Desmond’s Law: Connecticut’s CAAP – 5 Years In

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Precipitating Factors

- Animal sentience
- The Link
- Experiential legal education
- Legislative collaboration
- Under-enforcement of cruelty laws
- Desmond’s case
- Legislative process
- Compromises/drafting
Implementation

- Courts
- Students
- Lawyers
The Advocate’s role

- Police report, arrest warrant
- Charges
- ACO & veterinarian
- Facts & recommendations
- Diversionary programs
- Plea bargain negotiations
- Interim issues of ownership/possession
- Victim impact statement
Example 1
ownership
Example 2
diversion
Example 3

forfeiture
CAAP use and impact

- Measurement - quantitative
- Measurement - qualitative
- Preliminary data
Programming/growth

- Advocate training
- CIAM – forensic training
- Assessment and treatment
- Court-related programming
- Expansion to other animals
- Expansion to other states
- Civil matters
Thank you!

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