

Law backs off from Bisbee 'artist'



Greg Pike has been a familiar presence on the streets of the Southeastern Arizona city of Bisbee since he moved there from Colorado about 11/2 years ago. The "performance artist" takes donations from people who see Booger, Kitty and Mousie perched atop each other. He has plenty of support in the colorful community.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A popular street performer known as the "dog-cat-mouse guy," arrested by Bisbee police for loitering to beg and doing business without a license, will not face charges, the Cochise County Attorney's Office has announced.

Greg Pike is a familiar fixture on Bisbee's streets, where he stops on the sidewalk, stacks his pets atop one another and sets out a basket for donations. He accepts cash from those wanting to photograph his dog, cat and mouse, Booger, Kitty and Mousie, perched atop each other.

Bisbee police arrested Pike on May 21, booking him on the loitering and business-license charges. Two groups each raised his \$910 bail within hours, and at least a dozen people accompanied Pike to his plea hearing.

The city attorney almost immediately dropped the license charge. The county prosecutor, who had jurisdiction on the loitering count, took longer but ultimately reached the same conclusion.

"After reviewing the reports, quite frankly, we determined that no crime was committed," County Attorney Ed Rheinheimer said. But Pike isn't satisfied. He wanted his day in court.

"If it's dropped, it means nobody's wrong," said Pike, who considers himself a performance artist and not a beggar. "But I feel I've been wronged, and I want the Police Department to know that somebody owes me an apology."



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