

# Denver couple arrested for turning away dog catcher

Leland Vittert | KDVR Denver  
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Doug and Jennifer Smith with their dogs. (May 26, 2010)

DENVER - While enjoying a morning cup of coffee, Doug and Jennifer Smith heard an animal control officer knocking on their door.

"I just decided I didn't want to answer the door," said Doug. "He continued to beat on our door and then the police showed up 45 minutes later."

Doug's wife said she told police they were not welcomed when they asked to come in, but officers entered through the garage door and arrested the couple.

Both Doug and Jennifer told FOX31 that police violently attacked Jennifer, who was pregnant at the time, and one officer pulled his baton on Doug.

The couple was charged with interference and disturbing the peace. After spending a day in jail, they were released and the city attorney quickly dropped the charges.

"This is a blatant violation of the Fourth Amendment," said defense attorney David Beller.

"What amazes me is we did not do anything [wrong]...I had every right not to open the door," said Jennifer.

Police would not comment on the case. Denver Animal Control promised to look into the situation, but did not get back to FOX31.

The Smiths are considering a lawsuit against the city for wrongful arrest and infringement on their constitutional rights.