



DESMOND'S ARMY

Animal Law Advocates

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Desmond's Army Invited to CMACOA Training Seminar



Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates was invited to attend the Connecticut Municipal Animal Control Officers Training Seminar on September 22 at Mashantucket Pequot Museum in Mashantucket. CT DA's Board of Directors handed out flyers to Animal Control Officers outlining what we do and how Desmond's Army supports municipalities with animal abuse cases through funding for necropsies, reward offers and veterinary expenses.

There were three fascinating presentations:

- Jessica Rubin, UConn Professor of Law, discussed Connecticut's Animal Court Advocate Program (Desmond's Law)
- Virginia Maxwell, Professor of Forensic Science at the University of New Haven discussed Crime Scene Forensics.
- Christine Cummings, Director of A Place Called Hope in Killingworth discussed Wild Bird Field Rescue.

We thoroughly enjoyed seeing old friends and making new connections. We look forward to being invited back and continuing to help more ACOs and municipalities financially and support their court cases involving animal cruelty in the future.



Desmond's Army New Member of CACCOA

Desmond's Army would like to thank [Connecticut Animal Care & Control Officer's Alliance](#) for accepting us as a new member. We look forward to being a part of this group of animal professionals and are excited to expand our outreach capabilities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOWL-OWEEN PAWTY

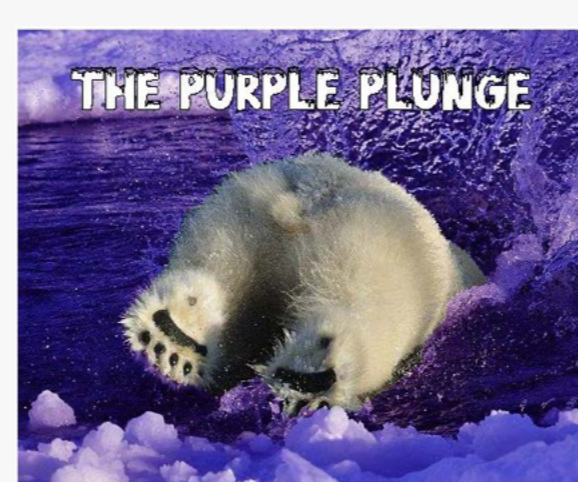
EVENT VENUE: HOUND AND HOME 2600 BERLIN TURNPIKE NEWINGTON
Start At 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Sunday Oct 29th

COSTUME PARADE 1PM (AWARDS)
PHOTO OP ACTIVITIES

Fundraiser for Desmond's Army

REGISTRATION REQUIRED CALL 860-594-4000

It's a HOWL-OWEEN PAWTY! Come out and join the fun. Samples, adoptable pups, games, vendors and a PET COSTUME PARADE AND CONTEST — Oct 29, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM Hound and Home, 2600 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06111, USA
Registration required - [Click here to register](#)



Purple Plunge: January 1st, 2024

Save the Date! Plans are underway for our 3rd annual **PURPLE PLUNGE**. Get your bathing suits and blankets ready and join the competition or just come, vote and cheer on your favorite brave plunger. Keep an eye on our [EVENTS](#) website page for more information.

START THE NEW YEAR DOING SOMETHING GREAT TO HELP ANIMALS. BE THEIR VOICE!

OUR YOUNGEST SUPPORTER



Ten year old Austen is one of our youngest supporters of Desmond's Army. Not only does he foster dogs, he also made one of his Scout projects a presentation on the importance of fostering and caring for animals. He collected money and other items for a rescue organization. His mom, Austen's mom, asked him several questions about why he supports Desmond's Army:

- **Why do you want to hold a fundraiser for Desmond's Army?** To help dogs that are being abused get the help they need.
- **Where do you think the money you've raised should go?** To animals, dogs and shelters and to help pass new laws punishing people that abuse animals.
- **What do you like most about being a part of Desmond's Army?** The people and animals I meet and being able to show my support.
- **What have you learned from being a part of DA?** I learned about animal abuse and that dogs don't have the same rights as humans. I also learned that courts can do a much better job at making abusers accountable for their actions.

Austen is always proud to wear his purple shirt and answer questions when asked about what Desmond's Army does.

Thank you for all that you do Austen ❤️

CASE DISPOSITIONS: SEPTEMBER

9/06/2023 [Christopher Torres](#) • Sentenced to 4 Years Jail, Execution Suspended after 9 Months, Probation 26 Months

9/20/2023 [Jacob Elco](#) • Sentenced to 364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years

9/22/2023 [Michael Kenschak](#) • Sentenced to 364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 3 Years ([see below article](#))

9/29/2023 [Carlos Colon-Rodriguez](#) • Sentenced to 1 Year Jail for Violation of Probation on previous Cruelty to Animals charge



Justice for Cimo and Leiben - Why it's a Win

Many people were understandably disappointed with the outcome of the [Michael Kenschak](#) case.

While everyone who loves their 4 legged family members would logically think the butchering of 2 dogs would automatically be a felony animal cruelty charge, the fact is Kenschak was not originally charged with animal cruelty.

Kenschak's original charges were:

1. Tampering with physical evidence
2. Forgery 2nd degree
3. Interfering with an officer
4. Illegal deer killing
5. Violation of wild game hunting regulations

Desmond's Law attorney advocate, Charles Faraglia, worked diligently and was successful in getting the appropriate charge of animal cruelty added. The burden of proof of malicious intent prohibited the felony charge without a trial.

Charles Faraglia explains, "CT DEEP was the investigating agency, and they primarily focus on hunting, environment, and energy. Animal cruelty is out of their area of expertise, so they focused on the hunting issues. Our mission was to get him charged with or plead to animal cruelty. I advocated for felony animal cruelty, but we ultimately got the best result we could get based on the circumstances."

When asked why animal cruelty charges were not initially charged, CT DEEP did not respond.

Michael Reinhold Kenschak was convicted of:

- Animal Cruelty - Sentenced to 364 days jail execution suspended. Probation 3 years
- Interfere with an officer/resisting - Sentenced to 364 days jail execution suspended. Probation 3 years.

DO YOU KNOW US?

LATEST REWARD OFFERINGS

For information leading to the positive identification and arrest of the person(s) responsible for the condition of these dogs.

Information About Reward Offerings

We try to offer as many rewards as possible for abandoned animals. We currently have over \$22,000.00 in offered rewards. To find out more, [click here](#).

— An explanation for why some abandoned animals have rewards, and some do not —

When offering a reward, we must work with the municipality and gain their acceptance before making the offer publicly. The municipality is responsible for conducting the investigation, and the reward is added to encourage tipsters to come forward. However, the tipster must contact the authorities to process, investigate, and validate the information as part of the validation process for any reward. This process ensures that only credible information is considered for rewards and eliminates the possibility of individuals making false claims for financial gain.

Rewards must always go through the proper channels, and there are many reasons why they may or may not be accepted. Sometimes, an investigation may have already uncovered important information, or the location of the abandoned animal may be too remote to justify offering a reward. Ultimately, the decision to accept a reward is made behind the scenes and follows a thorough and fair process.

Sometimes, offering a reward can serve as a useful publicity tool to spread the word about a particular case. However, it's not always the reward that motivates good samaritans to do the right thing; many times, people want to help without any expectation of compensation. They may not have known about the abuse without the reward being published.

The current situation is overwhelming for all of us, especially for ACOs and shelters, who tirelessly deal with abandonment and cruelty. We recognize and appreciate the efforts of all the ACOs who are working closely with DA to make a difference.

GET TO KNOW YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES!

Find out who yours are and let them know you're an animal advocate. Email, call, or follow them on social media.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND YOUR LOCAL REPS.](#)



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[DesmondArmy.org](#)

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