

I befriended and volunteered for Debi Baker for the better part of 2 years between 2010 and 2012. During that time I contributed in excess of \$14,000 in money, animal food and supplies. These are accounts of what I personally experienced and witnessed.

When my aunt and I first met her, Debi Baker projected herself as an earnest and sincere animal welfare advocate; sacrificing her own assets and time for animal rescue and care. However the longer I worked with Debi on the ranch, the more I began to realize that Debi was not in the business of animal rescue and welfare promotion. She was, in fact, in the business of animal abuse and defrauding people, the State of Missouri and United States governments. I came to realize that Debi only cared for animals if she felt they had a monetary value to her. Those are the ones that she fed regularly. Once I came to this realization, I became determined to continue to volunteer for Ms. Baker to find out as much as I could about her operation and to collect as much information as possible about the animals she had in her possession. By befriending her and gaining her trust, Debi came to openly share things about her ranch and overall attitude towards the animals that she would never disclose to the general public.

There is an external building that Debi uses for housing some of the cats and kittens she offers for adoption. The condition of cats in the external building is that of sick animals, living in their own filth because litter boxes are not cleaned daily, litter boxes are rarely sanitized when they are cleaned. She just put litter back into filthy boxes and placed them in to cages. Cats were sick with diarrhea and upper respiratory infections, but they were never taken to the vet for treatment. Some of the money that I contributed to Debi was to help pay for vet care of sick or injured animals. Yet I never saw or was told of any animals being cared for with the funds I provided.

Debi keeps cats in her home that are particularly beautiful, allowing them to breed so she will have kittens to sell, sometimes claiming them to be purebred in order to charge higher prices for them. She once proudly bragged to me that she was breeding cats in her house so she would have a "good supply" of pretty kittens to sell.

The so called "feral" cats and kittens roaming freely on the property often had goopy eyes and runny noses, some audibly wheezing. None of them ever received any vet care for an upper respiratory infection. Nor were they ever inoculated against any feline diseases or rabies, unless the people who surrendered them to Debi had done that before surrendering the cats to her. Most of them were skin and bones, because they were not regularly fed.

Animals that Debi thinks she can sell for a good price, she feeds regularly and might give some vet care to. However, even purebred dogs were living in their own filth while kenneled inside her home. During one casual conversation, Debi told me that she needed an air conditioner to put in her utility room for the puppies she was raising in there. I witnessed Jack Russell dogs and puppies covered in their own filth "up to their elbows" being brought from inside the house. Debi would bathe them and have them groomed for potential adopters or adoption events. Otherwise, they were given the minimum of care and looked like it, too. Debi always required any potential adopters to make an appointment to see the animals. That way, she had the time to be sure cats, kittens, dogs and puppies were washed

and groomed to look their best for potential clients. Debi also asked people to stand by the cat building so they could not witness her bringing animals out of the house. But I DID see this happen, while I was a volunteer there.

Whenever I witnessed an adoption taking place, I heard Debi requesting CASH payment for the animal. If the adopters said they only had checks to pay for their new pet, Debi told them to make the checks out to HER NAME; not Rainbow Ranch or Recycling Rover Rescue.

She always claimed the animals were fully vetted, micro chipped and were disease free. However, she never produced vet papers to substantiate that any of her claims of fully vetted and healthy animals were true. Therefore, the new adoptive families had no records to present to their own vets in order to track their new pets' health. Nor did she give them any required Dept of Agriculture paperwork showing transfer of ownership to the new adopters.

I also witnessed Jack Russell puppies in a cage full of urine and feces. I witnessed other puppies, which Debi claimed to be purebred, being brought out of her home for adoption. I cannot begin to tell count the number of sickly kittens and puppies I saw coming out of that house during the months I volunteered at Rainbow Ranch!!

I personally know of a Chihuahua that was adopted for a fee of \$350 (because Debi said it was a purebred animal, although she had no papers to prove it), and the dog died within 2 days of its adoption. Debi also casually mentioned to me that she put down a silver female pit bull, that I was familiar with and knew to be perfectly adoptable, in order to make room for other dogs that would bring more money when adopted. The dog was not put to sleep because it was too injured or too ill to save.

On one occasion, I paid \$500 to a vet that Debi claimed she paid to care for animals needing vet care. When I received their receipt, it was not for medications to heal pets in need of them; it was only for rabies shots. I also gave a lump sum of \$6,000 early in my relationship with Debi, plus more than 50 bags of pet food for the starving animals. I never witnessed the food being given to the cats or dogs, nor did I see any vet care given to sickly pets. I have also seen donated bags of food being sold instead of going to feed animals on the ranch property who were starving for food. I also loaned some of my pet carriers and cages to Ms. Baker, which she refused to return to me. When I asked to have them back, she answered "You can always buy more." I do not understand why she needed MY equipment, because her garage was stacked to the ceiling with carriers and cages that she didn't use. Those were very expensive pieces I used to help rescuers transport and temporarily house pets.

Debi charged \$25 for "barn cats" even though they have been fed very little if any food, and have not been inoculated against disease or rabies. However, she tells the farm family paying for the cat(s) that they are fully vetted and micro chipped; again without providing any paperwork showing fees paid, vet care or transfer of ownership.

The windows to Ms. Baker's farmhouse basement were either painted over or covered in cardboard so no one could see inside. Debi also had windows on the first floor covered with

cardboard to keep anyone from seeing inside the house. On more than one occasion when I was present, I knew Debi was at home when Dept of Agriculture inspectors came to inspect the farm and animals. Yet, Debi stayed inside the house hiding from them, and never acknowledged their presence so they could not conduct their inspection. They left without speaking to her.

My personal story of loss is for my elderly aunt's 4 kitties I entrusted to Debi's care. I gave her an additional \$2,000 to care for them and to keep them safe, as Debi promised she would. But when I asked Ms. Baker where they were shortly after leaving them in her care, she said she didn't know where they were. Two of those kitties were over 10 years old!! I am beside myself, because I promised my aunt on her death bed, that I would make special effort with her kitties to insure they were well always taken care of. Both my aunt and I had grown to trust Debi when we decided the 4 kitties would be safe with her. Now I grieve over never knowing what happened to them or if they were ever properly cared for. I have never gotten over the knowledge that I let my aunt and her kitties down when I trusted Debi Baker to honor her word.
