



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON

BETH HECKERT
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CRIMINAL DIVISION

February 16, 2024

MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release

The Jackson County District Attorney's Office announced today that Susan Carol Black, DOB 04/02/1951, was found guilty by a jury on one count of Animal Neglect in the First Degree, and two counts of Animal Neglect in the Second Degree after two days of trial. The jury also found her not guilty on one count of Animal Neglect in the First Degree.

The charge arose from an incident that occurred on or about December 30, 2022, and evidence was presented at trial that the Jackson County Sheriff's Office responded to assist in a welfare check at Ms. Black's property. The Deputy observed three emaciated dogs with rib bones and hip bones protruding, and a strong odor that the Deputy testified at trial "smelled like a combination of death and feces." The animal control officer testified that each dog was about 15-20 pounds underweight. There was also one deceased dog inside the home in a kennel that was filled with inches of dried feces. That dog had apparently died of cancer. There were six horses on the property, two of which were extremely overweight, causing the cartilage on one of the horse's necks to break off, and had hooves that had not been properly trimmed in months; if not a year, according to witnesses. There was also one deceased bird inside the home.

Ms. Black testified she has had animals her whole life and wants to have more in the future. All animals that were subject to this incident were seized by law enforcement and forfeited by Ms. Black. The dogs were sent to a rescue for rehabilitation and adoption, and the horses were sent to the Equamore Horse Sanctuary for rehabilitation.

At sentencing, the State asked for 18 months of bench probation, a \$1500 fine, and a mandatory prohibition on possession of animals for five years pursuant to ORS 167.332. Judge Jeremy Markiewicz imposed 18 months of bench probation, a \$225 fine, and imposed the prohibition on animals for five years, but also made an exception to the Statute to allow Ms. Black to possess one dog.

This prosecution was handled by Deputy District Attorney Sara Shaw and Deputy District Attorney Samantha Blount.

Contact Information: Sara Shaw
Deputy District Attorney
shawst@jacksoncountyor.gov

Samantha Blount
Deputy District Attorney
blountsm@jacksoncountyor.gov