



16 April 2010

From KCBS/KCAL TV:



"Courage," a neglected and abused German Shepherd, is now recovering from being nearly starved to death.

[Click for video of arrest](#)

Arrest Made in Starving Dog Who Ate Dirt to Live

A 26-year-old Bellflower woman suspected of starving a German Shepherd for several weeks until the dog ate dirt to survive has been arrested by animal control officials.

Kimberly Nizato was arrested shortly before 11 a.m. at the Southeast Area Animal Control Authority in Downey, according to Capt. Aaron Reyes of the agency. Nizato was taken to the Lakewood Sheriff's station to be booked.



Someone saw the emaciated animal in Bellflower and brought him to an emergency animal hospital last week in Garden Grove.

Veterinarian Dr. Bill Grant says the 3-year-old dog weighed just 37 pounds -- less than half his normal body weight. He now weighs 41 pounds.



Grant tells CBS 2 and KCAL 9 that the dog "had dirt and gravel in his intestines."

Grant says Courage faces months of recovery, but is recovering well. More tests will determine if Courage's liver and kidneys will recover from the advanced malnutrition.

Kim Nizato booking photograph

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