



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

BETH HECKERT  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For immediate release**

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office announced today that Michael Lee Hamilton, DOB 09/16/1951, pled guilty to five counts of Animal Neglect in the First Degree, and was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and 24 months in the Oregon Department of Corrections if revoked from probation. Mr. Hamilton is prohibited from possessing animals for 15 years.

Debbie Hamilton previously pled guilty to the same counts listed above on March 15, 2023, and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, three years of supervised probation, and is prohibited from possessing any animals for 15 years.

The charge arose from an incident that occurred on October 19, 2022, when the Jackson County Animal Control received a report of multiple animals in severely poor condition or deceased at the residence of Michael and Debbie Hamilton. The Hamiltons admitted to owning all of the animals including the deceased animals at their residence. Many of the dogs had contracted mange and were malnourished, none of the dogs had been bathed for at least five months, and were all missing hair, had severe injuries on their skin and were scabbed and infected. There was a total of 12 dogs (two of which were dead), nine parrots, and two cats at the residence. The Hamiltons surrendered custody of all animals, which were immediately transported to the Humane Society for rehabilitation.

Mr. Hamilton was present at his plea, and his wife Debbie Hamilton was also present in the courtroom. Prior to sentencing, DDA Sara Shaw expressed to the court the neglect of these animals was severe, and how important it is that Mr. Hamilton take accountability. The Court stressed to Mr. Hamilton that the sentence is like a zero-tolerance policy and will be sent to prison if his probation is revoked; therefore, it is important he not possess any animals for 15 years.

This prosecution was handled by Deputy District Attorney Sara Shaw.

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