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Anthony Walker Pleads Guilty to Felony Animal Cruelty Charges



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that ANTHONY WALKER, 31, of Albany, pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, an unclassified felony, before the Honorable Peter A. Lynch in Albany County Court this morning.

Between January 24 and January 26, 2013, WALKER left four pit bull dogs unattended in a trailer for an extended period of time without proper sustenance. As a result of WALKER's intentional acts, one of the dogs suffered serious physical injury.

Additionally, this plea satisfies the charges that between September 7 and September 8, 2012 in the area of North Pearl Street and Van Woert Street in the City of Albany, WALKER did intentionally abandon three pit bull puppies knowing they were all physically injured.

The abuse and cruelty exhibited to defenseless animals in our community is one of the most heart-wrenching criminal acts an individual can perform. This case began with no leads and no information as to who abandoned the puppies on the rail road tracks. With community support and many people providing tips, the Albany Police Department was able to track down and identify WALKER. A subsequent investigation by the Colonie Police Department also determined that WALKER was the party responsible for leaving four other dogs in a trailer without adequate food, water or shelter almost leading to the death of one of the animals.

District Attorney David Soares commented, "Our primary objective is to hold offenders accountable. With animal cruelty charges we also aim to prevent the offender from engaging in animal abuse in the future. The plea in this case reflects the proof that we had established, and nothing less than a felony conviction would have been appropriate for Mr. Walker. I sincerely thank those individuals who called in tips and supported this investigation. My office will continue to aggressively pursue animal abuse and neglect cases."

Brad Shear of the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society said, "I am thrilled that the District Attorney's office secured a felony animal cruelty conviction in this case. It is heinous acts like the ones we saw in this case that the law was written for. I appreciate all the work the Albany Police, Coloine Police, and District Attorney's Office put into this conviction. They all took the case seriously from the start and refused to settle for less than a felony conviction."

WALKER will serve six months in Albany County Correctional Facility, in addition to entering into 5 years of felony probation. A primary condition of that probation term is that WALKER not possess or reside with animals.

WALKER will be sentenced on August 13, 2013.

Assistant District Attorney Chantelle Cleary of the Special Victims Unit is handling the prosecution of this case.

For more information please contact Cecilia Logue at (518) 275-4710.

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