

Woman Fights To Keep Nearly 150 Cats At Home

POSTED: Wednesday, April 23, 2008

UPDATED: 12:00 am EDT August 15, 2008

VOLUSIA COUNTY, Fla. -- A Central Florida woman fined \$150 a day for having nearly 150 cats at her home was in court Wednesday fighting to keep the animals in her so-called animal sanctuary.

Kristy Grant has cared for the cats at her home in Volusia County despite being cited and complaints from her neighbors.

The county fined Grant \$6,700 for unlicensed cats and \$150 a day since March for having the cats, Local 6 reported.

"It is frustrating, it is nerve-racking," Grant said. "It has been a long two years since I was first cited for having more than four pets on my property."

Wednesday, Grant's attorney said Volusia County is in the dark when it comes to rules for cat hobbyist.

Grant said she has recently installed a fence to keep her neighbors happy.

"I guarantee that the cats can't get out," Grant said.

During a hearing, Volusia County's attorney said rules for keeping cats on property have not been defined, Local 6's Chris Trenkmann said.

Grant said she hopes she is not the target for a new ordinance.

"Yes, that upsets me," Grant said. "I don't want to prevent anyone from doing what I do. If you want to help an animal, you should."

A judge said Wednesday that he will make a ruling on case at a later date.

However, he pointed out to Volusia County that it did not make sense for them to be determining rules about giving permits for cat sanctuaries if they haven't written any rules out, Trenkmann said.

Grant said she has the right to have a permit to keep her cats safe.

Local 6 News reported that Grant knows every one of the cats by name.