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For Immediate Release



## HALIFAX MAN SENTENCED FOR ANIMAL CRUELTY

**Halifax, Nova Scotia** – A 31-year-old man from Halifax, has been sentenced with animal cruelty under the Animal Protection Act of Nova Scotia. Adam DeCoste was charged in October 2018 with causing his dog to be in distress contrary to section 21 (1) of the Animal Protection Act of Nova Scotia.

In October 2018, SPCA officers received a call from a complainant indicating that he was in possession of security footage that showed a man abusing a dog. SPCA officers attended the apartment complex and viewed the video that had alleged the abuse of a dog. As a direct result of the incident, the dog was seized and taken into SPCA custody.

In Nova Scotia, when an animal is seized by an enforcement agency including the SPCA, the owner has a right to an appeal by the Animal Cruelty Appeal Board. On October 25, 2018, an appeal hearing was held in Dartmouth, NS. On October 26, 2018, the decision of the board was to uphold the SPCA's decision to seize the dog enabling the SPCA to retain care and custody of the dog.

DeCoste pled guilty to the charge and on August 14, 2019, he was sentenced to a 3-year prohibition on owning animals along with ordered to pay a fine of \$1000.00.

"This case is very important for animal welfare law, because it is the first case in Nova Scotia we have secured a conviction for causing pain, suffering and undue anxiety to an animal," said Jo-Anne Landsburg, Chief Inspector, Nova Scotia SPCA. "In animal welfare enforcement, it is sometimes difficult to prove physical pain as well as anxiety. In this case, we were able to obtain a written report from an animal behaviour and animal welfare scientist from BC. This expert witness was able to give scientific evidence that the dog, "Sophie," suffered psychologically as a result of the abuse." "Sophie" is doing well and has been adopted to a new home through the Nova Scotia SPCA.

The Nova Scotia SPCA urges you to report acts of animal cruelty by contacting our confidential toll-free hotline at 1-888-703-7722. Proudly open-admission and no-kill, the Nova Scotia SPCA operates on a policy of zero tolerance for animal cruelty. Their shelters provide medical care, rehabilitation, spay and neuter services and re-homing opportunities for thousands of animals in Nova Scotia every year.

Media Contact:

Jo-Anne Landsburg

Nova Scotia SPCA Chief Provincial Inspector

Tel: 902-835-4798 ext 225

Fax: 902-835-7885

E-mail: [jlandsburg@spcans.ca](mailto:jlandsburg@spcans.ca)

Website: [www.novascotiaspca.ca](http://www.novascotiaspca.ca)