

An inspection by ADEQ's Solid Waste Inspection and Compliance Unit in June 2009 determined that the clinic had disposed of untreated biohazardous medical waste syringes contaminated with blood in regular solid waste containers that were dumped in the Gila County landfill between 1999 and 2009.

The clinic received a notice of violation from ADEQ in September 2009 for improperly packaging, storing, labeling, and disposing of untreated biohazardous medical waste.

"These are serious violations that went on for many years," said ADEQ Director Henry Darwin. "But this is also a very creative settlement that will allow many abandoned pets and other animals in the Payson area to receive medical treatment while at the same time educating animal owners about the proper disposal of this medical waste."

"All veterinary clinics and other medical providers need to rigorously comply with state standards to protect the health of our citizens and our environment," Attorney General Tom Horne said.

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

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