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Co-Defendant Pleads Guilty to Animal Cruelty Charges



ALBANY, NY –District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that RACHAEL FASNACHT, 24, of Troy, pleaded guilty to violating (1) Count of Torturing or Injuring Animals by Failure to Provide Proper Sustenance, a misdemeanor under NYS Agriculture and Markets Law 353, before the Honorable Judge Kretser in Albany City Court this morning for intentionally depriving and failing to provide proper sustenance to four dogs and nine cats.

FASNACHT faces 60 days in Albany County Correctional Facility, in addition to a 3 year term of probation, when sentenced on June 10, 2015. A primary condition of the probation term will be that FASNACHT not possess or reside with animals. FASNACHT also forfeited rights to any

animals that were seized and will be ordered to pay \$2,000 in restitution to the Mohawk Hudson Humane Society for housing and care of the surviving animals.

On June 19, 2014, members of the Albany Police Department responded to a residence on South Pine Street in the City of Albany, to find unfit and unsanitary living conditions deemed unsafe for human and domestic animal habitation. Police found four dogs and nine cats at the residence and transferred them to the Hudson Mohawk Humane Society for care. One of the animals was so badly malnourished that he had to be euthanized.

After an investigation, police were able to identify FASNACHT as one of the persons responsible for care of the animals.

On March 27, 2015, co-defendant DERIC PETERSON, 31, of Troy, was sentenced to 60 days in Albany County Correctional Facility, in addition to a 3 year term of probation, before the Honorable Judge Kretser in Albany City Court, after previously pleading guilty to the same charges as FASNACHT. PETERSON also faces the same conditions of probation to not possess or reside with animals and forfeited rights to any animals that were seized from the home.

Assistant District Attorney Jennifer McCanney of the Special Victims Unit is handling the prosecution of these cases.

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

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