

RISE OF ANIMAL CRUELTY CASES IN CONNECTICUT

DESMOND'S ARMY ANIMAL LAW ADVOCATES





DESMOND'S ARMY

Animal Law Advocates

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present Connecticut lawmakers with clear, evidence-based information demonstrating the continued rise in animal cruelty crimes across our state and the simultaneous decline in meaningful legal consequences for these offenses. As documented throughout this report, case volume has increased each year, while dispositions increasingly result in diversionary programs, dismissals, or outcomes with little or no accountability. These trends pose significant risks to public safety, animal welfare, and the integrity of the justice system.

This report has been compiled to ensure that legislators, prosecutors, judges, and other decision-makers have access to accurate data when considering future statutory reforms. The findings underscore the urgent need for stronger protections, more consistent sentencing practices, and improved mechanisms for tracking and responding to repeat offenders. Given the well-established link between animal cruelty and interpersonal or domestic violence, addressing these gaps is critical not only for animals, but for the safety of Connecticut families and communities.

It is our intent that the information provided here will support the development, sponsorship, and passage of legislation that strengthens Connecticut's response to animal cruelty, including potential expansion of Desmond's Law, refinement of diversionary program eligibility, and the establishment of more appropriate penalties for severe neglect, starvation, and intentional harm. We respectfully submit this report to assist policymakers in crafting informed, effective, and urgently needed reforms.

Executive Summary

Executive Summary – Rise of Animal Cruelty in Connecticut (2023–2025)

Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates presents a comprehensive analysis of Connecticut's animal cruelty cases from 2023 through mid-2025.

The findings, based on court records, media reports, and community accounts, show a steep rise in animal cruelty incidents paired with declining legal accountability for offenders.

Key Trends:

- 2023: 129 cases followed
- 2024: 162 cases (20.37% increase)
- 2025: 145 cases by June 30 (projected 193 cases by year-end, an 8.3% increase)

Declining Consequences:

- Incarcerations fell from 13 in 2023 to 5 in 2024.
- Diversionary programs rose from 37% of disposed cases in 2023 to over 42% in 2024, projected to reach nearly 50% in 2025.
- Dismissals or nolles consistently accounted for 25–30% of cases.
- By 2025, 80% of resolved cases are projected to result in little or no meaningful punishment.

Public Safety Concerns:

Animal cruelty is a well-documented predictor of future violence against humans. Patterns of leniency increase risk to both animals and people, while eroding trust in the justice system. The widespread use of diversionary programs prevents the creation of a criminal record, making it difficult to track repeat offenders.

Systemic Issues Identified:

- Overuse of Accelerated Rehabilitation and related diversionary options.
- Inconsistent sentencing despite rising severity of cases.
- Judicial underenforcement enabling repeat cruelty.
- Numerous case examples highlight gaps—ranging from severe violence and hoarding to neglect and abandonment.

Key Recommendations:

- Improve judicial education on the animal cruelty–violence link.
- Restrict diversionary program eligibility for serious cruelty offenses.
- Promote consistent sentencing practices including incarceration and probation.
- Enhance public access to cruelty case outcomes.
- Require psychological evaluation, offender education, and enforceable bans on future animal ownership.

Conclusion:

Connecticut has earned national recognition for legislative progress, including significant advances in 2023. However, these gains will be undermined without reliable enforcement. Immediate action from lawmakers, prosecutors, judges, and the public is needed to strengthen accountability and protect both animals and communities statewide.

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Rising Animal Cruelty Cases in Connecticut

Report by *Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates - June 2025*

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DESMOND'S ARMY

Animal Law Advocates

Dear State Representatives, State Senators, and Fellow Advocates,

As members of the Board of Directors of Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates, we appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and share our findings regarding the sharp rise in animal cruelty cases across Connecticut—and the troubling decline in legal consequences for offenders.

Desmond's Army has been tracking animal cruelty prosecutions statewide since 2015. Our database is built from court records, media coverage, and community reports. While not exhaustive, it offers a consistent snapshot of judicial trends over time. Both our internal data and a recent report from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection confirm that animal cruelty cases rose sharply—**by 36.7% in 2024 alone**—with an even greater increase projected for 2025.

What is deeply concerning is the simultaneous drop in meaningful outcomes for these cases. Incarcerations are rare, diversionary programs are used excessively, and dismissals or outcomes with no accountability are becoming increasingly common. These patterns send the wrong message about the seriousness of animal cruelty—and leave the door open for repeat and escalating acts of violence.

Connecticut has made admirable progress in recent years. In 2023, our state was recognized by the Animal Legal Defense Fund for achieving the greatest improvement nationwide in animal protection laws. Desmond's Law remains a landmark model for the country. But without strong and consistent enforcement, these achievements risk being undermined.

We are sharing with you today a full report and supporting spreadsheets that cover animal cruelty cases we followed in 2023, 2024, and the first half of 2025. The data outlines the trends we've described and includes several recommendations to address them.

We hope you will review these materials, and we respectfully request a follow-up meeting at your convenience to discuss potential strategies and collaborative steps forward. Our goal is to strengthen the justice system's response to animal cruelty and reinforce Connecticut's leadership in animal welfare.

Thank you again for your time and attention to this urgent issue. We look forward to continuing the conversation.

Sincerely,

Robin Cannamela, President

Candace Bouchard, Secretary

Linda Pleva, Treasurer

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Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection

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New data shows serious crime continues to decline in Connecticut

2/18/2025

SERIOUS CRIME DROPS AS CONNECTICUT REMAINS ONE OF SAFEST STATES

MIDDLETON -- Crime in Connecticut continues to trend downward for the most serious crimes, with a decline of 14.1%, when comparing the first three quarters of 2024 with the same period in 2023.

"The news today is good. Most significantly, we are continuing the long-term trend of a safer state for Connecticut residents," said DESPP Commissioner Ronnell A. Higgins.

"Starting today we will release crime statistics on a quarterly basis. We are doing this to drive our decision-making, and to provide crime data faster to Connecticut law enforcement and the residents we serve," Higgins said.

The new quarterly numbers show: •

- Serious offenses declined 14.1%. Each major crime category also declined: 3.5% for crimes against persons, 5.1% for crimes against society, and 18.4% for crimes against property. •
- Notable declines among crimes against persons include a 41.7% decline in murder, a 17.8% decline in rape. •
- Notable changes among crimes against society include a 36.6% increase in animal cruelty crimes. This increase remained consistent throughout 2024. There was also a 19.6% decrease among weapon law violations. •
- Some of the largest declines came from crimes against property. Notable declines include a 44% decline in Fraud, a 19.6% decline in motor vehicle theft, and a 37.5% decline in arson. Wire fraud, one of the few crimes with a notable increase, increased by 15.2%. These increases were most notable in the first half of 2024. "

Our new quarterly analysis will help law enforcement make the right decisions to keep Connecticut safe," DESPP Chief Data Officer Michael Mascari said. "Getting the data out there to the public quarterly will provide awareness to residents in Connecticut about emerging crime trends. Providing data to law enforcement agencies quarterly will enable these agencies to adapt to emerging trends quickly." The new quarterly numbers are attached. For more information, contact Rick Green, Director of Communications, at richard.green@ct.gov or 860-539-0159.

Media Contact:

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Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

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Section 1:

2023–2025* Disposed Cases

Report on the Increase in Crimes Against Animals and Decrease in Consequences

Data Summary: 2023 – June 19, 2025

Prepared by: Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates, Inc.

Introduction

Over the past three years, Desmond's Army has monitored an alarming upward trend in cases of animal cruelty in Connecticut. At the same time, we are seeing a decline in meaningful legal consequences for offenders. This report summarizes case data from 2023 through mid-2025 and identifies patterns that raise serious concerns for public safety, animal welfare, and justice.

Case Volume Trends

- 2023: 129 cases followed
- 2024: 162 cases followed — a 20.37% increase from 2023
- 2025 (Jan 1 – June 30, 181 days): 145 cases already followed — on track for a major year-over-year increase

Disposition Trends by Year

2023

129 cases followed | 68 disposed

- 9 fully suspended sentences (no incarceration, probation required)
- 13 cases included some period of incarceration
- 25 defendants granted a diversionary program
- 12 cases had all animal cruelty charges dismissed
- 8 cases were nollied or given unconditional discharge
- 1 case had probation simply terminated after a violation of probation

61 cases were continued into 2024.

2024

162 cases followed | 73 disposed

- 19 fully suspended sentences (no incarceration, probation required)
- 5 cases included some period of incarceration
- 31 defendants granted a diversionary program
- 8 cases had all animal cruelty charges dismissed

- 7 cases were nollied
- 3 had uncategorized dispositions with no consequences

89 cases were continued into 2025

2025 (through June 30)

145 cases followed | 55 disposed

- 3 fully suspended sentences (no incarceration, probation required)
- 8 cases included some period of incarceration
- 27 defendants granted a diversionary program
- 12 cases had all animal cruelty charges dismissed
- 4 cases were nollied
- 1 case resulted in a not guilty verdict

Key Observations

2025 Projection - 193 cases followed | 110 disposed

1. Continuing Increase in Cases

- Cases followed rose 25.6% during 2024.
- In 2025, case volume continues to accelerate, with 145 cases recorded in just the first 181 days. This **projects** to approximately 193 cases by year's end—**an increase of 8.3%**, marking the continuing year-over-year increase.

2. Steady Decline in Incarceration Rates

- 2023: 13 cases with incarceration
- 2024: 5 cases with incarceration
- **2025 - Projected:** 16 cases with incarceration - **NOTE: most cases include other more serious charges** in which the offender was convicted and sentenced to a period of incarceration.

3. Increasing Use of Diversionary Programs

- 2023: 25 cases (36.76% of disposed cases)
- 2024: 31 cases (42.46% of disposed cases)
- **2025 - Projected:** 54 cases (49.1% of disposed cases - **up 6.4% from 2024**)

4. More Cases Ending With No Consequences

- 2023: 21 cases dismissed or nollied (30.88% of disposed cases)
- 2024: 18 cases dismissed, nollied, or with uncategorized/no consequence (24.65% of disposed cases)
- **2025 - Projected:** 34 cases dismissed, nollied, or not guilty (30.9% of disposed cases - **up 6.25% from 2024**)

5. Decline in Suspended Sentences

- Suspended sentences with probation have dropped from 10 cases in 2023 to a **projected** 6 cases in 2025.

Conclusion

It is projected that in 2025, approximately 80% of disposed animal cruelty cases in Connecticut will result in little or no meaningful consequences, often through diversionary programs. These outcomes leave offenders with no trackable criminal record, making it difficult to monitor repeat offenders and undermining the seriousness of the crime.

The combination of rising cruelty cases and declining consequences represents an urgent concern for Connecticut:

- Animal cruelty is a strong indicator of potential for future violence against both animals and humans.
- Public confidence in the justice system is undermined when cruelty goes unpunished.
- The widespread use of diversion and dismissal, even as cruelty cases rise, sends a dangerous message that animal abuse is not taken seriously.

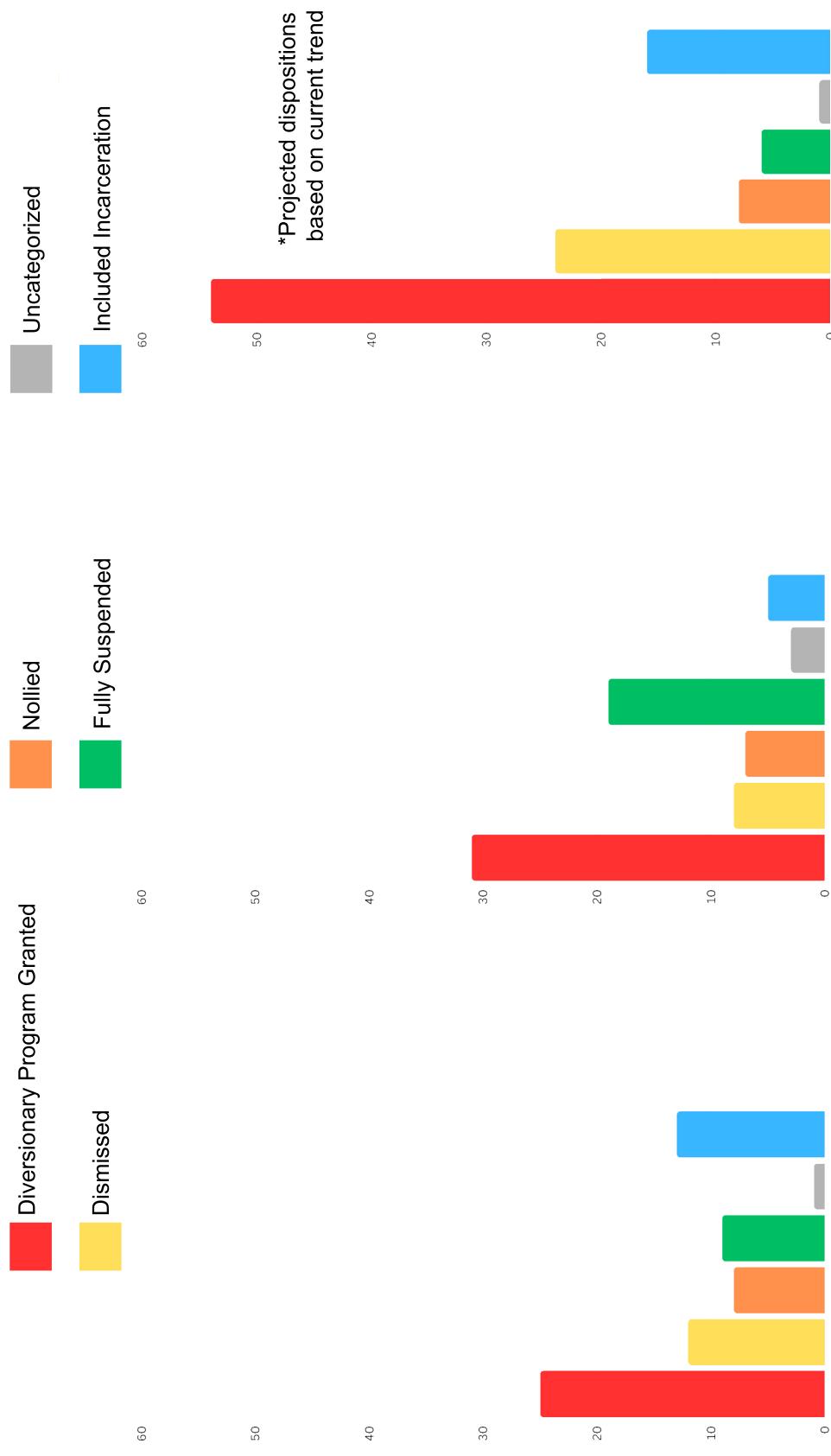
Recommendations

- Expand judicial education on the link between animal cruelty and future violent offenses.
- Limit eligibility for diversionary programs in serious cruelty cases.
- Ensure that appropriate sentences—including incarceration and probation—are used consistently.
- Improve public access to data on cruelty case outcomes and judicial decisions.
- Mandate psychological evaluation and education for convicted offenders, and enforce bans on future animal ownership.

Final Note

Desmond's Army will continue to monitor these trends and advocate for a justice system that protects all members of our community—human and animal alike. The troubling patterns seen in this report call for action from policymakers, prosecutors, judges, and the public.

Disposition Trend



2023 Dispositions
129 Cases/68 Disposed

2024 Dispositions
162 Cases/73 Disposed

***2025 Dispositions**
193 Cases/110 Disposed

It should be noted that in most cases where incarceration was imposed, the defendant often had a prior lengthy criminal history or the sentence was tied to additional crimes for which the defendant received an equal or longer term of imprisonment.

2023 Animal Abuse Cases

Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noie - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE	
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes		
Conaci	Salvatore	New Britain	Southington	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Conditional Discharge 2 Years		07/23/22	06/21/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	8	It was determined the inside of the car was between 100 and 105 degrees.		
Witick	Sally	New Britain	Plymouth	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years		07/12/22	10/16/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	13	Negligent Cruelty To Persons. 15 cats (2 dead) 4 dogs kept in deplorable conditions. Her autistic son also lived there.		
Elco	Jacob	Rockville	Vernon	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years		08/30/22	09/20/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	12	Kicked dog repeatedly during a DV incident		
Martin	Renner	Stamford	Stamford	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years		07/30/19	08/01/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	19			
Shedrick	Amber	Meriden	Meriden	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years		09/27/22	05/26/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	5	Did not provide veterinary care to dog who broke its leg nearly 2 years earlier.		
Konschak	Michael	Danbury	DEP	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 3 Years		02/08/23	09/22/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	7	Interfere With Ofcfr/Resisting, Shot, beheaded and skinned 2 german shepherd dogs		
Lagnese	Glorianne	Bridgeport	Fairfield	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 3 Years		05/12/23	08/15/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	2	2 counts of Cruelty to Animals - 47 dogs & cats		
Lianos	James	Torrington	Torrington	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 3 Years		08/10/21	08/17/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	M	15	Abandoned 5 cats & 1 dog in garbage strewn home.		
Rowe	Deja	Waterbury	Naugatuck	364 days jail, suspended and 1 year Conditional Discharge		03/23/22	01/06/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	7	Charged with 5 counts, reduced to 1. Kept mother dog and 4 puppies in deplorable conditions - 1 dead ball python.		
Colon-Hernandez	Carlos	New Britain	New Britain	1 yr jail		11/04/22	09/29/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	M	Kept 2 dogs and a crocodile monitor in deplorable conditions			
Vantull	Christopher	New Britain	New Britain	1,456 days in jail, suspended after 6 months and 3 years conditional probation		07/12/19	07/14/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	22	4 counts of Cruelty to Animals. Beat his dog causing serious and permanent injuries.		
DeKorte	Brianna	Middletown	Middletown	11 months jail, suspended after 45 days, 2 years probation		02/02/23	11/16/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	M	9	DeKorte was also convicted of Cruelty to Animals in 2017 and received a suspended sentence. Multiple VOP. Four 3-month-old kittens, hamsters, rats, mice, a dove, two rabbits, a parakeet, four adult cats and a snapping turtle. They also found a guinea pig and a hamster that had died.		
Neuberger	Raymond	Bridgeport	Fairfield	3 Years Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 4 Years		10/04/22	12/07/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F	13	Poured boiling water on GF's dogs. Multiple VOP		

2023 Animal Abuse Cases

Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noe - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE	
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes		
Singletary	Anthony	Derby	Derby	33 Months Jail		04/01/22	02/23/23	✓	Violent			F	10	Shot his dog several times in front of his children. Crim Poss Farm/Amm/Dfns Risk Of Injury To Child	
Cortez	Davey	Manchester	Manchester	360 Days Jail, Execution Suspended After 40 Days, Probation 18 Months		07/04/18	10/27/23	✓	Violent			M	13	Beat his chihuahua. Cortez has violated probation 2-3 times. His case is ongoing.	
Tyson	Richard	New Britain	New Britain	364 Days Jail		04/24/20	10/10/23	Unknown				M	20	Poss Intent Sell/Dspns Narcic - Felony charge in which he was sentenced to 15 Years Jail. Execution Suspended After 4 Years, Probation 5 Years -Animal Cruelty sentence ran concurrently	
Valle	David	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended After 30 Days, Probation 3 Years		12/01/20	07/14/23	✓	Neglect			M	25	Interfere With Ofcr/Resisting, Threatening 2nd Deg, 2 counts cruelty to animals. Remains of 3 dogs found in smokehouse + 2 dogs found malnourished and neglected.	
Bartlett	Christopher	Meriden	Meriden	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended After 45 Days, Probation 2 Years		09/30/22	07/19/23	✓	Neglect			M	8	Did not provide veterinary care to dog who broke its leg nearly 2 years earlier.	
Torres	Christopher	New Britain	Plymouth (VOP)	4 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 9 Months, Probation 26 Months		02/27/20	09/06/23	✓	Violent			F	8	punched, kicked, and dragged dog causing severe injuries.	
Sochocki	Patryk	Rockville	CSP Troop C	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 1 Year, Probation 5 Years.		10/11/19	10/13/23	✓	Neglect			F	42	Cut hind legs and genitals off live rabbit with scissors while driving	
Perez	Luis	Danielson	Willimantic	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 5 Months, Probation 3 Years		10/11/21	01/24/23	✓	Neglect			F	10	Caught on video beating his dog with a baseball bat	
Brown	Clarence	Waterbury	Waterbury	Sentenced to 364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended After 5 Months, Probation 3 Years		06/10/21	04/18/23	✓	Violent			M	11		
Bryant	Anita	New Britain	Southington	AR Granted		09/20/22	04/27/23	✓	Neglect				4	30 cats & 1 dog living in deplorable conditions	
Bucher	Maryanne	Rockville		AR Granted		01/20/23	01/20/23	✓	Hoarding				5	more than 78 dogs, cats, birds, poultry - several dead	
Carey	Lindsay	Manchester	Manchester	AR Granted		04/21/23	04/21/23	✓	Neglect				10		
Chesnutis	David	Derby	Beacon Falls	AR Granted		07/25/23	07/25/23	✓	Hoarding				4	121 live animals, 7 dead	
Cruz	Cassandra	Meriden	Meriden	AR Granted		12/19/23	12/19/23	✓	Neglect				3	emaciated, hypothermic dog	
Cuc-Saenz	Pedro	Rockville	Mansfield	AR Granted		11/02/23	11/02/23	✓	Hoarding				5	17 rabbits, 1 dog in deplorable conditions	
Hughes	Tracy	Rockville	Stafford	AR Granted		09/07/23	09/07/23	✓	Neglect				6	2 dogs	
Kedzierski	Denise	New Britain	Southington	AR Granted		02/01/23	02/01/23	✓	Neglect				5	1 dog	
Kupec	Marion	Rockville	Mansfield	AR Granted		10/25/23	10/25/23	✓	Hoarding				5	17 rabbits, 1 dog in deplorable conditions	

2023 Animal Abuse Cases

Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noe - ORANGE		Uncategorized - WHITE		Not Yet Disposed - GREY	
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes		
Marucci	Susan	Danbury	Newtown	AR Granted		09/06/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Groomer hung dog by collar until it was unconscious.			
O'Brien	Marissa	Torrington	Winsted	AR Granted		03/16/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2 children living in home with over 200 animals			
Perrin	Stranja	Derby	Derby	AR Granted		03/30/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Watched as boyfriend shot dog in front of her children.			
Rivers	Suzy Lynn	New Britain	Cheshire	AR Granted		05/31/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Boston Terrier left in hot car for more than 3 hours - dog died			
Rodriguez	Luis	Torrington	AR Granted	AR Granted		02/15/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4				
Siguenza	Stephen	Danbury	Danbury	AR Granted		06/12/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Beat 3 mo old puppy to death			
Thomen	Laura	Torrington	Winsted	AR Granted		03/27/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	2 children living in home with over 200 animals			
Villanueva	Bryan	Meriden	Meriden	AR Granted		04/28/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Assaulted girlfriend, repeatedly punched her dog			
Wallace	Parker	New London	New London	AR Granted		10/16/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Maimed a federally protected egret			
DeJesus	Aubriana	Stamford	Diversionary Program Granted	Diversionary Program Granted		12/12/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Severe neglect, dog had to be euthanized.			
Jasmil-Willet	Markila	Norwich	State ACO	Diversionary Program Granted		10/11/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Caught on video beating and slamming dog to the ground			
Macias-Alcazar	Roberto	Stamford	Diversionary Program Granted	Diversionary Program Granted		08/31/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11				
Manzone	Lee	Torrington	Winsted	Diversionary Program Granted		11/15/22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	2 children living in home with over 200 animals			
Bolton	Michael	Middletown	Middletown	SDP Granted		02/02/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Grabbed 14 week puppy by throat and slammed it to the ground			
McNeill	Quadasia	Hartford	Hartford	SDP Granted		08/11/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Attacked dog with a machete			
Thomen	James	Torrington	Winsted	SDP Granted		02/16/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	2 children living in home with over 200 animals			
Cliff-Lataif	Christina	Waterbury	CSP Troop A	6 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Conditional Discharge 1 Year		03/21/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Beat her dog with a broomstick			
Castellano	Ricardo	Middletown	Middletown	Dismissed		10/24/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Did not provide veterinary care to his injured dog.			
Maradino, Jr.	Robert	Middletown	Cromwell	Dismissed		10/18/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Violation of Conditional Release - Dismissed			
Moore	Dean	Higganum	Dismissed	Dismissed		02/17/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Malnourished horses			
Ortiz-Santiago	Luis	Middletown	Middletown	Dismissed		10/26/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Witness filed false allegations			
Ricetelli	Eric	Middletown	Portland	Dismissed		05/04/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Used abusive training methods on horse			
Wall-Hernandez	Alexis	Middletown	Middletown	Dismissed		10/12/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Malnourished horses			
Lopez	Erik	Middletown	Meriden	Dismissed		10/24/23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Killed 4 cats - witnessed by girlfriend.			
	Anthony	Meriden		Dismissed		12/12/23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Sentenced on other charges			

2023 Animal Abuse Cases

Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Nolle - ORANGE		Uncategorized/Uncond Discharge - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE	
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes		
Yammine	Jack Antoine	Waterbury	Wolcott	Dismissed		11/28/23	✓	Violent		■		12	Alleged to have punched dog causing injury and bleeding to dogs tongue. Also used shock collar cause injury to neck.		
Campbell	Celene	New Haven		Dismissed - pled to a lesser charge		03/22/23	■	Neglect		■		40	Caused severe emaciation in dog.		
Sirius	Ares	Hartford	CSP Troop H	Dismissed - pled to a lesser charge		06/08/22	07/14/23	■	Violent	■		22	Observed whipping his dog with leash.		
Pacheco	Hector	Hartford		Nolle		03/03/23	■	Unknown		■		19			
Robinson	Kyle	Manchester	Manchester	Nolle		04/21/23	■	Neglect		■		10	Severe emaciation		
Rodriguez	Jason	New Britain	Bristol	Nolle		10/02/23	■	Neglect		■		4			
Sachko	Alaksandr	New Britain		Nolle		04/17/23	■	Unknown		■		10			
Addington	Damien	Hartford	S. Windsor	Unconditional Discharge		07/13/23	■	Neglect		■		9	Illegal tethering - no food/water		
Carpentino	Martin	New Haven		Unconditional Discharge		07/25/23	✓	Unknown		■		13	3 counts Cruelty to Animals		
Meder	George	Derby	Beacon Falls	Unconditional Discharge		11/30/23	■	Neglect		■		8	Owner of boarding kennel - did not seek vet care for dog mauled by another while in his care.		
Williams	Tequisha	Meriden		Unconditional Discharge		10/26/23	■	Neglect		■		13	Claimed to have found emaciated dog - it was later determined that it was her dog		
Boxley	John	New Britain	Newv Britain	Probation Continued		09/17/20	11/21/23	■	Violent	✓			No consequences for VOP		
Almonte	Kayelani	Rockville		Probation Continued		08/03/24	■	Abandonment		■			Abandoned an ill dog in crate. Case sealed		
Artandi	Lauren	New Britain	CSP Troop L			05/02/23	■	Abandonment		■		M	Nearly starved a beagle to death, then abandoned him.		
Artis	Ezakah	New Haven	New Haven			10/07/22	■	Neglect		■		M	Moved, leaving his dog in a crate in the basement to die.		
Auwah	Malik	Middletown						Abandonment		■		M	Dumped dog that was in the car he stole.		
Benicewicz	Gary	Danbury						Violent		■		M	Shot neighbor's dog without cause.		
Bennett	Kyle	Waterbury						Violent		■		M	Punched and kicked two small dogs		
Boisture	Margaret	Hartford	Bloomfield					Neglect		■		M	Breeder		
Carol	Roger	Torrington						Hoarding		■		M	Threw dog out car window during DV incident. On trial list		
Cepeda	Jeremy	Stamford						Violent		■		M			
Champion	Robert	Waterbury						Violent		✓		M	no dog/cat rabies vaccination, FLR		
Cimmino	Thomas	Bridgeport	Stratford			05/12/23	■	Neglect		■		M	comply dog ownership reqs		
Clark	Samantha	Middletown	Middletown					Hoarding		■		M	24 Animals		
Collazo	Matthew	New Britain	New Britain			06/15/23	✓	Neglect		■		F	Beat dog breaking her paw and dislocating her hips.		
Connelly	Joann	Rockville	CSP TROOP K			03/25/22	■	Hoarding		■		M	On trial list		
Copeland	Melissa	Meriden	Meriden			04/11/22	■	Neglect		■		M	Rearrest ordered on 8/18/23		
Covington	Samuel	Hartford				08/23/21	■	Unknown		■		M			
Dancer	Khalea	New Haven	East Haven					Neglect		■		M			
DeJesus	Joshua	Bridgeport	Bridgeport			09/08/23	■	Unknown		■		M	Interfering with officers/resisting		

2023 Animal Abuse Cases

Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noile - ORANGE		Uncategorized - WHITE		Not Yet Disposed - GREY	
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes		
Dumaine	Richard	Torrington							Violent		M				
Eyler	Jessica	Torrington							Hoarding		M				Beat 2 mo old puppy for urinating in car
Flake	Akinlade	Hartford							Violent						
Flanagan	Patrick	Torrington							Violent						
Gatling	Karenlynne	New Britain				11/30/23			Violent		M				Did not provide veterinary care to dog she was caring for after boyfriend shot the dog
Gonzalez	Ariana	New London							Unknown						
Gregos	Robert	Derby							Unknown						
Hart	Anthony	Meriden				07/24/23			Violent		M				Choked dog by hanging by collar
Heldund	John	Meriden				04/11/22			Neglect						Rearrest ordered 10/4/23
Hunter	Denzel	New Haven	Branford			10/26/23			Abandonment						Dumped 4 newborn kittens in dumpster -3 later died - Case is sealed
Jackson	Anthony	Waterbury							Violent						Purposely ran down geese
Jennings	Destiny	Middletown							ByB						
Kontout	Justin	Waterbury							Violent						Case Sealed
Lee	Nathaniel	Manchester	East Hartford			06/24/23			Violent		M				Rearrest ordered 12/6/23
Leonard	Keanna	New Britain	New Britain			07/28/21			Neglect		M				Emaciated dog kept in basement - no food/water.
Lin	Philip	Meriden	Cheshire			09/27/22			Violent		F				Drowned one dog, broke the neck of another.
Lopez	Krystel	Waterbury	Wolcott			11/15/19			Neglect		M				59 counts of animal related charges.
															Cruelty to Animals, Import Dog/Cat without Health Cert, Illegal Sale of Unexamined dog/cat, III Poss dog/cat serums without permit, Practice Veterinary Medicine without a License
Luna	Daniel	Waterbury	Naugatuck						Violent						Shot multiple dogs
Maccarone	Justin	Daniels	Williamantic			05/02/22			Abandonment		M				Abandoned emaciated dog
Martin	Robert	New Britain	Bristol			12/01/22			Violent		M				Allowed his unleashed dog to attack and kill another dog in park. 2 counts Cruelty to Animals and 1 count Failure to Appear Infractions only
Martin	Oliver	Torrington				07/05/22			Unknown						
Martins-Deoliveira	Luciano	Derby							Unknown						
McDonough	Joshua	Middletown							Neglect		M				
Niedzwiecki	John	New Britain	Plainville						Violent		M				Stole cat and dropped it elsewhere. Cat was found deceased
Orazietti	Ann	Derby							Hoarding		M				Shot neighbors dog
Pavano	Benjamin	New London							Violent						
Perez	Richard	New London	Ledyard			11/06/23			Neglect		M				Case Sealed. Maiming a federally-protected species of egret
Petitti	Jerrod								Unknown						1 dog euthanized, another seized
Pizarro-Boria	Emanuel	Waterbury	Naugatuck			09/19/23			Neglect		F				Severely embedded chain

2023 Animal Abuse Cases

Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

			Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noite - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE		
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency		Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date		Date of Dispos		Includes Dom Vio		Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes
Rangasammy	Edwin	Manchester	Hartford	Bridgeport	10/18/20	08/22/21			Abandonment		Unknown		✓	M		Violation of probation	
Rivera	Juan	Bridgeport														4 Counts Cruelty to Animals - Failure to appear 2nd degree	
Rivera	David	Waterbury	Naugatuck		06/07/22				Violent							Conspired to shoot multiple dogs	
Santiago	Manuel	New Britain	Bristol		07/19/22				Violent							Stabbed dog to death	
Santiago	Rafaelito	New Britain			11/12/23				Violent							Has since been arrested again on numerous charges	
Sevane	Stuart	Manchester	East Hartford		09/10/23				Neglect							Criminal impersonation, resisting, breach of peace 2nd degree. Awaiting Trial	
Siddiq	Isa	Waterbury							Neglect								
Silva	Arnoldo	New Haven	North Branford		11/15/23				Neglect								
Squeglia	Nyisha	Bridgeport			10/07/23				Neglect								
Sylvia	Richard	Bridgeport	Stratford		07/24/23				Neglect								
Velasquez	Jessica	Danielson							Neglect								
Wagner	Justin	Middletown	Middletown		07/26/23				Neglect								
Zarins	Gregory	Torrington	Winsted						Neglect								
Zumbo	Danielle	Bridgeport							Unknown							Case Sealed	

2024 Animal Abuse Cases | Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Nolle - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE		
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Misd or Felony	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes		
Artandi	Lauren	New Britain	CSP Troop L	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years	05/02/23	12/11/24	Abandonment	Abandonment		M	M	15	Nearly starved a beagle to death, then abandoned him.			
Clark	Samantha	Middletown	Middletown	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Conditional Discharge 2 Years		08/29/24	Hoarding			M	M	15	Hoarding - Co-defendant of Brianna Dekorte and David Aresco.			
Hreha	Daniel	Waterbury	Wolcott	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Conditional Discharge 18 Months	12/22/23	05/07/24	Neglect			M	M	6	Kept 9 cats in truck unattended for at least 1-1/2 weeks. arrest warrant states Hreha had been previously convicted of cruelty to animals.			
Kostenko	Michael	Waterbury	Naugatuck	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years	12/18/23	09/09/24	Abandonment	Abandonment	✓	M	M	10	Abandoned 2 dogs. Numerous pending charges included 2 Violations of Probation. Beat a dog causing serious injuries. Rearrest ordered 12/6/23 and 11/13/24			
Lee	Nathaniel	Manchester	East Hartford	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Conditional Discharge 18 Months	06/24/23	12/20/24	Violent			M	M	8				
Leonard	Keanna	New Britain	New Britain	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years	07/28/21	01/04/24	Neglect			M	M	19	Emaciated dog kept in basement - no food/water.			
Lopez	Krystel	Waterbury	Wolcott	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Conditional Discharge 2 Years		11/15/19	04/19/24	Neglect			M	M	34	59 counts of animal related charges. Cruelty to Animals, Import Dog/Cat without Health Cert, Illegal Sale of Unexamined dog/cat, III Poss dog/cat serums without permit, Practice Veterinary Medicine without a License		
Luna	Daniel	Waterbury	Naugatuck	5 yrs suspended, 3 yrs probation	05/02/22	08/05/24	Violent			F	F	23	2 counts practicing vet med wo lic. - concurrent			
Martin	Robert	New Britain	Bristol	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 3 Years on each of 2 counts	07/05/22	12/18/24	Violent			M	M	12	Allowed his unleashed dog to attack and kill another dog in park. 2 counts Cruelty to Animals and 1 count Failure to Appear			
Martinez	Genese	Rockville	Manchester	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years	01/29/24	11/21/24	Violent			M	M	10	Practice vet med wo lic - 4 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years - concurrent.			
Nazario	Kiran	New Britain	Probation Department	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 4 Years - *Rearrest ordered*	04/10/24	09/19/22	Violent	✓		F	F	9	Beat girlfriend's 4 month old kitten to death. Violation of probation, first violation			
Niedzwiecki	John	New Britain	Plainville	364 days susp, cond dis - 2 yrs	06/04/21	01/22/24	Violent			M	M	17	Practice vet med wo lic without cause.			
Notaro	Ralph	Meriden	Wallingford	Suspended, Conditional Discharge 18 Months	09/10/24	12/12/24	Unknown			M	M	3	Shot neighbor's dog without cause.			
Perez	Richard	New London	Ledyard	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 18 Months		11/06/23	04/16/24	Neglect		M	M	7	Dog was malnourished, extremely emaciated and beyond medical care - euthanized. 2nd dog seized.			

2024 Animal Abuse Cases | Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noie - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE	
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes		
Pizarro-Boria	Emanuel	Waterbury	Naugatuck	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 5 Years		09/19/23	04/05/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	7	Severely embedded chain		
Rangasammy	Edwin	Manchester	Hartford	Originally sentenced to 364 days in jail, execution suspended and 3 years probation with special conditions.		10/18/20	11/05/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		M	20 after VOP	Left dog tied in garage on a retractable leash. Dog's neck was cut nearly to the bone. Violation of probation		
Santiago	Manuel	New Britain	Bristol	5 yrs susp. 3 yrs prob	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Conditional Discharge 1 Year	07/19/22	01/08/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	13	Stabbed his dog to death		
Sylvia	Richard	Bridgeport	Stratford			07/24/23	01/31/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	5	Dog had significant hair loss, scabs and open wounds all over his body. He was slow and lethargic. Lack of care		
Wagner	Justin	Middletown	Middletown	111 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Conditional Discharge 1 Year		07/26/23	08/08/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	ByB		M	12	Kept dogs in deplorable conditions. 7 adult dogs and 3 puppies seized.		
Artis	Ezakah	New Haven	New Haven	111 Months Jail, Execution Suspended After 120 Days, Conditional Discharge 2 Years		10/07/22	02/09/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	Moved, leaving his dog in a crate in the basement to die.			
Colgan	Kevin	Hartford	Windsor Locks	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended After 3 Months, Probation 2 Years		06/08/24	11/18/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		M	6	Assaulted girlfriend and killed her kitten. Assault - 364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended After 3 Months, Probation 2 Years - concurrent		
Hart	Anthony	Meriden	Meriden	5 mo jail		07/24/23	06/24/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	10	Choked dog by hanging by collar		
Lin	Philip	Meriden	Cheshire	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 18 Months, Probation 3 Years on each of 2 counts- to be served CONSECUTIVELY for a total sentence of 3 yrs to serve and 3 yrs probation.		09/27/22	12/09/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		F	19	Drowned one dog, broke the neck of another. Violate Cond Of Release-1st Deg - 3 yrs jail		
Rivera	David	Waterbury	Naugatuck	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 2 Years, Probation 3 Years.		06/07/22	07/08/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		<input type="checkbox"/>	16	Conspired to shoot multiple dogs. Reckless Endangerment - 364 days jail - concurrent		
Awuah	Malik	Middletown		AR - 6 mos		10/11/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input type="checkbox"/>	Dumped dog that was in the car he stole.			
Baldino	Barbara	Bridgeport		AR - 18 months		11/06/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Dog in poor condition - no grooming or vet care.		
Benicewicz	Gary	Danbury		AR - 5 yrs psych		12/09/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Shot neighbor's dog without cause.		
Boxwell	Wesley	Danielson		AR - 2 yrs		10/08/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Caused malnutrition, cuts and sores on a dog he was caring for.		
Burton	Nancy	Danbury		AR - 2 yrs		10/28/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding		<input type="checkbox"/>	32	65 live goats and 40-50 deceased goats		

2024 Animal Abuse Cases

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Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes				
Carol	Roger	Torrington		AR - 2 yrs		01/10/24		Hoarding		M						
DeGaetano	Aaron	Manchester		AR - 1 yr		10/28/24		Unknown		M	4					
Distin	Rory	Torrington		AR - 18 months		06/20/24		Violent		M		Put roommates turtle and frogs outside to freeze to death				
Donovan	Tracy	Danielson		Diversionary Program - 1 yr		10/31/24		Hoarding			4	103 counts of Cruelty to Animals. Case Sealed				
Dumaine	Richard	Torrington		1 Yr. - Diversionary Program		04/26/24		Violent		M	7	Beat 2 mo old puppy for urinating in car				
Durham	Quiiana	New London		AR - 5 mos		08/08/24		Neglect		M	8	5 various types of animals in extremely poor condition and in poor living conditions				
Edwards	Aida	Derby		Diversionary Program - 1 yr		12/13/24		Violent				2 dogs, severe intentional starvation. Arrest - risk of injury to a child, assault 3rd deg, disorderly conduct				
Erdman	Emerald	Torrington		AR - 2 yrs		07/29/24		Neglect		M	3	Nearly starved dog to death				
Eyler	Jessica	Torrington		AR - 2 yrs		01/10/24		Hoarding		M		Hoarding				
Gutierrez-Torres	Emmanuel	Waterbury		AR - 1 yr		07/15/24		Violent		M	4	Cockfighting				
Hamblin	Jeffrey	Manchester		Diversionary Program - 18 mo		12/13/24		Neglect		M	6	Dog nearly cut in half with retractable lead - did not seek vet care				
Hargrove	Jontea	New Haven		AR - 2 yrs		09/17/24		Neglect		M	4					
Jameson	Jean	Middletown		AR - 18 months		02/23/24		Hoarding		M	2	55 dogs. BYB				
Jordan	Monica	Hartford		Diversionary Program - 1 yr		12/20/24		Unknown		F		1 Count CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SBS OFFENSE - Class D Felony				
Maendel	Walter	Torrington		AR - 2 yrs		10/24/24		Sexual Contact		M	6	Charged with SEX ASLT ANML-SEXUAL CONTACT				
Martinez	Jaime	Waterbury		AR - 6 mos		09/11/24		Violent		M	5	Cockfighting				
Masso	Ethelrene	Bridgeport		AR - 18 months		07/23/24		Neglect		M	4	4 counts cruelty to animals				
McDonough	Joshua	Middletown		AR - 11 months		01/11/24		Violent		M		Stole cat and dropped it elsewhere. Cat was found deceased				
Michaud	Precious	New London		AR - 7 mo		08/08/24		Neglect		M	6	5 various types of animals in poor condition and in poor living conditions.				
Nunez	Claudio	Waterbury		AR - 2 yrs		07/29/24		Neglect		M	3	Nearly starved dog to death				
Orazietti	Ann	Derby		AR - 1 yr		06/27/24		Hoarding		M	10	Hoarder				
Pavano	Benjamin	New London		18 Months Accelerated Rehabilitation		01/31/24		Violent			8	Case Sealed. Maiming a federally-protected species of egret				
Rosario	Juan	Waterbury		AR - 1 yr		08/05/24		Violent		M	5	Cockfighting				
Velasquez	Jessica	Danielson		Diversionary Program - 3 yrs		12/13/24		Neglect		M	18	3 Counts Cruelty to Animals				
Ward	Betsy	Manchester		Diversionary Program - 9 most		12/11/24		Neglect		M	4	Multiple animal related charges				
Wilson	Kadesha	Waterbury		AR - 2 yrs		11/14/24		Violent		M	6	2 dogs, 1 starved to death				

2024 Animal Abuse Cases

| Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

	Fully Suspended - GREEN	Jail - BLUE	Diversionary Program - RED	Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW	Nolle - ORANGE	Uncategorized - GREY	Not Yet Disposed - WHITE
Bennett	Kyle	Waterbury	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio
Lucibello	Barbara	Meriden		Dismissed - abuse was documented on video	11/21/24	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meija-DeJesus	Jelin	Waterbury	Dismissed		06/24/24	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul	Debra	Manchester	Dismissed		10/02/24	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Siddiq	Isa	Waterbury	Unconditional Discharge		11/14/24	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torres	Junior	New Britain	Dismissed		01/26/24	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>
VanDoren	Derek	Rockville	Dismissed		09/10/24	12/09/24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Zarins	Gregory	Torrington	Dismissed		05/08/24	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fernandez	Susan	Bridgeport	Nolle		10/31/24	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follo	Salvatore	New Haven	Nolle		04/30/24	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hawkins	Jack Wayne	Stamford	Nolle		11/13/24	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennings	Destiny	Middletown	Nolle		03/15/24	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>
Martins-Deoliveira	Luciano	Derby	Nolle		09/19/24	By/B	<input type="checkbox"/>
O'Brien	Marissa	Torrington	Nolle		01/16/24	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taylor	James	Bridgeport	Nolle		05/31/24	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson	Anthony	Waterbury	Probation Terminated	35 Infractions	04/09/24	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Oliver	Martin	Waterbury			06/05/24	Violent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Santiago	Rafaelito	New Britain		DEEMED INCOMPETENT - UNRECOVERABLE	08/26/24	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Abdul-Bashir	Rashid	Middletown			09/03/24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Aldridge	Wesley	Stamford	CSP TROOP G			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

allowed her cat who was unable to eat due to mouth cancer to starve to death. Veterinarian recommended euthanasia multiple times.

Cockfighting

Left dog in hot car,

Emaciated dog and 2 kittens found during a DV incident. Risk of injury to child

Hoarded more than 30 cats

six dogs, eight cats, a bearded dragon lizard, and one hedgehog living in poor and unsanitary conditions.

72 Counts of IMPORT DOG/CAT WO HEALTH CERT

Observed kicking his dog to the ground

Left his dog outside for several days with no food, water or shelter.

Kepi dogs in deplorable conditions. 7 adult dogs and 3 puppies seized.

Deemed incompetent - unrecoverable. Has since been arrested again on numerous charges.

Abandoned a pitbull puppy on a hiking trail

Chocked police K9 Failure to renew registration, assault to police, disorderly conduct, resisting

2024 Animal Abuse Cases | Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noile - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE			
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes				
Almonte	Kayelani	Rockville				08/08/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>			Abandoned an ill dog in crate. Case sealed				
Aviles	Tyshall	Waterbury	Derby			11/01/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Cockfighting				
Bakota	Krysztof	Derby	Sheitlon					<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Threw kitten into a table, then off of a deck killing it, because it was annoying him.				
Barett-Valdez	Felanyely	Hartford						<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Charged with a Class D felony of MALICIOUS WUND/KILL ANIMAL 1ST				
Berrios	Anthony	Waterbury	Naugatuck					<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>			Crim Vio Of Restraining Order, Assault 3rd Deg, Disorderly Conduct				
Bolton	Michael	Middletown						<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Grabbed 14 week puppy by throat and slammed it to the ground.				
Bou	Maria Bella	Bridgeport						<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Charges increased to MALICIOUS WUND/KILL ANIMAL 1ST, a class D Felony				
Bradford	Janiya	Manchester						<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>			Tied dog by the collar to a tree limb in a wildlife sanctuary.				
Champion	Robert	Waterbury						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Killed girlfriend's dog				
Cimmino	Thomas	Bridgeport	Stratford			05/12/23		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			no dog/cat rabies vaccination, FLR comply dog ownership reqs				
Collazo	Matthew	New Britain	New Britain			06/15/23		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Beat dog breaking her paw and dislocating her hips.				
Connelly	Joann	Rockville	CSP TROOP K			03/25/22		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>			Posed as a rescue organization. Many animals kept in horrific conditions. On trial list since 1/12/24				
Cortez	Davey	Manchester	Probation Department										Cortez received 1 Year Jail, Execution Suspended After 6 Months, Probation 2 Years for an animal cruelty charge in 2019. 2 counts of VOP, Disorderly Conduct, Assault 3rd Degree, Ill Opn MV Und Influ (2nd Off). Interfering w/an emerge call, disorderly conduct				
Coverson	Assante	Derby	Anisonia			06/06/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			BYB - three cats and 11 dogs. Panvo				
Coverson	Javon	Derby	Sheitlon			08/29/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			BYB - three cats and 11 dogs. PanvoFLR COMPLY RABIES CONTROL ORD,FLR COMPLY DOG OWNERSHIP REQs				
Cox	Robert	Stamford	Nonwalk			03/16/24		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Assault 2, Strangulation 2nd degree, threatening				
Cruz Cruz	Nelson	Waterbury	New Britain					<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Cockfighting				
Curtiss	Ana	New Britain						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>			Police found an emaciated dog and 2 kittens during a dv incident.				
Dancer	Khalea	New Haven	East Haven					<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>			No rabies vaccination, fir to comply dog ownership reqs				
DeJesus	Joshua	Bridgeport				09/08/23		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Interfering with officers/resisting				

2024 Animal Abuse Cases | Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noile - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE	
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes	
Delvalle	Jahmy	Bridgeport	Bridgeport		06/26/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input type="checkbox"/>		5 emaciated dogs left in building he rented.	
Demitraszek	Anthony	Rockville					<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		<input type="checkbox"/>		Shot & killed dog at neighbors request	
Dix	Joel King	Manchester					<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown		<input type="checkbox"/>		1 count cruelty to animals	
Elalfi	Samir Sami	Waterbury					<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Flake	Akinlabe	Hartford					<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		<input type="checkbox"/>		Stabbed a dog	
Flanagan	Patrick	Torrington					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Beat his Italian Mastiff so hard his hand was swollen and injured.	
Gatling	Karenlynne	New Britain	Southington		11/30/23		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		<input type="checkbox"/>		Failed to report a dog she was caring for had been shot by her boyfriend. Co-defendant Mauricio McElrath.	
Godek	Judith	Meriden			10/10/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding		<input type="checkbox"/>		37 dogs	
Gonzalez	Ariana	New London					<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown		<input type="checkbox"/>			
Hinton	Darryl	Bridgeport	Stratford		10/28/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input type="checkbox"/>		Abandoned emaciated dog.	
Hunter	Denzel	New Haven					<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input type="checkbox"/>		Dumped 4 newborn kittens in dumpster. 3 died. Case Sealed	
Infante	Penelope	Waterbury					<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Abandoned Cane Corso in garage for over a month with no food or water. Case Sealed	
Jackson	Justice	Stamford					<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input type="checkbox"/>		Left dog in hot car. Case Sealed	
Jackson	Elijah	New Haven					<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect		<input type="checkbox"/>		Abandoned his dog and threatened animal control officer	
Johnson-Coverson	Hezekiah	Derby	Ansonia		07/05/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect		<input type="checkbox"/>		Kept dogs in deplorable conditions. 11 dogs and 3 cats seized. Two dogs so bad they had to be euthanized.	
Jones	Shrina	Milford			08/11/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		<input type="checkbox"/>		Beat a small Yorkie dog. Rearrest ordered 10/9/24 - other pending cases awaiting dispositions	
Joseph	Christopher	Rockville					<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		<input type="checkbox"/>		Shot neighbors dog in the face. Case Sealed - currently no animal cruelty charges	
Kontout	Justin	Waterbury					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent		<input type="checkbox"/>		Beat dog and killed cat. Case Sealed	
Lackhan	Arianna	Bridgeport	Stratford		08/06/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input type="checkbox"/>		2 counts cruelty to animals, abandonment	
Lamm	Edward	New Britain	Branford		10/30/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect		<input type="checkbox"/>		Charged with one count of Cruelty to Animals along with other violent crimes.	
LaPrade	Dalton	Danielson					<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input type="checkbox"/>		Abandoned dog tied to a gate with no food or water. Case Sealed	
LaPrade	Josette	Danielson	Plainfield		10/10/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment		<input type="checkbox"/>		Abandoned dog tied to a gate with no food or water.	

2024 Animal Abuse Cases | Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noie - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE			
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes				
Lis	Sandra	Rockville	Coventry			09/19/24		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Over 100 animals seized including horses, pigs, dogs, cats, rabbits, goats, and various species of birds and fowl. 8 animals found dead in freezer.				
Lis	Kristal	Rockville	Coventry			09/18/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Over 100 animals seized including horses, pigs, dogs, cats, rabbits, goats, and various species of birds and fowl. 8 animals found dead in freezer.				
Lopez	Daniel	Bridgeport						<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Case Sealed				
Rosales	Allen	Manchester						<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Beat his dog in the head with a closed fist inside a veterinary office. Case Sealed				
Lozada	Daniel	Waterbury						<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Cockfighting				
Maccarone	Justin	Danielson	Willimantic			12/01/22		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Abandoned emaciated dog				
Madera	Veronica	Manchester						<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>			1 Count cruelty to animals and 1 count obstruct animal control officer				
McElrath	Maurice	New Britain	Southington			01/03/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Shot and killed dog that girlfriend was caring for. Criminal possession of pistol/ revolver, ill discharge of firearm				
Mullings-Reeves	Devon	New Britain	New Britain			05/10/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Witnessed violently beating a 3-4 month old puppy (caught on video). Breach of peace 2nd degree				
Nozier	Jolissa	Waterbury						<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>			Nearly starved dog to death. Case Sealed				
Ornelli	Jennifer	Torrington						<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>			Neglected a dog in her care. Case Sealed				
Ortiz	Rolondo	New Britain	Newington			04/05/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Tether dog bad weather, no rabies vaccination, failure to appear second degree				
Ospina	Marc	Bridgeport						<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>			3 dogs seized. All were in very poor condition having been nearly starved. Also, old untreated injuries were found. Case Sealed				
Palace	Arthur	Bridgeport	Stratford			01/30/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		15 counts of cruelty to animals. Abandoned cats in crate.				
Petree	Linda	Danielson						<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>			9 horses and 4 mini ponies were seized being emaciated. Case Sealed				
Prince	Erika	Waterbury						<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>			Abandoned 2 dogs. Case Sealed				
Ragland	Josephine	Middletown	CSP Troop F			09/13/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Owner of Wagging Good. Severe neglect. Dog died and was dumped.				
Ramos-Cordero	Jose	Hartford	Farmington			09/09/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	Sexual Contact	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Attempted to engage a dog in sexual activity.				
Redwan	Juan	Waterbury						<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent	<input type="checkbox"/>			Cockfighting				

2024 Animal Abuse Cases | Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		Noile - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE	
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes		
Rivera	Juan	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	08/22/21		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	3 counts cruelty to animals. Failure to appear 2nd degree			
Roberts	Carmello	Meriden	Meriden	05/14/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	Brutally murdered neighbors cat.			
Roberts	Leroy	Torrington	Probation Department	11/22/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	In December 2022, Roberts was convicted of Malicious Wund/KILL Animal 1st and was sentenced to 5 Years Jail. Execution Suspended After 15 Months. Probation 5 Years. He has violated the terms of probation and has been arrested. Violation of Protective Order, Violation of Probation Abandoned 2 cats then ran them over killing one. Case Sealed			
Rodriguez	Ana	New Britain				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	1 count MALICIOUS WUND/KILL ANIMAL 1ST - Class D Felony Violation of protective order			
Rodriguez-Horvath	Anthony	Waterbury	Naugatuck	03/31/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	Scalora did not successfully complete AR and was arrested again (multiple times). The past charges have now been upgraded and she faces 16 counts - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SBS OFFENSE - ALL CLASS D FELONIES.			
Scalora	Nicolina	Torrington	Torrington	05/16/22 01/28/25		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VOP	Scalora did not successfully complete AR and was arrested again (multiple times). The past charges have now been upgraded and she faces 16 counts - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SBS OFFENSE - ALL CLASS D FELONIES.			
Schultz	Natasha	Derby	Derby	03/12/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	Left 4 mo old puppy tied out through snowstorm. Puppy was emaciated, not provided food, water and was muzzled. Hoarded nearly 100 animals.			
Semrau	Lori	New Haven	Derby	03/12/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	Left 4 mo old puppy tied out through snowstorm. Puppy was emaciated, not provided food, water and was muzzled. Hoarded nearly 100 animals.			
Serrano	Carlos	Derby	Derby	09/10/23		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	1 count Cruelty to Animals. Criminal impersonation, resisting, breach of peace 2nd degree.			
Sevane	Stuart	Manchester	East Hartford	11/15/23		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	Left 4 mo old puppy tied out through snowstorm. Puppy was emaciated, not provided food, water and was muzzled.			
Shepard	Gary	Rockville	North Branford	05/23/24		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	1 count Cruelty to Animals. Criminal impersonation, resisting, breach of peace 2nd degree.			
Silva	Arnoldo	New Haven	North Branford			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	F	Dog died in DUI crash			
Silverence	Justin	Torrington	Torrington			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	Slammed cat on pavement during dispute. Disorderly conduct, physical assault 2nd degree, criminal mischief 3rd degree, failure to appear 2nd degree			
Snarski	Raymond	Manchester				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Case Sealed			
Sullivan	Jose	Waterbury				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Sold 7 one week old puppies and dumped their mother. Case Sealed			

2024 Animal Abuse Cases | Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

		Fully Suspended - GREEN	Jail - BLUE	Diversionary Program - RED	Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW	Noie - ORANGE	Uncategorized - GREY	Not Yet Disposed - WHITE				
Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Dispos	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes
Squeglia	Nyisha	Bridgeport	Bridgeport		10/07/23		Violent			F		Caught on video beating her pit bull type dog to death. Nearly 15 minutes of footage.
Stillings White	Corrina	Middletown						✓				
Sulinski	Brenna	New London								Abandonment		
Tran	Donny	Hartford								Abandonment		
Vasquez	Jessica	Milford								Neglect		
Ward	Jamie	Manchester								Abandonment		
Witt	Jacqueline	Middletown	CSP Troop F		09/06/24					Unknown		
Young	Tatiana	New Britain								Neglect		
Zacccone	Domenico	Stamford								Unknown		
Zumbo	Danielle	Bridgeport								Violent		
Zuraitis	Rebecca	Waterbury	Wolcott		09/11/24					Unknown		
										Abandonment		
										✓		
												ORIGINAL CASE Sentenced on 6/15/22 to 364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 1 Year

2025 Animal Abuse Cases (Through June 30, 2025)

| Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Disposition	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes	Uncategorized - GREY	Nolle - ORANGE	Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW	Jail - BLUE	Diversionary Program - RED	Fully Suspended - GREEN
Galindez-Rivera	Julio	Waterbury	Naugatuck	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 2 Years.	01/28/25	03/19/25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Claimed to have found an emaciated chihuahua, later found to be the owner and responsible for the dogs condition.						
Maccarone	Justin	Danielson	Willimantic	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 1 Year	12/01/22	01/09/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment	<input type="checkbox"/>	M		Emaciated dog found wandering, Interfered With Officer/Resisting, 2 Counts Risk Of Injury To Child						
Scalora	Nicolina	Torrington	Torrington	11 Months Jail, Execution Suspended, Probation 3 Years	05/16/22	01/28/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	VOP		Scalora did not successfully complete AR and was arrested again (multiple times). The past charges have now been upgraded and she faces 16 counts - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SBS OFFENSE - ALL CLASS D FELONIES.						
Bassett	Wesley	Middletown	CSP Troop F	6 Months Jail		02/04/25	06/03/25	Violent				5 Shot his dog and threw the body in the woods for the coyotes to eat. Also sentenced to 5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 2 Years, Probation 3 Years on Crim Possess Pistol/Revolver and 3 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 1 Year, Probation 3 Years on ILL Open Mv Und Influ(3rd Subs). All sentences to be served CONCURRENTLY						
Brantley	Silvester	Meriden	Hamden	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended After 30 Days, Probation 2 Years		01/06/25	04/21/25	Neglect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	M	5 Extreme neglect						
Collazo	Matthew	New Britain	New Britain	Collazo was sentenced to 11 months to serve on the Cruelty to Animals charge. He was also sentenced to 10 years, suspended after 3 yrs and 3 yrs probation on other charges. To be served CONCURRENTLY. The court ordered that he be banned from owning, living with, or working with animals for 5 years after his release.	06/15/23	04/25/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		M	Beat dog breaking her paw and dislocating her hips. Assault 3rd, Vio Prot Ord/Threat/Haras/Assalt. Previous charges including Assist 2-Ser Phys Inj W/Weapon, Assault 3rd Deg, Vi Prot Ord-Threat/Haras/Assalt, several Violation of Probation charges							
Roberts	Leroy	Torrington	Probation Dept	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 15 Months, Probation 5 Years	06/01/20	12/20/22	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		F	In December 2022, Roberts was convicted of Malicious Wund/KILL Animal 1st and was sentenced to 5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 15 Months, Probation 5 Years. He has violated the terms of probation and has been arrested. Violation of Protective Order, Violation of Probation/Violation of Protective Order, Violation of Probation. Previous criminal record including Asslt 3- Victim Elderly Or Other		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					

2025 Animal Abuse Cases (Through June 30, 2025)

| Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Dispositiion	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes
Rodriguez-Horvath	Anthony	Waterbury	Naugatuck	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 15 Months, Probation 3 Years. This sentence runs concurrent with a sentence of 5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 15 Months, Probation 3 Years for a Violation of Protective Order	03/31/24	02/07/25	Violent			F		1 count MALICIOUS WUND/KILL ANIMAL 1ST - Class D Felony Violation of protective order. Lengthy criminal history including violence, weapons, drugs.
Silva	Arnoldo	New Haven	N. Branford	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 17 Months, Probation 3 Years						F		
Squeglia	Nyisha	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 14 Months, Probation 3 Years	11/15/23	04/09/25				F		
Sulinski	Brenna	New London	Watford	364 Days Jail, Execution Suspended After 90 Days, Probation 2 Years	10/07/23	02/11/25		Violent		F		
Ames Daniels	Laquita	Manchester		18 mo. Diversionary Program Granted	01/05/22	05/19/25		✓				
Bradford	Janiya	Manchester		2 yr. Diversionary Program	06/16/25			Abandonment				3 Owner of extremely emaciated, hypothermic dog found roaming. Case Sealed
Burton	Nancy	Danbury		2 yr. Diversionary Program	03/27/25			Abandonment				8 Tied dog by the collar to a tree limb in a wildlife sanctuary.
Demitraszek	Anthony	Rockville		2 yr. Diversionary Program	2020	03/19/25		Hoarding		M		32 65 live goats and 40-50 deceased goats. Program Rescinded, the reinstated Shot & killed dog at owners request
Donovan	Tracy	Danielson	CSP Troop D	2 yr. Diversionary Program Granted	01/06/25			Violent				Case Sealed - 96 dogs, 2 cats, 2 exotic birds, 1 wild rabbit, and 2 goats
Flanagan	Patrick	Torrington		6 mo Diversionary Program	09/04/25			Hoarding				Beat his Italian Mastiff so hard his hand was swollen and injured.
Hicks	Kathleen	Waterbury		2 yr. Diversionary Program	05/23/25			Violent				
Hinton	Darryl	Bridgeport		2 yr. Diversionary Program	04/28/25			Unknown				Abandoned emaciated dog.
Hoskins	Chelsea	Rockville		6 mo. Diversionary Program	01/27/25			Abandonment				dog owner's girlfriend who helped to distract dog as he was shot to death.
Infante	Penelope	Waterbury		2 yr. Diversionary Program	09/29/25			Violent				Abandoned Cane Corso in garage for over a month with no food or water. Case Sealed
Jackson	Justice Sherman	Stamford		18 mo. Diversionary Program	02/10/25			Neglect				7 puppies died in van - importing
LaPrade	Josette	Danielson		1 yr. Diversionary Program	11/30/26			Abandonment				Abandoned dog tied to a gate with no food or water.
LaPrade	Dalton	Danielson	Plainfield	Diversionary Program Granted	10/10/24			Abandonment		M		5 Abandoned dog tied to a gate with no food or water. Case Sealed

2025 Animal Abuse Cases (Through June 30, 2025)

| Desmond's Army Animal Law Advocates

Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Disposit Dom Vio	Includes Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Times on Docket	Uncategorized - GREY	Not Yet Disposed - WHITE
Lopez Rosales	Daniel	Bridgeport		18 mo. Diversionary Program	09/11/26	Unknown				1 Count cruelty to animals and 1 count obstruct animal control officer	
Madera	Veronica	Manchester		2 yr. Diversionary Program	03/24/25	Unknown				Case Sealed	
Matthews	Michael	Waterbury		Diversionary Program Granted	06/16/25	Violent		F		Case Sealed - Allegedly caused 9 broken ribs, cranial damage and other injuries to a 9 weeks old puppy.	
Nozier	Jolissa	Waterbury		1 yr. Diversionary Program	03/26/25	Neglect		F		Nearly starved dog to death. Case Sealed	
Pavano	Benjamin	New London		18 mo. Diversionary Program	07/30/25	Violent		F		Case Sealed. Maiming a federally-protected species of egret	
Petree	Linda	Danielson		2 yr. Diversionary Program	05/06/25	Neglect				9 horses and 4 mini ponies were seized	
Prince	Erika	Waterbury		1 yr Diversionary Program	03/11/26	Abandonment		M		being emaciated. Case Sealed	
Rodriguez	Ana	New Britain	Southington	2 yr. SDP Program Granted	06/23/25	Violent		M		13 Abandoned 2 cats then ran them over	
Santiago	Rafealito	New Britain	New Britain	Incompetent, unrecoverable	11/12/23	04/08/25	Violent			11 Abandoned 2 cats then ran them over killing one. Case Sealed	
Semrau	Lori	New Haven		2 yr. Diversionary Program	03/12/25					Deemed incompetent - unrecoverable. Has since been arrested again on numerous charges.	
Snarski	Raymond	Manchester		1 yr Diversionary Program	02/20/25					Has since been arrested again on numerous charges.	
Solivan	Jose	Waterbury		2 yr. AR	04/22/25	Neglect				Hoarded nearly 100 animals.	
Tran	Donny	Hartford		2 yr. Diversionary Program	01/29/25					Sold 7 one week old puppies and dumped	
Zumbo	Danielle	Bridgeport	Middletown	2 yr. Diversionary Program	05/08/25					their mother. Case Sealed	
Abdul-Bashir	Rashid			Dismissed	04/24/25	Abandonment				1 count cruelty to animals. Case Sealed	
Aviles	Tyshall	Waterbury		Dismissed						28	
Baret-Valdez	Felanyely	Hartford		Dismissed	03/27/25	Violent				9 Abandoned a pitbull puppy on a hiking trail.	
Berrios	Anthony	Waterbury		Dismissed	02/18/25	Violent		F		4 Cockfighting	
Cruz Cruz	Nelson	Waterbury		Dismissed						10 Charged with a Class D felony of MALICIOUS WOUND/KILL ANIMAL 1ST. Barrett-Valdez was convicted on other charges of Burglary and Arson. She was sentenced to 2 yrs in jail and 5 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 30 Months, Probation 3 Years respectively.	
										10 Sentenced on one count Assault 3rd degree, Disorderly conduct and Crim Vio Of Restraining Order. It appears that animal cruelty charges were dismissed as part of a plea deal.	
										Reckless Driving, Risk of Ing to a child, Assault 3rd, Reckless Endangerment, Disorderly Conduct, Threatening	
										Cockfighting	

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				Diversionary Program - RED	Jail - BLUE	Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - RED					
Curtiss	Ana	New Britain	Dismissed			02/26/25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neglect			Police found an emaciated dog and 2 kittens during a dv incident.
Hughs	Tracy	Rockville	Dismissed			04/10/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown			
Nagle	James	Waterbury	Dismissed			04/15/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect			neglected to obtain veterinary care for his injured dog.
Redwan	Juan	Waterbury	Dismissed			01/31/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent			Cockfighting
Shepard	Gary	Rockville	Dismissed			03/17/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown			Dog died in DUI crash
VanDoren	Derek	Rockville	Dismissed			05/08/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown			Hoarded more than 30 cats
Zarins	Gregory	Torrington	Dismissed				<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect			six dogs, eight cats, a bearded dragon lizard, and one hedgehog living in poor and unsanitary conditions.
Dix	Joel King	Manchester	Nolle			03/11/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown			1 Count Cruelty to Animals
Fernandez	Susan	Bridgeport	Nolle			04/30/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect			72 Counts of IMPORT DOG/CAT WO HEALTH CERT
Godek	Judith	Meriden	Nolle			04/23/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding			37 dogs
Taylor	James H	Bridgeport	Nolle			04/09/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown			
Dancer	Khalea	New Haven	NOT GUILTY			02/05/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neglect			
Aldridge	Wesley	Stamford	CSP Troop G			08/28/24	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		M	9 counts of Cruelty to Animals. Dancer allegedly left 6 puppies and 3 adult dogs outside in extreme heat with no shelter and no food/water. The puppies were in a crate and the adult dogs were chained. All were unable to get out of the sun and were in distress.
Almonte	Kayelani	Rockville					<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment			3 Chocked police K9. Failure to renew registration, assault to police, disorderly conduct, resisting
Anderson	Mackenzie	Danielsan	CSP Troop D			04/03/25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent			19 Abandoned an ill dog in crate. Case sealed
Arteza	John	Derby	Oxford			03/05/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hoarding		M	4 Stabbed girlfriend and killed their cat stating "That's how I parent, and it's just an animal"
Ashley	Ricardo	Waterbury	Waterbury			04/03/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		M	4 30 dogs, 1 dead
Bakota	Krysztof	Derby	Shelton			11/01/24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Violent		M	3 Allegedly beat dog with shovel breaking it over dog's back.
Barry	Ryan	Hartford					<input type="checkbox"/>	Abandonment			10 Threw kitten into a table, then off of a deck killing it, because it was annoying him.
Bou	Maria Bella	Bridgeport					<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown			6 Abandoned dog at park in freezing temperatures. Case Sealed
Briceno	Jose	Bridgeport				04/03/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		M	12 Charges increased to MALICIOUS WUND/KILL ANIMAL 1ST, a class D Felony. Case Sealed
Cartagena	Stephanie	Hartford				01/10/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown		M	Caught on video beating his dog.
Cassella	Spencer	New Haven				04/14/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Violent		M	7 Count Cruelty to Animals
Cauley	Fosie	Manchester	East Hartford			04/08/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown		F	3 charged with first-degree malicious wounding/killing an animal.
Cervantes	Eladio	New Haven				04/07/25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown		M	3 Obstruct Animal Control Officer
										M	4

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Champion	Robert	Waterbury	Waterbury		10/23/22			Violent		M	30	Killed girlfriend's dog. Risk Injury to child, Breach of peace 2nd degree, Assault 3rd degree. ON 7/17 CHAMPION WAS ARRESTED AGAIN FOR CRIMINAL TRESPASS AND VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER. Rearrest ordered 3/4/25
Chernesky	Michelle	Waterbury	Watertown					Neglect	✓	M		Severe neglect
Chisholm	Matthew	Daniels	Putnam		03/13/25			Violent	✓	M		Beat his 6-month-old German Shepherd with a 2x4
Cimmino	Thomas	Bridgeport	Stratford		01/29/25			Unknown		M	21	1 Count Cruelty to Animals, No dog/cat rabies vaccination, fir comply dog ownership reqs. Many other charges including Assault 2, strangulation, threatening, unlawful restraint, violation of protection order.
Connelly	Joann	Rockville	CSP Troop K		05/12/23					M	22	Posed as a rescue organization. Many animals kept in horrific conditions. On trial list since 1/12/24.
Cortez	Davey	Manchester	Probation Dept		03/25/22			Hoarding	✓	M		
Coverson	Assante	Manchester	Probation Dept		08/14/24			Violent		M	11	2 counts of VOP, Disorderly Conduct, Assault 3rd Degree, III Open MV Und influ (2nd Off). Interfering w/an emerge call, disorderly conduct. Cortez received 1 Year Jail, Execution Suspended After 6 Months. Probation 2 Years for an animal cruelty charge in 2019
Coverson	Javon	Manchester	Probation Dept							M		
Cox	Robert	Stamford	Nonwalk						✓	M		
DeJesus	Joshua	Bridgeport	Bridgeport		06/06/24			BYB	✓	M	10	BYB - three cats and 11 dogs. Parvo
DeKorte	Brianna J.	Middletown	Probation Dept		08/29/24			BYB	✓	M	8	BYB - three cats and 11 dogs. Parvo FLR COMPLY RABIES CONTROL ORD FLR COMPLY DOG OWNERSHIP REQ
Delvalle	Jahmy	Bridgeport	Bridgeport		03/16/24			Violent	✓	M	6	Witnessed kicking a dog during an altercation. ASSLT 2- VCTM ELDERLY OR OTHER, STRANGULTN/SUFFOCATE-2ND DEGRE, THREATENING 2-PHYSICAL THREAT
Desnoyers	Kelley	Bridgeport	Bridgeport		09/28/23			Violent	✓	M	21	Many other pending felony cases
Desnoyers	Nicole	Daniels	CSP Troop D		05/06/25			Hoarding	✓	M	4	Hoarder, repeat offender. Also VOP, & MV charges
Dunn	Willie	Manchester	East Hartford		06/26/24			Abandonment	✓	M	10	5 emaciated dogs left in building he rented.
Garcia	Erick	Waterbury			04/16/25			Hoarding	✓	M	2	40 animals
					04/16/25			Hoarding	✓	M	2	40 animals
					03/20/25			Abandonment	✓	M	3	multiple emaciated dogs seized. Also alleged that 2 abused cats left in home.
					02/04/25			Neglect	✓			

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Last Name	First Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty	Arrest Date	Date of Dispositon	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony on Docket	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes
Gatling	Karenlynne	New Britain	Southington		11/30/23			Violent		M	12	Failed to report a dog she was caring for had been shot by her boyfriend. Co-defendant Maurice McElrath. Risk of Injury to child
Grimes	Tyler	Torrington	CSP Troop B		02/14/25			Neglect		M	4	Police found one dead dog and two malnourished cats. Rearrest Ordered 3/25/25
Hunter	Denzel	New Haven	Branford		08/15/23			Abandonment			20	Case Sealed - dumped 4 newborn kittens in dumpster - 3 died
Jefferson- Johnson- Coverson	Anthony Hezekiah	Bridgeport Derby	Stratford Ansonia		05/11/25			Neglect		M	2	Severe neglect - emaciated dog
Jones	Shrina	Milford	Milford		07/05/24			Neglect		M	10	Kept dogs in deplorable conditions. 11 dogs and 3 cats seized. Two dogs so bad they had to be euthanized.
Joseph	Christopher	Rockville			08/17/24			Violent		M	2	Beat a small yorkie dog. Rearrest ordered 10/9/24 - other pending cases awaiting dispositions
Kontout	Justin	Waterbury						Violent			17	Shot neighbors dog in the face. Case Sealed - currently no animal cruelty charges
Kostenko	Michael	Waterbury	Naugatuck			01/22/25		Abandonment		M	7	VOP - Abandoned 2 dogs. Numerous pending charges included 2 Violations of Probation.
Kovalik	Cynthia Arianna	Bridgeport Bridgeport	CSP Troop G Stratford		12/22/24			Unknown Abandonment		M	4	one count Cruelty to Animals
Lackhan Lamm	Edward	New Britain	Branford		08/06/24			Unknown		M	11	12 counts of Cruelty to Animals
Lis	Sandra	Rockville	Coventry		10/30/24						4	One count Cruelty to Animals. Several pending felony cases
Lis	Kristal	Rockville	Coventry		09/19/24			Hoarding		M	8	Over 100 animals seized including horses, pigs, dogs, cats, rabbits, goats, and various species of birds and fowl. 8 animals found dead in freezer.
Lozada	Allen	Manchester	East Hartford		09/18/24			Hoarding		M	9	Over 100 animals seized including horses, pigs, dogs, cats, rabbits, goats, and various species of birds and fowl. 8 animals found dead in freezer.
Lussier	Victoria	Daniels			02/23/24			Violent		M	13	Beat his dog in the head with a closed fist inside a veterinary office Case Sealed
McElrath	Maurice	New Britain	Southington		01/03/24			Neglect			4	13 Counts of Cruelty to Animals. 2 horses, 3 dogs, 3 cats, 2 kittens, and 3 geese were seized after being found to be severely neglected.
Monachan	Sherin	Milford	West Haven		02/14/25			Violent		M	13	Shot dog. CRIM POSSESS PISTOL/ REVOLVER, ILL DISCHARGE OF FIREARM
								Violent		M		Caught on surveillance camera punching her dog 36 times

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Fully Suspended - GREEN		Jail - BLUE		Diversionary Program - RED		Dismissed/Uncond Discharge - YELLOW		None - ORANGE		Uncategorized - GREY		Not Yet Disposed - WHITE	
First Name	Last Name	Court Location	Arresting Agency	Sentence for Animal Cruelty		Arrest Date	Date of Disposition	Includes Dom Vio	Type of Crime	VOP	Misd or Felony	Times on Docket	Other Charges/Notes
Moore	Cord	New Britain	Bristol	04/15/25	Unknown								
Moreau	Andrew	Rockville	Coventry	11/13/24	Violent								dog owner who requested that his dog be shot to death.
Mullings-Reeves	Devon	New Britain	New Britain	05/10/24	Violent	Violent							Several other pending charges. Caught on video violently beating a 3-4 month old puppy
Nazario	Kiran	New Britain	Probation Dept	04/10/24	Violent	Violent	✓						Beat girlfriend's 4 month old kitten to death. Violation of probation, first violation
Neuberger	Raymond	Bridgeport	Probation Dept	04/29/25	Violent	Violent	✓						SENTENCED ON 12/7/23 - Malicious Wound/KILL Animal 1st. Class D Felony, 3 Years Jail, Execution Suspended After 17 Months, Probation 4 Years. Many many violent charges.
Ornelli	Jennifer	Torrington	New Britain	04/05/24	Neglect	Neglect	✓						Neglected a dog in her care. Case Sealed
Ortiz	Rolondo	New Britain	Newington		Neglect	Neglect	✓						Tether dog bad weather, no rabies vaccination, failure to appear second degree
Ospina	Marc	Bridgeport			Neglect	Neglect							3 dogs seized. All were in very poor condition having been nearly starved. Also, old untreated injuries were found. Case Sealed
Otero	Carlos	Waterbury	Wolcott	03/18/25	Abandonment	Abandonment	✓						3 dogs seized - nearly starved to death. CRIMINAL TRESPASS 3RD DEG
Palace	Arthur	Bridgeport	Stratford	01/30/24	Abandonment	Abandonment	✓						13 Counts of Cruelty to Animals. Abandoned cats in crate
Patrizz	Tre	Manchester	S. Windsor	03/03/25	Violent	Violent	✓						4 Dragged his dog behind his vehicle. TETHR DOG OBJCT/MOB DEV NO WTR
Pirie	Joshua	Torrington	CSP Troop L	03/14/25	Violent	Violent	✓						1 Strangled 11 yr old dog. DISORDERLY CONDUCT, BURGLARY 2ND DEG, POSSESSION OF BURGLAR TOOLS, CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 1ST DEG, INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTING, 2 counts ASSLT PB SFTY/EMT/TRANST/HLTH, RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT 1ST DEG, RISK OF INJURY TO CHILD, THREATENING 2-PHYSICAL THREAT, ACCESSORY TO HOME INVASION
Ragland	Josephine	Middleton	CSP Troop F	09/13/24	Neglect	Neglect	✓						9 Owner of Wagging Good. Severe neglect. Dog died and was dumped.
Ramos-Cordero	Jose	Hartford	Farmington	09/09/24	Sexual Contact	Sexual Contact	✓						7 Attempted to engage a dog in sexual activity. BURGLARY 3RD DEG, DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Reid	David	Torrington			Hoarding	Hoarding	✓						Case Sealed - Co-Defendant Sarah Smolak - neglect/hoarding/cruelty

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Rivera	Juan	Bridgeport	Bridgeport	08/22/21	05/15/24	Unknown	Violent		M	3	Counts Cruelty to Animals
Roberts	Carmello	Meriden	Meriden						F	10	Brutally murdered neighbors cat, CARRYING A DANGEROUS WEAPON, INTERFERE WITH OFFCR/RESISTING, WEAPON-CORRECTIONS INSTITUTION
Sanchez	Alijah	New Britain	Bristol	04/10/25		Unknown			M	2	FALSE INCIDENT REPORT 2ND DEG, OBSTRUCT ANIMAL CNTRL OFFICER
Scalora	Nicolina	Torrington	Torrington	05/09/25		Hoarding			M	3	Scalora did not successfully complete AR and was arrested again (multiple times). The past charges have now been upgraded and she faces 16 counts - CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SBS OFFENSE - ALL CLASS D FELONIES.
Schular	Shane	New Britain	CSP Troop L	06/13/24		Neglect			M	10	Dog suffered THC Toxicity, RISK OF INJURY TO CHILD, STRANGULTN/ SUFFOCATE-3RD DEG, ASSAULT 3RD DEG-PHYSCL INJURY, DISORDERLY CONDUCT, THREAT 2ND-VIOLNCE TO TERRORZE, HARASS 2ND-WRTN/ ELECTNC COMM
Schultz	Natasha	Derby	Derby	03/12/24		Neglect			M	12	Left 4 mo old puppy tied out through snowstorm. Puppy was emaciated, not provided food, water and was muzzled.
Serrano	Carlos	Derby	Derby	03/12/24		Neglect			M	17	Left 4 mo old puppy tied out through snowstorm. Puppy was emaciated, not provided food, water and was muzzled.
Sevone	Stuart	Manchester	E. Hartford	09/10/23		Unknown			M	11	1 count Cruelty to Animals. Criminal impersonation, resisting,breaching of peace 2nd degree.
Silverence	Justin	Torrington	Torrington	05/23/24		Unknown			M	5	Slammed cat on pavement during dispute. Disorderly conduct, physical assault 2nd degree, criminal mischief 3rd degree, failure to appear 2nd degree
Smolak	Sarah	Torrington	Winchester	03/18/25	04/10/25	Hoarding			F	3	CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SBS OFFENSE
Smolak	Sarah	Torrington	Winchester	03/18/25	04/10/25	Hoarding			M	3	36 Counts of Cruelty to Animals
Smolak	Sarah	Torrington	Winchester	03/18/25	04/10/25	Hoarding			M	1	1 Count Cruelty to Animals
Smolak	Sarah	Torrington	Winchester	04/10/25	04/22/25	Hoarding			M	2	2 Counts Cruelty to Animals
Smolak	Sarah	Stamford	Nonwalk	04/22/25	05/08/25	Hoarding			F	3	CRUELTY TO ANIMALS SBS OFFENSE
Smolak	Sarah	Stamford	Nonwalk	05/08/25	05/12/25	Hoarding			M	1	1 Count Cruelty to Animals
Steele	Niambi	Bridgeport	Stratford	05/12/25		Neglect			M	2	Severe neglect, OBSTRUCT ANIMAL CNTRL OFFICER,
Stillings	Corrina	Middletown	Middletown	01/23/24		Abandonment			M	16	Abandoned her dog in an empty apartment with no food or water. The dog was very close to death when found

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Thomas	Elaine	Manchester	E. Hartford		05/08/25			Abandonment		M	2	One count of Cruelty to Animals, a Class A misdemeanor, after allegedly dumping a pregnant bulldog mix in active labor in a parking lot in the middle of winter. Both mother and puppies died.
Torres	Junior	New Britain	New Britain		09/10/24			Neglect		M	7	Emaciated dog and 2 kittens found during a DV incident. Risk of injury to child went to jail.
Trent	Timothy	Meriden	Hamden		05/06/25			Neglect		M	3	4 dogs & 2 chickens seized after owner went to jail.
Vasquez	Jessica	Milford						Abandonment			9	Abandoned emaciated dog in crate in hotel room. Case Sealed
Vasquez	Doryann	Waterbury	Naugatuck		02/13/25			Unknown		M	4	1 Count Cruelty to Animals
Witt	Jacqueline	Middletown	CSP Troop F		09/06/24			Neglect		M	9	Dumped dog that died of heat stroke. 4 counts Cruelty to Animals, TAMPERING-PHYSICAL EVIDENCE
Worthy	Thomas	Meriden	Hamden		11/25/24			Violent		M	7	Beat dog with baseball bat. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF 2ND DEG, BREACH OF PEACE 2ND DEG
Young	Tatiyana	New Britain						Unknown			13	Case Sealed
Zacccone	Domenico	Stamford						Violent			11	Brutally killed uncles dog. Case Sealed
Zuraitis	Rebecca	Waterbury						Unknown				Probation terminated

Section 2:

Pretrial Diversionary Programs in Animal Cruelty Cases

Statement on the Overuse of Pretrial Diversionary Programs in Animal Cruelty Cases

Connecticut's Accelerated Rehabilitation (AR) and Supervised Diversionary programs were created for non-serious offenses and defendants unlikely to reoffend. However, these programs are being inappropriately applied to serious animal cruelty cases, including those involving physical abuse, neglect, and hoarding. These are not minor infractions—such cases often involve prolonged suffering, unsanitary and dangerous conditions, and repeated behavior that endangers both animals and the public.

Animal hoarding, in particular, is a compulsive disorder characterized by chronic offending and mass animal suffering. **It should be categorically ineligible for diversion.** Allowing individuals with clear patterns of harm to enter programs meant for low-level offenders contradicts the law's intent.

Even more concerning, violators of diversion conditions rarely face consequences—cases are not returned to trial, and accountability is lost. Additionally, courts almost never require participation in certified programs such as B.A.R.C. (Benchmark Animal Rehabilitative Curriculum) or assign community service related to animal welfare. Without education or restorative action, the risk of reoffense remains high.

Furthermore, the erasure of criminal records through these programs poses a serious public safety risk. **Animal cruelty has well-documented links to domestic violence and other violent crimes.** When records are sealed or erased, future investigators, prosecutors, and animal protection agencies are left without critical information. Animal cruelty should result in a permanent, accessible record, both to deter future harm and support stronger intervention in repeat cases.

We urge Connecticut policymakers to:

- Prohibit AR and Supervised Diversionary programs in serious or repeat animal cruelty cases;
- Require mandatory education, restitution and meaningful community service for all diversion-eligible offenders;
- Ensure a lasting criminal record is retained in all substantiated animal cruelty cases.

Failing to act perpetuates harm and weakens our justice system's ability to protect animals and vulnerable people alike.

Connecticut has made historic progress in animal welfare. To maintain this leadership, it must now close the gaps that allow serious cruelty to go unpunished and unseen.

Sec. 54-56e. (Formerly Sec. 54-76p). Accelerated pretrial rehabilitation.

(a) There shall be a pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation of persons accused of a crime or crimes or a motor vehicle violation or violations for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, **which crimes or violations are not of a serious nature**. Upon application by any such person for participation in the program, the court shall, but only as to the public, order the court file sealed.

(b) **The court may, in its discretion, invoke such program on motion of the defendant or on motion of a state's attorney or prosecuting attorney with respect to a defendant (1) who, the court believes, will probably not offend in the future, (2) who has no previous record of conviction of a crime or of a violation of section 14-196, subsection (c) of section 14-215, section 14-222a, subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of section 14-224, section 14-227a or 14-227m or subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, and (3) who states under oath, in open court or before any person designated by the clerk and duly authorized to administer oaths, under the penalties of perjury, (A) that the defendant has never had such program invoked on the defendant's behalf or that the defendant was charged with a misdemeanor or a motor vehicle violation for which a term of imprisonment of one year or less may be imposed and ten or more years have passed since the date that any charge or charges for which the program was invoked on the defendant's behalf were dismissed by the court, or (B) with respect to a defendant who is a veteran, that the defendant has not had such program invoked in the defendant's behalf more than once previously, provided the defendant shall agree thereto and provided notice has been given by the defendant, on a form prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, to the victim or victims of such crime or motor vehicle violation, if any, by registered or certified mail and such victim or victims have an opportunity to be heard thereon. Any defendant who makes application for participation in such program shall pay to the court an application fee of thirty-five dollars. No defendant shall be allowed to participate in the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation more than two times. For the purposes of this section, "veteran" means any person who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103.**

(c) This section shall not be applicable: (1) To any person charged with (A) a class A felony, (B) a class B felony, except a violation of subdivision (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-122 that does not involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person, or a violation of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-122 that does not involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person and does not involve a violation by a person who is a public official, as defined in section 1-110, or a state or municipal employee, as defined in section 1-110, or (C) a violation of section 53a-70b of the general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2019, or section 14-227a or 14-227m, subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-227n, subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 53-21 or section 53a-56b, 53a-60d, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-71, except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection, 53a-72a, 53a-72b, 53a-90a, 53a-196e or 53a-196f, (2) to any person charged with a crime or motor vehicle violation who, as a result of the commission of such crime or motor vehicle violation, causes the death of another person, (3) to any person accused of a family violence crime as defined in section 46b-38a who (A) is eligible for the pretrial family violence education program

established under section 46b-38c, or (B) has previously had the pretrial family violence education program invoked in such person's behalf, (4) to any person charged with a violation of section 21a-267 or 21a-279 who (A) is eligible for the pretrial drug education and community service program established under section 54-56i, or (B) has previously had the pretrial drug education program or the pretrial drug education and community service program invoked on such person's behalf, (5) unless good cause is shown, to (A) any person charged with a class C felony, or (B) any person charged with committing a violation of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of section 53a-71 while such person was less than four years older than the other person, (6) to any person charged with a violation of section 9-359 or 9-359a, (7) to any person charged with a motor vehicle violation (A) while operating a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, or (B) who holds a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's instruction permit at the time of the violation, (8) to any person charged with a violation of subdivision (6) of subsection (a) of section 53a-60, or (9) to a health care provider or vendor participating in the state's Medicaid program charged with a violation of section 53a-122 or subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of section 53a-123.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, any defendant who enters such program shall pay to the court a participation fee of one hundred dollars. Any defendant who enters such program shall agree to the tolling of any statute of limitations with respect to such crime and to a waiver of the right to a speedy trial. Any such defendant shall appear in court and shall, under such conditions as the court shall order, be released to the custody of the Court Support Services Division, except that, if a criminal docket for drug-dependent persons has been established pursuant to section 51-181b in the judicial district, such defendant may be transferred, under such conditions as the court shall order, to the court handling such docket for supervision by such court. **If the defendant refuses to accept, or, having accepted, violates such conditions, the defendant's case shall be brought to trial.** The period of such probation or supervision, or both, shall not exceed two years. If the defendant has reached the age of sixteen years but has not reached the age of eighteen years, the court may order that as a condition of such probation the defendant be referred for services to a youth service bureau established pursuant to section 10-19m, provided the court finds, through an assessment by a youth service bureau or its designee, that the defendant is in need of and likely to benefit from such services. **When determining any conditions of probation to order for a person entering such program who was charged with a misdemeanor that did not involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person or a motor vehicle violation, the court shall consider ordering the person to perform community service in the community in which the offense or violation occurred.** If the court determines that community service is appropriate, such community service may be implemented by a community court established in accordance with section 51-181c if the offense or violation occurred within the jurisdiction of a community court established by said section. If the defendant is charged with a violation of section 46a-58, 53-37a, 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l, the court may order that as a condition of such probation the defendant participate in a hate crimes diversion program as provided in subsection (e) of this section. **If a defendant is charged with a violation of section 53-247, the court may order that as a condition of such probation the defendant undergo psychiatric or psychological counseling or participate in an animal cruelty prevention and education program provided such a program exists and is available to the defendant.**

(e) If the court orders the defendant to participate in a hate crimes diversion program as a condition of probation, the defendant shall pay to the court a participation fee of four hundred twenty-five dollars. No person may be excluded from such program for inability to pay such fee, provided (1) such person files with the court an affidavit of indigency or inability to pay, (2)

such indigency or inability to pay is confirmed by the Court Support Services Division, and (3) the court enters a finding thereof. The Judicial Department shall contract with service providers, develop standards and oversee appropriate hate crimes diversion programs to meet the requirements of this section. Any defendant whose employment or residence makes it unreasonable to attend a hate crimes diversion program in this state may attend a program in another state which has standards substantially similar to, or higher than, those of this state, subject to the approval of the court and payment of the application and program fees as provided in this section. The hate crimes diversion program shall consist of an educational program and supervised community service.

(f) If a defendant released to the custody of the Court Support Services Division satisfactorily completes such defendant's period of probation, such defendant may apply for dismissal of the charges against such defendant and the court, on finding such satisfactory completion, shall dismiss such charges. If the defendant does not apply for dismissal of the charges against such defendant after satisfactorily completing such defendant's period of probation, the court, upon receipt of a report submitted by the Court Support Services Division that the defendant satisfactorily completed such defendant's period of probation, may on its own motion make a finding of such satisfactory completion and dismiss such charges. If a defendant transferred to the court handling the criminal docket for drug-dependent persons satisfactorily completes such defendant's period of supervision, the court shall release the defendant to the custody of the Court Support Services Division under such conditions as the court shall order or shall dismiss such charges. Upon dismissal, all records of such charges shall be erased pursuant to section 54-142a. An order of the court denying a motion to dismiss the charges against a defendant who has completed such defendant's period of probation or supervision or terminating the participation of a defendant in such program shall be a final judgment for purposes of appeal.

Sec. 54-56l. Pretrial supervised diversionary program for persons with psychiatric disabilities and veterans.

(a) There shall be a supervised diversionary program for persons with psychiatric disabilities, or persons who are veterans, who are accused of a crime or crimes or a motor vehicle violation or violations for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, **which crimes or violations are not of a serious nature**. For the purposes of this section, (1) “psychiatric disability” means a mental or emotional condition, other than solely substance abuse, that (A) **has substantial adverse effects on the defendant's ability to function, and (B) requires care and treatment**, and (2) “veteran” means a person who is found, pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, to have a mental health condition that is amenable to treatment, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103.

(b) A person shall be ineligible to participate in such supervised diversionary program if such person (1) is ineligible to participate in the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation under subsection (c) of section 54-56e, except if a person's ineligibility is based on the person's being eligible for the pretrial family violence education program established under section 46b-38c, the court may permit such person to participate in the supervised diversionary program if it finds that the supervised diversionary program is the more appropriate program under the circumstances of the case, or (2) has twice previously participated in such supervised diversionary program.

(c) Upon application by any such person for participation in such program, the court shall, but only as to the public, order the court file sealed, provided such person states under oath, in open court or before any person designated by the clerk and duly authorized to administer oaths, under penalties of perjury, that such person has not had such program invoked in such person's behalf more than once. Court personnel shall provide notice, on a form prescribed by the Office of the Chief Court Administrator, to any victim of such crime or motor vehicle violation, by registered or certified mail, that such person has applied to participate in the program and that such victim has an opportunity to be heard by the court on the matter.

(d) The court shall refer such person to the Court Support Services Division for confirmation of eligibility and assessment of the person's mental health condition. The prosecuting attorney shall provide the division with a copy of the police report in the case to assist the division in its assessment. The division shall determine if the person is amenable to treatment and if appropriate community supervision, treatment and services are available. If the division determines that the person is amenable to treatment and that appropriate community supervision, treatment and services are available, the division shall develop a treatment plan tailored to the person and shall present the treatment plan to the court.

(e) Upon confirmation of eligibility and consideration of the treatment plan presented by the Court Support Services Division, the court may grant the application for participation in the program. If the court grants the application, such person shall be referred to the division. The division may collaborate with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Veterans Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, to place such person in a program that provides appropriate community supervision, treatment and services. The person shall be subject to the supervision of a probation officer who has a reduced caseload and specialized training in working with persons with psychiatric disabilities.

(f) The Court Support Services Division shall establish policies and procedures to require division employees to notify any victim of the person admitted to the program of any conditions ordered by the court that directly affect the victim and of such person's scheduled court appearances with respect to the case.

(g) Any person who enters the program shall agree: (1) To the tolling of the statute of limitations with respect to such crime or violation; (2) to a waiver of such person's right to a speedy trial; and (3) to any conditions that may be established by the division concerning participation in the supervised diversionary program including conditions concerning participation in meetings or sessions of the program.

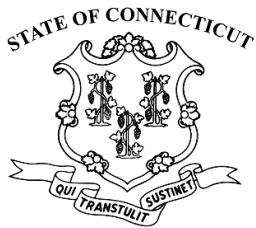
(h) If the Court Support Services Division informs the court that such person is ineligible for the program and the court makes a determination of ineligibility or if the division certifies to the court that such person did not successfully complete the assigned program, the court shall order the court file to be unsealed, enter a plea of not guilty for such person and immediately place the case on the trial list.

(i) If such person satisfactorily completes the assigned program, such person may apply for dismissal of the charges against such person and the court, on reviewing the record of such person's participation in such program submitted by the Court Support Services Division and on finding such satisfactory completion, shall dismiss the charges. If such person does not apply for dismissal of the charges against such person after satisfactorily completing the assigned program, the court, upon receipt of the record of such person's participation in such program submitted by the Court Support Services Division, may on its own motion make a finding of such satisfactory completion and dismiss the charges. Except as provided in subsection (j) of this section, upon dismissal, all records of such charges shall be erased pursuant to section 54-142a. An order of the court denying a motion to dismiss the charges against a person who has completed such person's period of probation or supervision or terminating the participation of a person in such program shall be a final judgment for purposes of appeal.

(j) The Court Support Services Division shall develop and maintain a database of information concerning persons admitted to the supervised diversionary program that shall be available to the state police and organized local police departments for use by sworn police officers when responding to incidents involving such persons. Such information shall include the person's name, date of birth, Social Security number, the violation or violations with which the person was charged, the dates of program participation and whether a deadly weapon or dangerous instrument was involved in the violation or violations for which the program was granted. The division shall enter such information in the database upon such person's entry into the program, update such information as necessary and retain such information for a period of five years after the date of such person's entry into the program.

(k) The Court Support Services Division, in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall develop standards and oversee appropriate treatment programs to meet the requirements of this section and may contract with service providers to provide such programs.

(l) The Court Support Services Division shall retain the police report provided to it by the prosecuting attorney and the record of supervision including the dates of supervision and shall provide such information to the court, prosecuting attorney and defense counsel whenever a court is considering whether to grant an application by such person for participation in the supervised diversionary program for a second time.



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Public Act No. 23-149

AN ACT CONCERNING CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Section 53a-65 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

As used in this part, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Actor" means a person accused of sexual assault.

(2) "Sexual intercourse" means vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse, fellatio or cunnilingus between persons regardless of sex. Penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete vaginal intercourse, anal intercourse or fellatio and does not require emission of semen. Penetration may be committed by an object manipulated by the actor into the genital or anal opening of the victim's body.

(3) "Sexual contact" means any contact with the intimate parts of a person for the purpose of sexual gratification of the actor or for the purpose of degrading or humiliating such person or any contact of the intimate parts of the actor with a person for the purpose of sexual gratification of the actor or for the purpose of degrading or humiliating such person.

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(4) "Impaired because of mental disability or disease" means that a person suffers from a mental disability or disease which renders such person incapable of appraising the nature of such person's conduct.

(5) "Mentally incapacitated" means that a person is rendered temporarily incapable of appraising or controlling such person's conduct owing to the influence of a drug or intoxicating substance administered to such person without such person's consent, or owing to any other act committed upon such person without such person's consent.

(6) "Physically helpless" means that a person is (A) unconscious, or (B) for any other reason, is physically unable to resist an act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact or to communicate unwillingness to an act of sexual intercourse or sexual contact.

(7) "Use of force" means: (A) Use of a dangerous instrument; or (B) use of actual physical force or violence or superior physical strength against the victim.

(8) "Intimate parts" means the genital area or any substance emitted therefrom, groin, anus or any substance emitted therefrom, inner thighs, buttocks or breasts.

(9) "Psychotherapist" means a physician, psychologist, nurse, substance abuse counselor, social worker, clergyman, marital and family therapist, mental health service provider, hypnotist or other person, whether or not licensed or certified by the state, who performs or purports to perform psychotherapy.

(10) "Psychotherapy" means the professional treatment, assessment or counseling of a mental or emotional illness, symptom or condition.

(11) "Emotionally dependent" means that the nature of the patient's or former patient's emotional condition and the nature of the treatment

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provided by the psychotherapist are such that the psychotherapist knows or has reason to know that the patient or former patient is unable to withhold consent to sexual contact by or sexual intercourse with the psychotherapist.

(12) "Therapeutic deception" means a representation by a psychotherapist that sexual contact by or sexual intercourse with the psychotherapist is consistent with or part of the patient's treatment.

(13) "School employee" means: (A) A teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or a private elementary, middle or high school or working in a public or private elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any other person who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in (i) a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education, or (ii) a private elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the supervisory agent of such private school.

(14) "Animal" has the same meaning as provided in section 22-327.

(15) "Sexual contact with an animal" means: (A) Any act between a person and an animal that involves contact between a sex organ or anus of one and the mouth, anus or a sex organ of the other; (B) a person touching or fondling a sex organ or anus of an animal, either directly or through clothing, without a bona fide veterinary or animal husbandry purpose; (C) any intentional transfer or transmission of semen by a person upon any part of an animal; or (D) the insertion, however slight, of any part of a person's body or any object into the vaginal or anal opening of an animal, without a bona fide veterinary or animal husbandry purpose, or the insertion of any part of the animal's body

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into the vaginal or anal opening of the person.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) A person is guilty of sexual assault of an animal when such person knowingly and for the purpose of sexual gratification of the actor or of another person: (1) Engages in sexual contact with an animal; (2) forces another person to engage in sexual contact with an animal; or (3) creates or distributes pornographic images of prohibited sexual contact with an animal.

(b) Sexual assault of an animal is a class A misdemeanor.

(c) In addition to any sentence imposed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, at the time of a person's sentencing for a conviction under this section, the court shall order that, for the five-year period commencing from the date of such conviction or the date of such person's release from imprisonment for such conviction, whichever is later, such person (1) shall not harbor, own, possess, reside with, adopt or serve as a foster placement for any animal, and (2) shall not be employed by, or volunteer for, any entity in any position that involves care for, or regular contact with, any animal.

Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 53a-73a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) A person is guilty of sexual assault in the fourth degree when: (1) Such person subjects another person to sexual contact who is (A) under thirteen years of age and the actor is more than two years older than such other person, or (B) thirteen years of age or older but under fifteen years of age and the actor is more than three years older than such other person, or (C) physically helpless, or (D) less than eighteen years old and the actor is such other person's guardian or otherwise responsible for the general supervision of such other person's welfare, or (E) in custody of law or detained in a hospital or other institution and the actor

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has supervisory or disciplinary authority over such other person; or (2) such person subjects another person to sexual contact without such other person's consent; or (3) such person engages in sexual contact with [an animal or] a dead body; or (4) such person is a psychotherapist and subjects another person to sexual contact who is (A) a patient of the actor and the sexual contact occurs during the psychotherapy session, or (B) a patient or former patient of the actor and such patient or former patient is emotionally dependent upon the actor, or (C) a patient or former patient of the actor and the sexual contact occurs by means of therapeutic deception; or (5) such person subjects another person to sexual contact and accomplishes the sexual contact by means of false representation that the sexual contact is for a bona fide medical purpose by a health care professional; or (6) such person is a school employee and subjects another person to sexual contact who is a student enrolled in a school in which the actor works or a school under the jurisdiction of the local or regional board of education which employs the actor; or (7) such person is a coach in an athletic activity or a person who provides intensive, ongoing instruction and subjects another person to sexual contact who is a recipient of coaching or instruction from the actor and (A) is a secondary school student and receives such coaching or instruction in a secondary school setting, or (B) is under eighteen years of age; or (8) such person subjects another person to sexual contact and (A) the actor is twenty years of age or older and stands in a position of power, authority or supervision over such other person by virtue of the actor's professional, legal, occupational or volunteer status and such other person's participation in a program or activity, and (B) such other person is under eighteen years of age; or (9) such person subjects another person to sexual contact who is placed or receiving services under the direction of the Commissioner of Developmental Services in any public or private facility or program and the actor has supervisory or disciplinary authority over such other person.

Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) A law enforcement officer or

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animal control officer authorized under section 22-329a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, investigating an alleged violation of section 2 of this act may lawfully take possession of an animal when such officer has a reasonable belief that the animal was sexually assaulted in violation of section 2 of this act in order to protect the health or safety of the animal or the health or safety of others, and to obtain evidence of the alleged offense. Any animal, whether dead or alive, taken into possession pursuant to this section shall be promptly transported to an animal shelter or veterinary hospital to be examined by a licensed veterinarian for care and treatment and to preserve evidence of any alleged violation of section 2 of this act.

Sec. 5. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 22-329a of the general statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) Any animal control officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable, may take physical custody of any animal when such animal control officer has reasonable cause to believe that such animal is in imminent harm and is neglected or is cruelly treated in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, as amended by this act, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251, [or] 53-252 or section 2 of this act, and, not later than ninety-six hours after taking physical custody, shall proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section, except that if, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian, at any time after physical custody of such animal is taken, such animal is so injured or diseased that it should be euthanized immediately, such officer may have such animal humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

(b) Any animal control officer or regional animal control officer appointed pursuant to section 22-328, 22-331 or 22-331a, as applicable, may take physical custody of any animal upon issuance of a warrant finding probable cause that such animal is neglected or is cruelly treated

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in violation of section 22-366, 22-415, 53-247, as amended by this act, 53-248, 53-249, 53-249a, 53-250, 53-251, [or] 53-252 or section 2 of this act, and shall thereupon proceed as provided in subsection (c) of this section except that if, in the opinion of a licensed veterinarian or the State Veterinarian, at any time after physical custody of such animal is taken, such animal is so injured or diseased that it should be euthanized immediately, such officer may have such animal humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian.

Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2023*) (a) Any veterinarian licensed in accordance with the provisions of chapter 384 of the general statutes, who in the course of his or her employment, has reasonable cause to suspect that an animal is being or has been harmed, neglected or treated cruelly due to participation in an exhibition of animal fighting for amusement or gain, shall report the following information to the local law enforcement agency or animal control officer: (1) The address of the owner or other person responsible for care of the animal; (2) a description of the animal; and (3) the approximate date and time of discovery of such harm, neglect or cruelty.

(b) Any veterinarian, who in good faith, makes a report pursuant to this section, shall be immune from any civil liability which might otherwise arise from or be related to the actions taken pursuant to this section and shall have the same immunity with respect to any judicial proceeding which results from such report. The immunity from civil liability extends only to actions done pursuant to this section and does not extend to the malpractice of a veterinarian that results in injury to, or the death of, an animal.

Sec. 7. Section 53-247 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

(a) Any person who overdrives, drives when overloaded, overworks, tortures, deprives of necessary sustenance, mutilates or cruelly beats or

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kills or unjustifiably injures any animal, or who, having impounded or confined any animal, fails to give such animal proper care or neglects to cage or restrain any such animal from doing injury to itself or to another animal or fails to supply any such animal with wholesome air, food and water, or unjustifiably administers any poisonous or noxious drug or substance to any domestic animal or unjustifiably exposes any such drug or substance, with intent that the same shall be taken by an animal, or causes it to be done, or, having charge or custody of any animal, inflicts cruelty upon it or fails to provide it with proper food, drink or protection from the weather or abandons it or carries it or causes it to be carried in a cruel manner, or fights with or baits, harasses or worries any animal for the purpose of making it perform for amusement, diversion or exhibition, shall, for a first offense, be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or both, and for each subsequent offense, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

(b) Any person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, tortures, wounds or kills an animal shall, (1) for a first offense, be guilty of a class D felony, and (2) for any subsequent offense, be guilty of a class C felony. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any licensed veterinarian while following accepted standards of practice of the profession or to any person while following approved methods of slaughter under section 22-272a, while performing medical research as an employee of, student in or person associated with any hospital, educational institution or laboratory, while following generally accepted agricultural practices or while lawfully engaged in the taking of wildlife.

(c) Any person who knowingly (1) owns, possesses, keeps or trains an animal engaged in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain, (2) possesses, keeps or trains an animal with the intent that it be engaged in an exhibition of fighting for amusement or gain, (3) permits an act described in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection to take place on

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premises under his control, (4) acts as judge or spectator at an exhibition of animal fighting for amusement or gain, or (5) bets or wagers on the outcome of an exhibition of animal fighting for amusement or gain, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

(d) Any person who intentionally injures any animal while such animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally injures a dog that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of the active individual member of such team, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

(e) Any person who intentionally kills any animal while such animal is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of a peace officer, as defined in section 53a-3, or intentionally kills a dog that is a member of a volunteer canine search and rescue team, as defined in section 5-249, while such dog is in the performance of its duties under the supervision of the active individual member of such team, shall be fined not more than ten thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

(f) In addition to any sentence imposed pursuant to subsections (a) to (e), inclusive, of this section, at the time of a person's sentencing for a conviction under this section, the court shall order that, for the five-year period commencing from the date of such conviction or the date of such person's release from imprisonment for such conviction, whichever is later, such person (1) shall not harbor, own, possess, reside with, adopt or serve as a foster placement for any animal, and (2) shall not be employed by, or volunteer for, any entity in any position that involves care for, or regular contact with, any animal.

Sec. 8. Section 53a-28 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

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(a) Except as provided in section 17a-699 and chapter 420b, to the extent that the provisions of said section and chapter are inconsistent herewith, every person convicted of an offense shall be sentenced in accordance with this title.

(b) Except as provided in section 53a-46a, when a person is convicted of an offense, the court shall impose one of the following sentences: (1) A term of imprisonment; or (2) a sentence authorized by section 18-65a or 18-73; or (3) a fine; or (4) a term of imprisonment and a fine; or (5) a term of imprisonment suspended, entirely or after a period set by the court, and a period of probation or a period of conditional discharge; or (6) a term of imprisonment, with the execution of such sentence of imprisonment suspended, entirely or after a period set by the court, and a fine and a period of probation or a period of conditional discharge; or (7) a fine and a sentence authorized by section 18-65a or 18-73; or (8) a sentence of unconditional discharge; or (9) a term of imprisonment and a period of special parole as provided in section 54-125e, except that the court may not impose a period of special parole for convictions of offenses under chapter 420b.

(c) In addition to any sentence imposed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the court shall inquire on the record whether there are any requests by a victim for restitution, and if (1) a person is convicted of an offense that resulted in injury to another person or damage to or loss of property, (2) the victim requests financial restitution, and (3) the court finds that the victim has suffered injury or damage to or loss of property as a result of such offense, the court shall order the offender to make financial restitution under terms that it determines are appropriate. In determining the appropriate terms of financial restitution, the court shall consider: (A) The financial resources of the offender and the burden restitution will place on other obligations of the offender; (B) the offender's ability to pay based on installments or other conditions; (C)

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the rehabilitative effect on the offender of the payment of restitution and the method of payment; and (D) other circumstances, including the financial burden and impact on the victim, that the court determines make the terms of restitution appropriate. If the court determines that the current financial resources of the offender or the offender's current ability to pay based on installments or other conditions are such that no appropriate terms of restitution can be determined, the court may forego setting such terms. The court shall articulate its findings on the record with respect to each of the factors set forth in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of this subsection. Restitution ordered by the court pursuant to this subsection shall be based on easily ascertainable damages for injury or loss of property, actual expenses incurred for treatment for injury to persons and lost wages resulting from injury. Restitution shall not include reimbursement for damages for mental anguish, pain and suffering or other intangible losses, but may include the costs of counseling reasonably related to the offense. Restitution ordered by the court pursuant to this subsection shall be imposed or directed by a written order of the court on a form prescribed by the Chief Court Administrator containing the amount of damages for injury or loss of property, actual expenses incurred for treatment for injury to persons and lost wages resulting from injury as ascertained by the court. The order of the court shall direct that a certified copy of the completed form containing the written order be delivered by certified mail to each victim and contain an advisement to the victim that the order is enforceable as a judgment in a civil action as provided in section 53a-28a. The court shall retain the original of each form containing a written order of restitution as part of such offender's court record.

(d) A sentence to a period of probation or conditional discharge in accordance with sections 53a-29 to 53a-34, inclusive, shall be deemed a revocable disposition, in that such sentence shall be tentative to the extent that it may be altered or revoked in accordance with said sections but for all other purposes it shall be deemed to be a final judgment of

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conviction.

(e) When sentencing a person to a period of probation who has been convicted of (1) a misdemeanor that did not involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against another person or (2) a motor vehicle violation for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed, the court shall consider, as a condition of such sentence of probation, ordering the person to perform community service in the community in which the offense or violation occurred. If the court determines that community service is appropriate, such community service may be implemented by a community court established in accordance with section 51-181c if the offense or violation occurred within the jurisdiction of a community court established by said section.

(f) When sentencing a person to a period of probation who is or has been subject to a protective order, the court may issue a protective order that is effective during such period of probation.

(g) In addition to any sentence imposed pursuant to section 53-247, as amended by this act, or section 2 of this act, at the time of a person's sentencing for any conviction under said sections, the court shall order that, for the five-year period commencing from the date of such conviction or the date of such person's release from imprisonment for such conviction, whichever is later, such person (1) shall not harbor, own, possess, reside with, adopt or serve as a foster placement for any animal, and (2) shall not be employed by, or volunteer for, any entity in any position that involves care for, or regular contact with, any animal.

Approved June 27, 2023



Legal Resource

Animal Hoarding Facts

What is animal hoarding?

Hoarding is one of the most egregious forms of animal cruelty, affecting tens of thousands of animals – mostly cats and dogs – in communities nationwide. Hoarders keep abnormally large numbers of animals for whom they do not provide even the most basic care.

Animal victims of hoarders typically suffer horribly as a result, and, unlike most other forms of companion animal cruelty, their misery can go on for years. The sometimes hundreds of dog or cat victims of a single hoarder generally show signs of abuse such as severe malnutrition, untreated medical conditions including open sores, cancers, and advanced dental and eye diseases, and severe psychological distress.

How serious is the problem?

It is likely that up to a quarter million animals – 250,000 per year – are victims of hoarders. Recently, the number of reported hoarding cases has steadily increased.

In terms of the number of animals affected and the degree and duration of their suffering, hoarding is the number one animal cruelty crisis facing companion animals in communities throughout the country. Hoarding frequently endangers the health, safety and life of the hoarder as well as children and dependent adults who must live under the same conditions.

Who hoards animals and why?

As with other acts of animal cruelty, it may be impossible to know for sure what motivates the abuse and profound neglect inflicted by hoarders. We do know that 72% of hoarders are women and that the most common animal victims of hoarders are cats, followed by dogs.

Because recidivism rates for hoarders are almost 100%, the only long-term solution for stopping their behavior is to prevent them from owning animals, and to require mental health evaluations and treatment if necessary.

How does animal hoarding affect the local community?

In addition to the horrific animal cruelty involved, hoarding creates such highly unsanitary conditions that the properties of hoarders, contaminated with fecal matter and urine, may be condemned.

What's more, a single hoarding case involving dozens if not hundreds of animals can easily bankrupt a local humane society or shelter, and severely strain volunteer resources, and the cost to local authorities and law enforcement officials remains ongoing.

What can be done from a legal standpoint to stop or prevent hoarding?

Hoarding is very difficult to prevent, but it may be addressed by holding the hoarder accountable.

There is a need for public education and for communities to know how to recognize the basic signs of hoarding: the keeping of abnormally large numbers of animals, the failure to provide proper nutrition, care, and a sanitary environment accompanied by evidence of serious neglect.

In the short term, neglected and abused animals need to be removed from a hoarder's property, but only long term changes to animal law can address hoarding situations.

Animal Legal Defense Fund recommends:

- **Civil Options for Stopping Animal Hoarders**

Concerned members of the public should consider a civil right of action to initiate a case against a hoarder. In most states, a prosecutor must be the one to bring charges against animal hoarders for committing acts of cruelty to animals. Provisions like **North Carolina's 19A Statute**, which the Animal Legal Defense Fund used in the unprecedented ***ALDF v. Woodley*** case in Sanford, N.C., allow any private citizen or organization to bring civil charges against abusers for violating animal cruelty laws. A similar solution is for states to enact a statute declaring animal cruelty as an abatable nuisance. The Animal Legal Defense Fund succeeded in passing such a statute in **Oregon in 2015**, which can serve as a model for other states.

- **Cost Mitigation Laws**

Taxpayers should not pay the cost of caring for animals rescued from criminal abusers. Because hoarding cases often involve hundreds of animals, the expense of providing food, housing, and veterinary care for animals seized from a hoarder can

easily cripple a local humane society or animal control agency. We need cost mitigation provisions to ensure that the hoarder, rather than the local taxpayer, must pay for the costs of caring for those animals while the animals are in the custody of a local shelter after seizure.

- **Sentencing including Mandatory Forfeiture**

Hoarders have clearly demonstrated they are a serious threat to the well-being of animals entrusted to their care. Their rights to all of their animal victims should be forfeited upon conviction, thereby allowing these victims a chance at a better life in a new, loving home. Additionally, because statistics demonstrate that the vast majority of hoarders will recommit similar crimes in the future if given the opportunity, convicted hoarders should be barred from owning, possessing, or having any direct contact with animals. Sentencing provisions for hoarders should also include a mental health evaluation, and treatment if necessary.

Why is animal hoarding so difficult to prosecute?

There is often a mental health component in an animal hoarding case causing some communities to divert the hoarder from the criminal justice systems; however the criminal justice system can be a tool for addressing these very issues.

Courts can—and should—require convicted animal hoarders to undergo mental health evaluations, and treatment if necessary. This can address the root of the issue, dramatically reducing recidivism rates. It is important to do this through the criminal justice system, so that the court has the authority to enforce a future possession ban, and impose sanctions for failure to comply.

Furthermore, many states have heightened penalties for second or subsequent animal cruelty crimes. If a hoarding case is diverted out of the criminal system, there would be no way to apply these laws if the hoarder commits further animal cruelty.

Other reasons that animal hoarding cases are difficult to prosecute are that: most states have no legal definition for animal hoarding, courts already assign relatively low priority to animal abuse and neglect cases in general, and many people are unfamiliar with the severity of abuse in hoarding situations.

The high cost of caring for animals rescued from hoarders, who often must be cared for at the rescuer's expense, is also a huge disincentive for prosecuting hoarding cases. These factors contribute to a lengthy and difficult legal process in securing a positive verdict in any case.

Have there been any notable successes in the fight against hoarding?

In the Woodley case cited above, there was clearly a victory in Sanford, North Carolina where that unique state law allowed any person or organization to sue an animal abuser. In April 2005, the judge granted an injunction allowing the Animal Legal Defense Fund and county authorities to remove more than 300 diseased, neglected and abused dogs from the home of a local couple.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund was granted custody of the animals, and the hoarders were found guilty of animal cruelty charges. The Animal Legal Defense Fund subsequently won the right to restrict the hoarder's visitation rights while the dogs remained in custody during ongoing appeals.

Each of us can play an important role in stopping animal hoarding and getting the word out that this is not a victimless crime!

How to spot a hoarder:

- Keeps an abnormally large number of animals;
- Fails to provide minimal nutrition, veterinary care, shelter or sanitation;
- Fails to recognize the devastating impact of this neglect; and
- Can't stop himself/herself from repeating this behavior.
-

What you can do to help:

- If you suspect someone is an animal hoarder, contact your local humane society, police department, or animal control department. There is a great resource on the **National Link Coalition** website which can direct you where to report.
- Visit the **Hoarding of Animals Research Consortium** website for more information on hoarding.
- **Alert the Animal Legal Defense Fund** so we can track the case and offer our professional assistance to local officials.

Section 3:

Case Examples

Impact on Stakeholders/Judicial System/Community:

- Cases are lengthy, and offenders (repeat, violation of conditions) are not given consequences to deter behavior; courts are backlogged.

CASE EXAMPLE: Nicolina Scalora

NICOLINA SCALORA was charged with **16 counts of animal cruelty** after an **April 2022** investigation found multiple neglected animals in unsanitary conditions at **her** residence. Charged with 16 counts of animal cruelty - misdemeanor.

Key Events:

- **April 28, 2022:** Police seized 6 dogs, 8 cats, a bearded dragon, and a hedgehog. The veterinary hospital reported that all the animals were dehydrated, underweight, and suffering from secondary illnesses and neglect.
- **September 2022:** Scalora was granted **Accelerated Rehabilitation (AR)** for 18 months. **Unknown if there was a condition prohibiting animal ownership at that time.**

Further Offenses/Continues to violate probation:

- Scalora did not complete AR - Violating probation the first time, charges upgraded to Cruelty to Animals SBS Offense Class D Felony.
- **Oct 15, 2023:** Arrested for **4th-degree larceny**, stealing \$1,400 from a senior in her care.
- **June 8, 2024:** Arrested for **Violation of Condition of Release (2nd degree)**.
- **In mid-Jan 2025:** Neighbors reported foul smells and yelling at her animals. An Animal Control Officer (ACO) investigated and found ongoing issues and reported the same to the State's Attorney.

Final Disposition:

- **Jan 28, 2025:** After 30 court appearances, Scalora **pledged guilty** to one misdemeanor count of animal cruelty.
 - **Sentence:** 11 months jail, execution suspended.
 - **Probation:** 3 years, **no contact with animals** condition (but not under the newer 5-year mandatory ban).

Probation Violation:

- **March 6, 2025:** Just 5 weeks later, she was found again hoarding **7 animals**. Police had to break in to remove them.
 - New bond: **\$60,000** (past offenses) + **\$5,000** (new offense).
 - She has been jailed since.
 - She sends friends to the municipal shelter to adopt her relinquished pets, still trying to get them back.

Current Status:

- **Four** times on the docket, “Awaiting plea”. Next court date: June 27, 2025.

Concerns Raised:

- Scalora has been on the **docket 30+ times** in 2 years and 8 months, and during that time, committed more crimes, did not complete AR,
- No Animal Advocate was assigned at the time due to a lack of available advocates. Could the use of an advocate have shortened the length of this case? What Animal Advocate could volunteer this much time on a case of this length?
- Ineffectiveness of AR in such cases.
- The judge's sentence did not reflect the newer, stricter animal cruelty laws - 5 years, no contact with animals.
- Scalora continued deceptive behavior (e.g., trying to adopt a German Shepherd while under investigation). Acquired 7 more dogs and cats.
- **Hoarding and neglect behaviors noted**, which are reported to have a **100% recidivism rate**.
- **Violated Probation in 5 weeks after pleading guilty. Why do the consequences of VOP not go into effect immediately (11 months in jail) when she violates her probation? Is the court going to offer a new plea on the original charges and shorten the length of jail time? The message to the community at large must be that these crimes are taken seriously, and consequences result from breaking the law**

Re: State of Connecticut v. Philip Lin et al. Case No.: N07M-CR22-0351270-S and N07M- CR22-0351503-S

Length of case: March 2022-December 2024

Initial Charges: Felony Animal Cruelty for killing two dogs

Timeline

Note: *This case is a textbook example of what 40 years of research shows regarding animal cruelty's link to violence against humans. Lin killed 2 dogs, lured a 13-year-old on Snapchat (Vermont) and assaulted an elderly woman (Vermont).*

March 2022: Philip Lin hits a 2.2 pound dog in the face and leaves him to drown in a bathtub

- a. Blue was a 13-year-old dog weighing 2.2 pounds (*necropsy report June 20.22*). In a video confession (July 5, 2022) he states Blue "was acting out so I hit him." (minute 30 sec. to 1:16) He further states that he left him in the bathtub, walked away, came back 10 minutes later and Blue had drowned.

May 2022: Lin snapped the neck of Bobo, a small dog, after a walk.

- a. (*Arrest warrant September 8, 2022 para. 6*) Video confession of July 5, 2022: Lin says he "tugged on the leash too tight" and "I guess her neck snapped." (minute 1:23). Lin was asked if he picked the dog up by her head and he replied "I might have, that's what I usually do." (minute 2:10)

June 2022: Cheshire PD executed a search warrant to look for the bodies of the dogs

- a. Philip directed the Cheshire PD to where he buried Blue's body. When the Cheshire Police Department were searching for Bobo's body Philip purposefully misled law enforcement as to the location of Bobo's body, finally admitting that he had thrown Bobo's body over the fence. (*Arrest warrant September 8, 2022, para 7, and body cam footage*).

July 5, 2022: Lin admits to killing both dogs

- a. *Arrest warrant September 8, 2022, para 9 and audio recording from Cheshire PD*

September 27, 2022: Lin is ordered by the state of Connecticut not to be left unsupervised around animals

October 6, 2022: Lin violates conditions of release by being in a residence with dogs and is charged with another felony

- a. When Lin was found in the residence so was an injured female dog whose vagina and anus had been shaved and were swollen. The dog's hair and a razor were present at the scene.

October 2022: Lin ordered to wear an ankle monitor and is ordered on house arrest.

May 2023: Attorney Advocate contacts Vermont prosecutor regarding pending charges. Court documents show 21 charges from 2019 and 2020 including luring a 13-year-old on Snapchat and assaulting an elderly woman.

- a. *The arrest warrant in VT details Lin's luring of a minor. It was some of the most disturbing accounts the attorney advocate had read in 25 years of practice. (see attached).*

May 2023: Attorney Advocate pulls Lin's voluntary conservatorship file from Connecticut

- a. Conservatorship documents show that Christopher Donlin, Esq., notes that "the Court should address what a conservator can actually do for Philip." He is "a young man without disability recognized by the State..."

June 15, 2023: Lin applies for SDP

June 19, 2023: Lin takes off his ankle monitor and flees. Arrest warrant issued

November 24, 2023: Lin is found hiding in his mother's home in a closet in Cheshire and is remanded to custody

August 26, 2024: SDP Denied Due to the Seriousness of the Crimes

December 9, 2024: Lin is sentenced. Lin plead guilty to 2 Counts of MALICIOUS WOUND/KILL an ANIMAL, Class D FELONY and 1 Count of VIOLATING CONDITIONS OF RELEASE-1ST DEG. Class D FELONY.

- a. 5 Years Jail time suspended after 18 months to serve and 3 Years Conditional Probation for each Animal Cruelty charge to run consecutively and the Violating Conditions of Release. Note: Lin gets credit for his time in jail for taking off the ankle monitor and fleeing.
- b. Lin may not own or possess animals for a period of 5 years from his release in CT.
- c. The State of Vermont will extradite Lin upon his release in CT.

DEFENDANT: Philip Lin
DOB: 05/26/1999 AGE: 20
ADDRESS:
6 Old Snow Valley Rd.
Winhall, VT 05255

ARRAIGNMENT DATE:
SA CASE ID.: 19-13700
ASSIGNED (D)SA: Kirsten M Morgan ERN:
POLICE DEPT.: Bennington Police Department
INVESTIGATING OFFICER: Detective Anthony Silvestro
VICTIM ADVOCATE:
INCIDENT NO.: 19BN04462

SUPERIOR COURT
BENNINGTON UNIT

STATE OF VERMONT

v.

PHILIP LIN

STATE OF VERMONT

VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT
BENNINGTON UNIT

AUG 05 2019

CRIMINAL DIVISION

FILED

DOCKET NO. 906-9-19BNC

INFORMATION BY STATE'S ATTORNEY

By the authority of the State of Vermont, the State's Attorney for Bennington County, upon the oath of office charges:

COUNT 1 OF 2

CHARGE CODE: 13V2828A | CODE ID: 521 | OFFENSE CLASS: F

CHARGE NAME: SEXUAL EXPLOITATION-LURING CHILD/ATTEMPTED LURING

Philip Lin, in the County of Bennington, at Bennington between May 1, 2019 and May 25, 2019, knowingly solicited, lured, or enticed, or to attempted to solicit, lure, or entice, a child under the age of 16 or another person believed to be a child under the age of 16, to engage in a sexual act, in violation of 13 V.S.A. 2828(a).

Penalty: Imprisoned not more than 5 years or fined not more than \$10,000.00 or both.

COUNT 2 OF 2

CHARGE CODE: 13V2802AA1 | CODE ID: 495 | OFFENSE CLASS: M

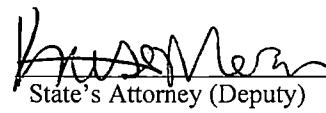
CHARGE NAME: INDECENT MATERIAL TO A MINOR-PHOTO-MINOR NOT PRESENT

Philip Lin, in the County of Bennington, at Bennington between May 1, 2019 and May 25, 2019, with knowledge of its character and content, and with actual knowledge that the recipient is a minor, sold, lent, distributed or gave away a picture, photograph, drawing, sculpture, motion picture film, or similar visual representation or image, including any such representation or image which was communicated, transmitted, or stored electronically, of a person or portion of the human body which depicts nudity, sexual conduct or sadomasochistic abuse and which is harmful to minors, in violation of 13 V.S.A. 2802a(a)(1).

Penalty: Imprisoned not more than 1 year or fined not more than \$1,000.00 or both.

Against the peace and dignity of the State.

DATED: August 5, 2019



State's Attorney (Deputy)

Referral(s) if applicable: -

Diversion No Referral – Reason: nature of charge

This information has been presented to me and I have found probable cause.

DATED:

8/7/19



Superior Court Judge



**BENNINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
BENNINGTON, VERMONT
AFFIDAVIT**

19BN04462

NOW COMES **Anthony Silvestro**, Affiant, being duly sworn and on oath, deposes and says I am a Certified Law Enforcement Officer in the State of Vermont and hold the rank of **Detective** with the Bennington Police Department, where I have been employed since **February 2003**. I am currently assigned to the Bennington County Special Investigations Unit. **This offense occurred in the Town of Bennington County of Bennington.**

I have **Probable Cause** to believe that **Philip Lin DOB 05/26/1999** has committed the offenses of **Luring of a Child.**

A Violation of Title 13 Vermont Statues Annotated 2828

On May 25th, 2019, I received a phone call from Officer Michael Pierce of the Bennington Police Department. Officer Pierce was currently investigating a complaint and was looking for assistance. Officer Pierce provided me with a brief narrative of the incident.

Officer Pierce was speaking to Parent#1 03/04/1983 and her daughter, Child#1 DOB 05/01/2006. Parent#1 learned of a conversation Child#1 had been having with a male Philip Lin DOB 05/26/1999, via SnapChat. Parent#1 and Child#1 knows Lin because Lin is friends with Child#1's older daughter V.L.B 11/05/2002.

Parent#1 said the text messages were sexually explicit in nature and there were nude images and a video sent to Child#1 from Lin. Lin told Child#1 that he would come down to see her. Parent#1 was in her vehicle with her mother, E.L. 03/19/1959 and was just outside the area of Applegate apartment building when she witnessed Lin. She asked Lin to get into her car and he did. Parent#1 then called the police.

I told Officer Pierce that further investigation was needed and if he could obtain a statement from Parent#1 and see if Lin would speak to him about the incident. I asked Officer Pierce to obtain the smartphone of Child#1 and consent to search the device for the messages between Lin and herself.

On May 28th, I reviewed the report of Officer Pierce and attached it to the report.

Officer Pierce while assisting another Officer at Applegate apartments, was approached by Parent#1. Officer Pierce spoke to Parent#1 concerning the inappropriate sexual text messages sent to Child#1's smartphone. Parent#1 said one of the messages was asking Child#1 if she wanted to meet up for sex. Parent#1 said Child#1 in the messages told him she was only 13 years old. Parent#1 said the male sending the messages is Philip Lin. The last message from Lin stating he was going to come to Bennington to meet up with Child#1 and would be here around 5:00 PM.

Officer Pierce told Parent#1 he would forward the information to a detective but to call back if Lin was to show up to meet her daughter. Around 1730 hours Officer Pierce was dispatched back to Applegate to speak to Parent#1. When Officer Pierce arrived, he located Parent#1 with a male later identified as Philip Lin. Officer Pierce spoke to Lin who had in his possession a back pack. In speaking with Lin, he told Officer Pierce he was here to visit friends.

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BENNINGTON, VERMONT
AFFIDAVIT**

**19BN04462
STATE OF VERMONT
BENNINGTON COUNTY SS**

Officer Pierce told Lin he had read his conversations with Child#1. Lin said he believed Child#1 was older than what she is. Lin denied coming to Applegate to meet up with Child#1 but to see friends. Officer Pierce told Lin he read the message to Child#1 that he was coming to Applegate to meet up with her around 5:00 PM and here he was. Lin changed his story saying he was coming here to meet up with Child#1 but only to tell her that they could not have a relationship.

Officer Pierce asked Lin to come back to the police station to speak further and Lin agreed. Lin was read Miranda Warnings, which he waived. Lin in the conversation with Officer Pierce acknowledged he had been communicating with Child#1 via Snapchat. He had sent inappropriate sexual images of himself to her. These images would have included pictures of his penis.

Officer Pierce spoke to Lin about his smartphone and the messages that could be on there. Lin provided Officer Pierce with his passcode and allowed him to review messages on his phone. Officer Pierce would later seize the smartphone as evidence.

Officer Pierce also asked Lin if he would allow a search of the contents of his back pack and Lin agreed. Inside the back pack Officer Pierce located numerous personal affects, as well as a large glass smoking device, a prescription pill bottle containing marijuana, a mason jar containing a dark liquid which Philip identified as bourbon and blister pack containing 13 white circular pills. The pills Lin stated were Lorazepam. Officer Pierce concluded the interview and cited Lin possession of a controlled substance. Lin was told a detective would be reaching out to him.

I contacted Parent#1 by phone and arranged an interview with Child#1 for Wednesday at the Child Advocacy Center. Parent#1 said her daughter although 13 years old is mentally younger than that. In speaking to Parent#1 she said that Lin is familiar to the family and he knows her daughter's age.

In reviewing the smartphone of Child#1, I located the text message conversation between Lin and she. In the messages Lin writes, "No, I think u r but plz don't save these or tell anyl not trying to get in trouble does ur mom check ur phone?"

"Yes, y Also wud u have sex with me? Jw... I def wud with u."

"If we video chat we can have some fun...like I can jerk off or whatever and u put ur finger in ur vagina...get horny..."

"Like a lot please gorgeous send me a pic of ur pussy or tits?"

I was unable to perform a forensic extraction on the smartphone due to a security patch on the device. I did take screenshots of the messages from the App Snapchat.

On May 29th we conducted an interview with Child#1, our interview was recorded on video.

Child#1 did speak to us about the Snapchat messaging with Lin. She said Lin knows her older sister and had been to their home before. Lin had seen Child#1 during those visits and would have been aware of who she was. Child#1 said Lin asked her to do things that she did not understand completely and had to ask her sister what it meant. Child#1 stated she told Lin she was too young, only being 13 years old.

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Child#1 said she did not send any images or videos to Lin. In speaking to Child#1 for a time frame of the messages it was determined they recently occurred as of May of this year. Child#1 stated Lin did send her images and videos of himself but she did not see them, her sister did.

On June 6th I applied for and was granted a search warrant for the smartphone of Philip Lin. I was unable to conduct a physical extraction of the LG Smartphone due to the operating system on the LG. I did manually search the LG Smartphone.

On July 1, 2019, I contacted Philip Lin by phone. I identified myself to Lin and explained to him I would be taking over the investigation. I asked Lin if he would be willing to meet with me at the Police Department for some follow up questions and he agreed.

On July 3rd, Lin contacted me stating he could not come in today due to transportation. I left a voicemail with Lin asking him to contact me to arrange a new date and time. In the coming days I contacted the number provided to me by Lin and every time I called it went straight to voicemail. I also sent a text message to Lin asking for a return phone call and have had no communications with Lin since July 3rd.

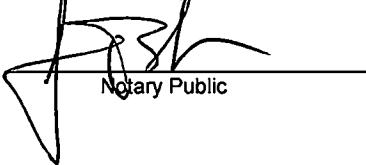
On July 11th, R.M. forward the text messages (MMS) to me that Lin had sent Child#1. I reviewed the images and recognized Lin from the interview he did with Officer Pierce. In the video Lin states, "I know you want it, just look at it. He then starts to touch his penis over his shorts. He then states, I show you if you show me." The second text messages (SMS) is that of an erect penis.

I respectfully ask the court to issue an arrest warrant for Philip Lin 05/26/1999 for the criminal charge of Luring of a Child.

Philip Lin is currently showing 5 separate docket numbers for conditions of release.

512-5-19 Bncr
635-5-19 Bncr
724-6-19 Bncr
728-6-19 Bncr
824-7-19 Bncr

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
This 15 Day of July 2019


Notary Public



Affiant

EXAMPLE OF AN ANIMAL CRUELTY CASE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROSECUTED BUT WAS NOLLIED

CASE: STATE OF CT. vs JUDITH GODEK

Charged with 37 Counts of CRUELTY TO ANIMALS – Class A Misdemeanor

Docket # N07M-CR24-0358289-S

TIMELINE and NARRATIVE:

- On 2/23/2023, Wallingford Police and Animal Control responded to a property at Benham Avenue, Wallingford, CT in response to an anonymous complaint letter stating, "there are a lot of dogs barking" at the residence. Upon arrival, they found 37 mixed breed dogs living in poor condition inside the residence and a barn on the property. Reports state 10 dogs were caged without access to food or water. There was dirty drinking water for the other dogs and there were layers of newspapers covered with feces and urine on the floors. There was also a strong stench. It was also found that the dogs had some untreated medical conditions. The dogs had overgrown nails, trouble walking, matted fur in their face, and ear infections among other problems. It was determined that these were not proper living conditions for the dogs, and the dogs were not being properly cared for.
- Animal Control tried working with the owner of the dogs, Judith Godek for several months to improve the animals' care and conditions. According to an Affidavit, Godek and a family member, believed to be her son, signed an Agreement to provide better living conditions and medical treatment for the dogs.
- Animal Control returned to the property several times. Upon one of their numerous visits to the property, it was clear that many of the conditions Godek agreed to correct had not been met.
- On 8/30/2024, a Search and Seizure Warrant was conducted on Godek's property, and it was found there was probable cause for an Arrest Warrant. An Arrest Warrant was issued.
- On 10/10/2024, Godek turned herself in to Wallingford Police. She was released on a Promise to Appear and given a court date of 11/1/2024.
- The dogs were seized from Godek. 1 dog had to be euthanized. The other dogs were "rehabilitated" and put up for adoption.
- Godek, represented by the Public Defender's office, was on the court docket 5 times.

- On 4/23/2025, Judith Godek, charged with 37 counts of Cruelty to Animals, had her case Nolleied. Despite all the many examples compiled over more than a year of the terrible conditions the dogs were kept in, the Prosecutor surprisingly told the Wallingford ACO there was not enough evidence to prove Animal Cruelty and Nolleied the case.

Because of the nolle, there was no order that Godek could not own or possess animals, as there would have been if Godek had been convicted, or at the very least given Accelerated Rehabilitation or a Supervised Diversionary Program, that would have also carried mental health evaluation and treatment, if deemed necessary.

Godek is what is commonly referred to by many as an Animal Hoarder. Below is how **The American Psychiatric Association** defines Hoarding.

- **Hoarding Disorder:** The American Psychiatric Association defines hoarding disorder (HD) as the accumulation of possessions that results in cluttered living spaces to the point that their use or safety is compromised. While not explicitly listed as a distinct subtype in the DSM-5, animal hoarding fits the general criteria for HD and may be considered a special manifestation.
- **Compulsive Behavior:** Animal hoarding is characterized by a compulsive need to obtain and control animals, coupled with a failure to provide minimal standards of care. This aligns with the compulsive nature of hoarding disorder.
- **Delusional Beliefs:** Many individuals who hoard animals hold strong beliefs that they are saving or protecting the animals, despite evidence of their deteriorating condition. This suggests a potential link to delusional disorders.
- **Comorbid Conditions:** Animal hoarding often co-occurs with other mental health conditions.

OBSERVATION:

In court, it appeared obvious that Godek and her son, the other family member, were not taking the situation seriously. There were antagonistic remarks made and a “middle finger” gesture made to the Animal Control officer who had been attending the hearings and remarks were

made to a member Desmond's Army. According to remarks made, she believed the dogs were stolen from her. She appeared to believe that she had done nothing wrong.

OPINION:

The recidivism rate for Animal Hoarders is known to be extremely high, some studies claim between 80% and 100%. We at Desmond's Army have personally witnessed that, given Godek's demeanor in court, she seemed to believe that she had done nothing wrong, and given the high recidivism rate for Hoarders, it seems almost certain that Godek will hoard animals again and a similar situation that occurred in Wallingford, keeping dogs in filthy conditions without medical care, will happen again.

If Godek had not been given a Nolle, if she was further prosecuted and was convicted, or more than likely ordered into a Supervised Diversionary Program, there would have been an order that she could not own or possess animals for the length of the program, usually 2 years, and she would have been ordered to undergo therapy and any treatments deemed necessary by the Dept. of Probation. Perhaps that would have made an impact on her.

The court could have also ordered random unannounced visits by Animal Control to verify she was not in possession of animals.

Had Godek been further prosecuted, the risk of violating a court-imposed prohibition on animal ownership—and the corresponding consequence of renewed prosecution—could have served as a meaningful deterrent against re-offending. The court could have also ordered random compliance checks by an Animal Control Officer (ACO) and required mental health intervention, both of which may have addressed underlying issues and helped prevent future harm.

However, that is not how the court ruled.

Because the case was nollied, we now have no way of knowing where Godek resides, whether she has resumed acquiring animals, or whether abuse is continuing undetected. The lack of accountability has created a dangerous gap in oversight and public safety.

This case should not have been nollied. Godek should have faced full prosecution, both to protect animals from future harm and to uphold the integrity of the legal system in addressing serious cruelty cases.

RE: State of Connecticut v. Michael Edward Bolton et al.

Case No.; M09M – CR 22-0243284 – S

Length of case : February 2022 – February 2023

Initial charges: CGS 53-247(a) animal cruelty and CGS 53a – 62 threatening second degree.

Note: This case is a textbook example of what 40 years of research shows regarding animal cruelty link to violence against humans, in this case, domestic violence.

- February 2022 : Michael Bolton videos himself hitting and pushing a 14 week old puppy into the ground. Bolton threatens girlfriend that he will kill Nova (the puppy) if she does not come back to him.
- Bolton shows officers his phone with the video of the puppy sent to his girlfriend and admitted to taking the video earlier in the day.
- February 2023: Bolton sentenced to 1 year special diversionary program (SDP)
- December 2023: Bolton violates terms of SDP and is charged with STRANGULATION/SUFFOCATE 2nd degree, ASSAULT 2nd degree, TWO COUNTS VIOLATION OF PROTECTIVE ORDER - all felonies. Disorderly conduct.
- January 2025: all but one charge of criminal violation of restraining order dropped. **ANIMAL CRUELTY CHARGES NEVER REOPENED, NEVER VIOLATED AND ULTIMATELY EXPUNGED.**

ARRAIGNMENT REPORT AND AFFIDAVIT

Warrantless Arrest

Bolton was charged with violation of CGS 53-247(a) Animal Cruelty and CGS 53a-62 Threatening 2nd Degree. Bolton was held on a \$50,000 surety bond, and is scheduled to appear at GA-9 Court on Thursday February 24 at 0900 at 1 Court Street in Middletown CT.

This report is signed under penalties provided by state law

Signed:

/OFC. PHILIP THOMAS/

Subscribed and sworn to before me a Sergeant in the Middletown Police Department

in the State of Connecticut this 23 day of February 2022

Signed **/SGT. ELIAS S MARTZ/** Auth: C.G.S.A. 1-24

ARRAIGNMENT REPORT AND AFFIDAVIT

Warrantless Arrest

JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF Middletown

The undersigned, an officer of the Middletown Police Department having been duly sworn. deposes and says:

That the information contained therein was secured as a result of: (1) my personal observation and knowledge; or, (2) information relayed to me by other members of my police department or of another organized police department; or, (3) information secured by myself or another member of an organized police department from the person or persons named or identified therein, as indicated in this attached report. That this report is an accurate statement of the information so received by me.

CASE/INCIDENT NO 2200009982	ARREST DATE 02/23/2022	ARREST TIME 19:57	PLACE OF ARREST Middletown
ACCUSED (Last, First, MI) Bolton, Michael Edward	DOB 05/24/1993	PREVIOUS RECORD 26	

ADDRESS
59 STONEYCREST DR MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457

Charges

1: 53-247(a) (CRUELTY TO ANIMALS)	2: 53a-62 (THREATENING 2ND DEG)	AMIS
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On 2/23/22, Ofc. Scoppetto, Sgt Martz and I, Ofc. Thomas were dispatched to assist ACO Petras at Middletown headquarters. Upon arrival, I was briefed and made aware of a video on an animal abuse case. ACO Petras made me aware that Azalia Hernandez sent a video through text to her mother Damaris Hernandez of Michael Bolton abusing a puppy.

I observed the video during the briefing. In the video, I could hear a man saying " You dont believe be, I will fuck her up". I continued to observe the man in the video holding the puppy's neck while pushing head to the ground repeatedly slapping the puppy. ACO Petras informed me that she spoke with Azalia via phone. Azalia stated she received a call Bolton during which he said "I swear if you don't come back, I'm going to kill Nova".

A short while later, myself along with Sgt. Martz, Ofc. Scoppetto and ACO Petras went to the residence of Michael Bolton at 59 Stoneycrest Drive. Sgt. Martz knocked on the front door and a man opened the door. The man was positively identified as being Michael Bolton, and he was the same man pictured in the video and from prior booking photos at Middletown Police headquarters.

Sgt. Martz asked Bolton if he can provide any videos of the puppy he sent to his girlfriend Azalia. Bolton said yes and indicated that Azalia was making things up. Bolton opened up his phone and played the same exact video as seen prior in the briefing. Sgt. Martz then asked Bolton when this video was taken. Bolton replied that he had taken the video earlier that day. When asked about the video, Bolton stated he was disciplining the dog.

This report is signed under penalties provided by state law

Signed: /OFC. PHILIP THOMAS/

Subscribed and sworn to before me a Sergeant in the Middletown Police Department

in the State of Connecticut this 23 day of February 2022

Signed /SGT. ELIAS S MARTZ/ Auth: C.G.S.A. 1-24

Section 4:

Statements from Attorneys and Animal Control Officers

**JOYCE M. GLASS, P.C.
800 VILLAGE WALK, SUITE #106
GUILFORD, CT 06437
516-967-9936
Joyce@jmgpclaw.com**

June 20, 2025

To Whom It My Concern:

I have practiced law for over 26 years, with the last 14 dedicated solely to addressing companion animal cruelty. I have worked with agencies at municipal, county and state levels in New York, including legislators, law enforcement, and district attorneys to identify and address issues surrounding companion animal cruelty. An organization I co-founded is partnered with Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney to cover costs of care for animal cruelty victims.

I have handled cases as an attorney advocate under Desmond's Law since 2021. To those cases I bring real-world expertise on prioritizing animal cruelty cases so that consequences deter future criminal behavior toward both animals and humans.

Desmond's Law was, and is, a groundbreaking piece of legislation. It gave this issue the spotlight it deserves and showed that Connecticut was willing to be the first to highlight the need for attorneys to advocate on these cases. With that spotlight came responsibility. Now that Desmond's Law has been in effect for nearly 9 years there are identifiable weaknesses that are preventing its full impact from being realized.

The judiciary and prosecutors must be educated on the law itself and the decades long research on the Link between animal cruelty and interpersonal violence. This knowledge is vital to anyone's perspective who handles these cases, but especially those within the courts. The two premiere national conferences for judges and prosecutors never see attendees from Connecticut. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges holds a conference with Animal Legal Defense Fund each May in Washington D.C. The National Association of Prosecuting Attorneys and Animal Legal Defense Fund hold a 3-day conference each year in the Fall which I attend. These conferences attract the best and the brightest who are willing to collaborate and share resources-I know firsthand the benefits of attending.

I see the shortfall in the courts because Connecticut judges and prosecutors are not benefiting from national resources and collaboration with other professionals doing this work. Cases and issues are not given the credence they deserve, cases are being dismissed, consequences are not deterrents, recidivism is high and the cycle of crime is not interrupted.

I have also witnessed a lack of conformity in the application of Desmond's Law where advocate appointments are concerned. Some courts are knowledgeable about the law, embrace the legislation and willingly appoint or request advocates. Examples are Meriden, Derby, and Bridgeport. However, courts such as New Haven refuse to reply to advocates' requests and, in one instance, an attorney advocate withdrew from a case due to the treatment she experienced from the state's attorney. In Waterbury recently, a judge told an advocate she had no knowledge of Desmond's Law, yet she presided over a prior case where an advocate had been appointed. This lack of conformity weakens the law, deters advocacy, and prevents the "interest of justice" role that Desmond's Law is predicated on.

These issues are easily addressed with the solutions proposed in the documentation presented. Connecticut has a responsibility to address them because its residents' safety depends on it and communities are safer when animal cruelty is addressed.

Moreover, the nation is watching. Laws modeled off Desmond's Law are being proposed and promoted at local, county and state levels. Connecticut *must* continue to lead on this issue, just as it did in 2016.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Joyce Glass
Joyce Glass

Charles J. Farfaglia, Esq.

Ethan Allen Drive
Danbury, CT 06811

Charlie is an attorney animal advocate under Desmond's Law which allows courts to appoint legal advocates to "represent the interests of justice" in cruelty cases involving dogs and cats. He joined the list of animal advocates in January 2023.

Charlie states, "I advocate for animals because they are sensitive, intelligent and emotional beings who deserve to live their best lives."

Charlie received his law degree over 30 years ago and has focused on employment, labor, environmental and pension law and executive management. His career started as a union organizer and representative in Washington, DC and later served in various management roles in New York City and Connecticut. He has served as a Senior Vice President of two companies and has been part of two IPO's in his career. He is currently a Human Resources consultant and an Associate Faculty member at Post University. He is on his town's Pension Commission and has been a trustee of multi-employer pension plans.

Charlie earned his JD from the University of Connecticut Law School, an MS in Human Resources from Cornell University and Baruch College CUNY and a BS in Industrial Relations from Cornell University.

Recommendations on improving the day-to-day workings of Desmond's Law:

1. The State of Connecticut should reduce barriers to volunteering for young or new attorneys.

I understand that delays are an inevitable part of the justice system and that cases will be continued as part of the regular course of business; however, the order in which cases are typically called creates inordinate delays for volunteer advocates.

On any given day, the cases of defendants with private attorneys are heard first followed by defendants with public defenders. Suppose a defendant is not represented because the defendant has not yet hired an attorney or qualified for a public defender. In that case, the case will be heard among the last cases called, often in the afternoon. This inadvertently treats the time of volunteer advocates as not worthy of consideration and is one of the reasons it is so difficult to recruit younger advocates. We have lost several potential advocates because of their observations of the time expended waiting for cases to be called.

Independent practitioners trying to earn a living generally can't afford to show up and contend with interminable delays in cases that are wearisomely protracted. A young person

trying to establish a practice would have difficulty volunteering unless they were already in criminal court. On the other hand, if one spends their time in bankruptcy or civil court or as in-house counsel, volunteering would be cost- or time-prohibitive. If volunteer attorneys could receive a priority similar to private defense counsel, it would remove a barrier to recruiting volunteers. This a recommendation regarding a systemic issue; my experience is that prosecutors and judges have generally been knowledgeable, helpful and accommodating.

Another barrier for volunteers is securing and paying for malpractice insurance. If the Department of Agriculture could cover volunteer advocates under a state malpractice policy when specifically carrying out the requirements of Desmond's Law, it would eliminate another barrier to securing volunteers. I understand that some attorneys are covered under their existing policies, but this is not the case for everyone. The State's coverage could be secondary to an individual's existing coverage.

2. The State of Connecticut should require training on Desmond's Law.

I recommend annual training for prosecutors and the judiciary on Desmond's Law. This would facilitate the appointment of Advocates.

I also recommend that the State Department of Agriculture review its list of advocates at least annually and confirm that individuals on the list are currently available to serve as court-appointed advocates.

3. The State of Connecticut should continue and intensify its actions in animal abuse cases.

The recent actions of Bryan Hurlburt, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and Attorney General William Tong in causing the state to take temporary custody and seek permanent custody of the 15 horses that were seized from Stirrup Fun Stables Rescue in Lebanon demonstrates that the state prioritizes addressing animal cruelty issues.

Similarly, Attorney General Tong's advocacy at Danbury Superior Court back in October in arguing for the maximum possible conditions associated with proposed accelerated rehabilitation in the animal cruelty case against Nancy Burton helped publicize the state's mission of holding individuals accountable for animal cruelty.

When the state leads the way by demonstrating its commitment to addressing animal cruelty, it motivates volunteering and encourages judges and prosecutors to stay current and informed on animal cruelty issues.

The above comments are based on my limited experience as an Advocate in about 8 past or current cases as an Advocate since 2023.

G. KENNETH BERNHARD

**PLEASE REPLY TO Westport
WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL: (203) 341-5305
WRITER'S DIRECT FACSIMILE: (203) 341-5306
EMAIL ADDRESS: kbernhard@cohenandwolf.com**

June 20, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Linda Pleva, Vice Chairman
Desmond's Army

Re: Report on Desmond's Law (PA-16-30/CGS 54-86n)

Dear Ms. Pleva:

This letter is in response to your request that I comment on Desmond's Law because of my experience as an Animal Advocate in approximately twenty-five (25) animal cruelty cases involving CGS 53-47a. Currently, I have seven pending cases, five in the Bridgeport GA, one in the JD, and one in the Stamford GA.

By way of background, I have been practicing law for more than fifty (50) years. I am very familiar with Connecticut's criminal legal system.

In my opinion, Desmond's Law has dramatically improved the administration of justice in animal cruelty cases. Since the passage of Desmond's Law in 2016, it has been my experience, at least in the Bridgeport GA, that there are stronger legal outcomes and improved judicial decision-making as a result. In cases where a defendant has been charged with animal cruelty, the judges regularly appoint me, and the prosecutors often solicit my legal opinion. Once I enter my appearance, I am invited to participate in plea bargaining conferences. At sentencing, I believe that my input has resulted in defendants being held more accountable than they might otherwise have been and the abused animals are less likely to be mistreated in the future.

In the one case I handled in Milford, my experience was similar to the cases I handled in Bridgeport. In Stamford, I have had two cases where I found it more difficult to get involved in the process. I am not certain as to why that was.

I have been told by other Animal Advocates, who have appeared in different jurisdictions, that they have found it more challenging to be heard and to get involved, and they were less pleased with the process. If I had one recommendation, it would be that Desmond's Law should be discussed at some level at Judicial and Bar Association conferences, particularly those attended by judges and prosecutors. It is important that those responsible for the administration of

Linda Pleva, Vice Chairman

Desmond's Army

June 20, 2025

Page 2

criminal justice in Connecticut do not believe that their roles are being undermined with the appointment of an Animal Advocate. Animal Advocates can be—and currently—helpful with gathering evidence, providing perspective, and improving the public's confidence in our legal system. I believe Desmond's Law is an underutilized resource.

Very truly yours,



G. Kenneth Bernhard

GKB/

Statement - New Haven County Animal Control Officer

To whom it may concern,

The following is a statement in regards to my experiences with the legislation regarding animal cruelty, as well as its prosecution, as an Animal Control Officer in the State of Connecticut:

What is cruelty, and can it be defined in a way that's universally understood? The dictionary definition of cruelty is defined as behavior which causes physical or mental harm to another, whether intentional or not. And while the contents of the statute do certainly fit under that umbrella, the wording of the statute is sometimes vague and open to interpretation, which, in turn, clouds its efficacy.

For instance, the statute refers to a person who "fails to give such animal proper care". But what exactly is proper care? How is that defined, and who gets to define it? Animal cruelty and its associated terms are interpreted at several levels during the course of a case:

Members of the general public, who usually initiate the investigation with their complaint, will have their own standards depending on the individual. Experts, like a veterinarian, who complaints will sometimes come from, may have a different view. And, of course, the animal owner or keeper will likely have their own definition.

The investigating officer, whether police or animal control, will need to use their training and experience as they interpret the statute. And again, definitions and standards will vary on an individual's opinion of what the terms "proper care", "torture", or "cruelly beats" mean.

Next, the case will enter the court system. There it will be analyzed and scrutinized by prosecuting attorneys, defense attorneys, animal advocate attorneys, and finally, by judges. That's a lot of opinions and interpretations to go through.

I bring this up because of a case where my department seized 37 dogs from a location, and the owner was charged with animal cruelty. These dogs lived in a filthy barn, walking through their own waste. Several of these dogs were confined exclusively in cages, or small pens. These dogs were only provided with medical exams upon being ordered to by our department, for compliance with the rabies vaccinations. There is a lot more to this case and I will only summarize here for the sake of brevity.

Upon the third appearance in court, I was informed that the charges were to be dropped, nolle prosequi, as there "wasn't enough cruelty". Also, I was told, there were letters written on the defendant's behalf stating that she was a good pet owner. Does a good pet owner have so many dogs that they cannot notice the signs that a dog has an

enormous bladder stone, stretching the bladder into an almost "constantly full" position, causing frequent and bloody urination in small amounts? That bladder stone was felt, by hand, immediately after being seized, by the attending veterinarian. Follow up radiographs confirmed this was a bladder stone, and our department had it surgically removed. With another dog, a simple exam and subsequent dental procedure revealed that the canine has a mass, likely cancer, in its larynx. The dog needed to be humanely euthanized as a result. I believe, in this case, the interpretation of the statute fell short, and justice was not served.

Circling back to the statute itself, there is some muddiness in the delineation between what constitutes a misdemeanor versus a felony. In subsection (a) where the first offense is a misdemeanor, the words "tortures", "mutilates", and "kills" appear. In subsection (b) the same three words are present. So how is one to differentiate? Again, open to interpretation.

This brings me to an earlier case where the owner of an 8 month old husky puppy was being investigated after the complainant noticed that the puppy, who they saw five days a week, had been limping for a significant duration. The investigation revealed that the puppy had suffered at least eight fractures to bones, all in different stages of healing, which the veterinarian stated, indicated that these fractures occurred at different times over the course of weeks to months. One hind leg sustained two fractures which required that the leg be surgically amputated. Further, a video surfaced showing the defendant handling the dog roughly and taping its mouth shut. Where is the line between "cruelly beats" and "tortures"? One might even say that cruelly beating is a form of torture.

The end result of this case was that the defendant pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of animal cruelty, and given a 364 day suspended sentence. And, after the two-year probationary period, the defendant could once again own a dog. Can a lesson be learned by the defendant coming from this sentence? To a degree, I'm sure. However, as a professional who deals with cases like these, I believe the punishment was too lenient, and did not fit the crime.

After serving as an animal control officer for the past 11 years, it is my belief that the animal cruelty statute needs to be dissected, and heavily scrutinized, with further clarification between the different terms contained therein. Subsequently, a clear line needs to be drawn between what constitutes a misdemeanor and a felony.

A direct link has been statistically proven between animal cruelty and domestic violence. Having an animal cruelty statute that is vague and lacking in penalty keeps animals at risk, and puts humans in danger.

Respectfully submitted,
An Animal Control Officer in New Haven County

Statement - Stratford Assistant Animal Control Officer

Here are 2 recent examples of cases that have been dismissed despite animal control involvement at court. We always write letters to be included in the court file for things we seek in the case.

Case 1 - Melissa Marter (case no: 25-6120)

Marter was arrested for failing to give pain medication to her elderly dog which was impounded by police for roaming. Her original court date was 4/2/25 and again on 4/23/25. I was in court on 4/23/25 but did not realize her case was for that date as we had another case as well for that day. When I looked for her next court date nothing showed up in the system. She did not pay vet bills for her dog when it was in animal control custody. She was previously arrested for obstruction of an ACO (case no: 09-27465) in addition to many interactions with animal control in which her dogs roamed.

Case 2 - Rose Romano (case no: 24-24796)

Romano was arrested since her senior dog was emaciated and had dental disease. He had teeth and wire in his GI tract when an x-ray was performed. We sought restitution for vet bills which was written in a letter to the court, but the case was dismissed on 3/12/25.

Angelique Fitzmorris
Asst. Animal Control Officer
Town Of Stratford
Animal Control Division
[225 Beacon Point Rd.
Stratford, CT 06615](http://225 Beacon Point Rd. Stratford, CT 06615)
Phone: 203.385.4068
Fax: 203.385.5711
afitzmorris@townofstratford.com

Section 5:

Recommendations for Solutions and Resources

Solutions

Desmond's Law, enacted in 2016, made Connecticut the first state in the nation to authorize the appointment of advocates in animal cruelty cases. These advocates speak "in the interest of justice," providing a voice not only for the animal victims but also for the broader human impact that accompanies each case.

As with any law, implementation reveals both strengths and areas in need of improvement. Desmond's Law has proven to be a powerful tool for elevating the visibility of animal cruelty in courtrooms. However, its limitations have also become clear. These weaknesses are not insurmountable—and importantly, they are not unknown. **The state now has a responsibility to address the gaps in the system, strengthen the effectiveness of the law, and ensure that its original purpose is fully realized.**



Increase of 36.6% in animal cruelty crimes from 3 quarters of 2023 to 2024

(Source: DESPP, Rick Greene 860-539-0159; Richard.green@ct.gov):

*backup being provided by DESPP

Impact of Issues on Stakeholders/Judicial System/Community

- Cases are lengthy, offenders (repeat, violation of conditions, cycle of criminality continues, communities are endangered) are not given consequences to deter behavior, and courts are backlogged.
- Community: The message to the community at large must be that these crimes are taken seriously, and consequences result from breaking the law. Addressing animal cruelty keeps the community safer.
- Law Students: Very little opportunity for participation.
- Attorney Advocates: Lack of conformity in the application of the law deters experienced and interested attorneys from requesting appointment.

Solutions

- 1. Directive for Education on the Issue:** The Passing of Desmond's Law brought with it the responsibility for all stakeholders, particularly those in the courthouse, to be educated. Connecticut must begin sending judges and prosecutors to national conferences, ensuring all stakeholders are educated on the law and new legislation in Connecticut on these issues (i.e., bestiality, 5-year ban)
- 2. Pilot Program to Hold Cruelty Cases on the same day each month:** Start with Waterbury, Meriden, Manchester, Bridgeport. This will assist with commitment from advocates, ACOs attending, law students, and prosecutors with specialized knowledge being assigned.
- 3. Accountability:** There should be a liaison in the Governor's Office for issues that surround animal cruelty and the application of Desmond's Law. Full collaboration with a direct contact who can be communicated to and with to identify and address issues such as education, failure to appoint advocates, events for stakeholders, conferences etc. Example: the Suffolk County DA's office has 2 advocates (one attorney, one non-attorney) with whom they communicate directly on issues within the County, including on individual cases.
- 4. Connecticut should reduce barriers to volunteering for young or new attorneys**
 - **Giving volunteer attorneys scheduling priority similar to private counsel would make volunteering more feasible.** While delays are a normal part of the justice system, the typical order of calling cases creates excessive wait times for volunteer advocates. Cases with private attorneys are heard first, then those with public defenders. Defendants without representation are heard last—often in the afternoon—causing volunteer attorneys to spend hours waiting. This discourages participation and has already led to the loss of potential volunteers. Independent or early-career attorneys often can't afford to lose billable time to prolonged court delays. Those outside criminal law—such as in civil, bankruptcy, or in-house roles—face even greater barriers.
 - **Department of Agriculture to cover volunteer advocates under a state malpractice policy when specifically carrying out the requirements of Desmond's Law** – Some attorneys are covered under their existing policies, but this is not the case for everyone. The State's coverage could be secondary to an individual's existing coverage.
- 5. Connecticut should facilitate the appointment of court-appointed advocates.**
 - Annual training for prosecutors and the judiciary on Desmond's Law. This would facilitate the appointment of Advocates.
 - The State Department of Agriculture should review its list of advocates annually and confirm that individuals on the list are currently available to serve as court-appointed advocates.

6. Connecticut should continue and strengthen its efforts to address animal cruelty and expand Desmond's Law's scope beyond cats and dogs.

Recent actions by Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt and Attorney General William Tong—such as seizing horses from Stirrup Fun Stables and seeking strict conditions in the Nancy Burton case (goats)—show the state's commitment to holding offenders accountable.

Strong leadership in these cases raises public awareness, encourages volunteer involvement, and helps ensure judges and prosecutors stay informed on animal cruelty issues.

Why Is All of This Important? The nation is watching. Several states/municipalities have proposed or will propose similar legislation or programs, and look to CT to gauge if this is a worthwhile issue. Michigan (HB6024), Florida (HB297/SB 272), Maine (Franky's Law enacted in 2020).

Resources

The following organizations offer critical resources, training, and legal support to assist law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and justice system professionals in addressing animal cruelty and its links to other forms of violence. These tools can help strengthen investigations, improve case outcomes, and promote public safety. Animal cruelty is rarely an isolated crime — it is often connected to domestic violence, child abuse, elder abuse, and other serious offenses. By leveraging these national resources, you can build stronger cases, access expert guidance, and collaborate more effectively across disciplines to protect both animals and people.

Animal Legal Defense Fund - The legal voice for all animals

The Animal Legal Defense Fund files high-impact lawsuits to protect animals from harm, provides free legal assistance and training to prosecutors in their fight against animal cruelty, supports animal protection legislation, and provides resources and opportunities to law students and professionals to advance the field of animal law.

<https://aldf.org/>

The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys - The Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) is a highly experienced leader in the field of nationwide training and technical assistance. APA's membership includes prosecutors' offices, elected, appointed, and line prosecutors, justice system professionals, and community partners.

<https://www.apainc.org/>

National Animal Care & Control Association - Setting the standard of professionalism in animal welfare & public safety through training, networking, and advocacy.

<https://www.nacanet.org/>

National Link Coalition - Over the past 40 years, researchers and professionals in human services and animal welfare have established significant Links between animal abuse, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, elder abuse and other forms of violence. Mistreating animals is no longer seen as an isolated incident that can be ignored: it is often an indicator or predictor crime and a “red flag” warning sign that other family members in the household may not be safe. ***If we protect pets, we also protect people — and vice versa.***

<https://nationallinkcoalition.org/>

National Council Juvenile and Family Court Judges - The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges is the oldest judicial membership organization in the country and provides all judges, courts, and related agencies involved with juvenile, family, and domestic violence cases with the knowledge and skills to improve the lives of the families and children who seek justice.

<https://www.ncfcj.org/>