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WSAVA International Animal Welfare Guidelines

THE FIVE ANIMAL WELFARE NEEDS



THE NEED FOR A SUITABLE ENVIRONMENT



THE NEED FOR A SUITABLE DIET



THE NEED TO BE ABLE TO EXHIBIT NORMAL BEHAVIOUR PATTERNS



THE NEED TO BE HOUSED WITH, OR APART FROM, OTHER ANIMALS



THE NEED TO BE PROTECTED FROM PAIN, SUFFERING, INJURY AND DISEASE




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Addressing Suffering:
Physical and Emotional

- Important part of the case – pain **or** suffering
- May be short-term, chronic, intermittent
- Need to consider emotional suffering in every case
- Veterinarian, behaviorist can speak to the animal experience




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Assessment of Emotional Suffering

- Negative emotional states or absence of positive states - anxiety, fear, absence of joy, frustration, depression, anger
- Behavior – fear, distress, inappropriate responses, shutdown, failure to groom
- Consider: boredom, isolation, physical pain, violent environments, other animal distress, unsanitary environments, lack of food or water



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Making the Case






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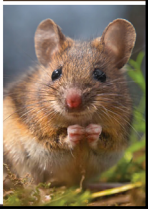


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Gothic Kitten Case:
Holly Crawford



- Groomer
- Pierced kittens' ears w/14g earrings
- Pierced neck and base of tail w/14g submission rings
- Amputated tails by wrapping w/rubber band at base cutting off circulation
- Advertised on eBay
- Applied Cruelty Statute: Torture of animals
- Issue: can you make the case for torture?




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Making the Case for Torture

- Prolonged pain or suffering
- Inability to escape or affect positive change on negative circumstances
- Inability to meet needs for prolonged period
- Pain or suffering that is allowed to continue when there is reasonable remedy or relief
- May require intent: motivated by an intent to increase or prolong the pain, suffering or agony of the animal



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Kitten Findings

- Infection in piercing sites/tail
- Reduced ability to hear
- Back of neck-highly sensitive
- Communication: ears, tail
- Abnormal Behavior: sitting, not running around...fear, pain, physical and emotional distress
- The inability to escape, affect change on circumstances of constant fear and/or pain = **torture**



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Verdict: Guilty



- Sentenced to 6 mos house arrest, 21 mos probation and psych eval/monitoring, no contact w/animals
- Criminal history: 17 arrests ranging from robbery, heroin drug use, gun theft



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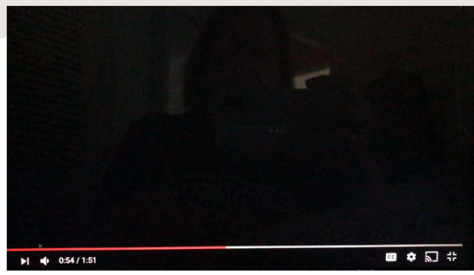
BC SPCA Case: Desmond Hague



- Caught on video in elevator: kicking dog, yanking, swinging on leash
- Physical exam unremarkable
- Video evaluated by behaviorist: statute – emotional distress



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Surveillance Video








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Outcome

- Documented distress, pain
- Pled guilty – first conviction based solely on emotional distress
- 3 yrs prohibition of owning/controlling animals, \$5000 fine



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D.C. Case: Lulu


- Lulu, 13 yrs 8 mos old, F/S, brown and white, Jack Russell Terrier; owned by Mr. Sanjay Sitlani
- Videos at apartment complex capture owner physically abusing Lulu
- Videos: 2 different views of lobby and one video on elevator
- Reported by security who witnessed the events in lobby
- Statute: knowingly tortures, torments, cruelly beats




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Medical Findings

- History: high blood pressure, arthritis in legs, severe vertebral disc disease and collapse (risk of paralysis with trauma)
- Post-Seizure exams: hind limb stiffness (arthritis); abnormal gait – swinging out legs (arthritis); decreased range of motion/pain left shoulder – improved during stay at shelter (acute injury)






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Video: Front View of Lobby



2019-Apr-25 09:16:30:161 PM (EDT)

Flats Elevators (J2)





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Video: Rear View of Lobby



2019-Apr-25 09:16:00:159 PM (EDT)

Flats Elevator Lobby (1)





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Video: Elevator



2019-Apr-25 09:17:01:060 PM (EDT)

ELEVATOR 2
ENC-4P-4264 (732422) (2)







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Summary and Conclusions

- Lulu suffered from **prolonged extreme fear and pain** from all the was done to her. She was **unable to escape the prolonged torment which is torture**. She beaten in the muzzle/head area and her back, thrown to the ground hitting her head, jerked and suspended multiple times in the air by her leash and kicked.
- Mr. S showed **extreme indifference to Lulu's life by continuing to beat, kick, throw and jerk her around by her leash and suspending her in the air by her leash**. This placed her life at risk and for serious bodily injury from head trauma, back injury, and paralysis.



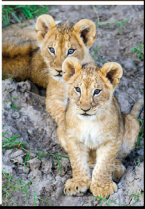



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Outcome

- He took a plea to misdemeanor animal cruelty
- Because no prior criminal record, was given diversion
- Conditions included no contact with animals, forfeit ownership of Lulu, no crimes for 6 months, fine of \$500 to DC victims fund
- Lulu adopted!



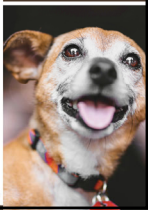



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Halifax, Nova Scotia: Psychological Suffering
Adam DeCoste and his dog, Sophie

- October 2018 leash whipped dog in lobby after spilled his drink
- Caught on security camera
- Charged and Sophie seized by NS SPCA
- No physical injury on exam
- Behavior Expert: suffered undue anxiety and suffering (psychological harm), would continue to suffer if left in custody of abuser








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Security Video








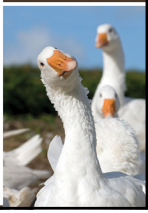



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Outcome

- Pled guilty
- No animal ownership for 3 years
- \$1000 fine
- Sophie adopted!












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Consider Suffering In:

- Large scale neglect: hoarding, puppy mills
- Tethering, small confinement
- Dog fighting – housing, anxiety when taken off chain
- Domestic violence cases







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www.veterinaryforensics.com

catdvm@drmerck.com 678-773-8014





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