



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

For Immediate Release
November 18, 2022

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Press Release – Stark Sentenced to 12 years for Animal Abuse

Today, **Nathaniel Stark** was sentenced to 12 years in the Department of Corrections.

The defendant, Nathaniel Stark, had originally been sentenced to 10 years of Sex Offender Intensive Supervision Probation on January 5, 2018. He was designated by the Court as a Sexually Violent Predator. Shortly after being released from a halfway house in August 2019, the defendant's girlfriend's animals began showing signs of injuries. Within three months of them residing together, two of her cats were deceased. Veterinarians concluded that the injuries of one of the cats was not inflicted by another animal, rather the cause of death was consistent with head trauma and strangulation. Then, in February 2020, the defendant severely beat his girlfriend's dog. Veterinarians observed a significant amount of bruising between the dog's hind legs, which appeared to be caused by trauma commonly seen in abuse. There was additional deep bruising on the dog's back above her hind legs. The dog was removed from their custody immediately. The defendant was later arrested in October 2020 for violating bond for having contact with animals. After his arrest and while the cases were pending, he fled the state and was ultimately extradited back to Colorado.

On May 13, 2022, the defendant entered a guilty plea in 20CR382 to one count of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, a class 6 felony; he, also, entered a guilty plea in L21M95 to Sex Offender Fail to Verify Location, an unclassified misdemeanor. The sentence was open to the court, with no sentencing stipulation by the People. The defendant requested a screen for community corrections, and the board denied his request. Today, the Court imposed 12 years in state prison.

Deputy District Attorney Jenny McClintock stated, "The defendant's abuse of his partner's animals in this case was just one act of violence in his criminal history. It is important to take these cases seriously as they involve victims who have no voice and are often used as coercive controlling tactics in a domestic violence relationship. We are pleased with the sentence that the Court imposed and want to thank our law enforcement partners for the exceptional investigation in this case."

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "This case involved terrible conduct against animals. Given his prior conduct and the cruel acts involving his partner's pets, the defendant

clearly presented a risk to others. That's why we have a prosecutor who specializes in cases involving animal cruelty. I appreciate all the hard work by Jenny McClintock and law enforcement in this Aggravated Cruelty to Animals case. With this lengthy prison sentence, this defendant is being held responsible for his conduct."