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For Immediate Release



TRURO PAIR CHARGED WITH ANIMAL CRUELTY

Truro, Nova Scotia – A 27-year-old man and a 20-year-old woman from Truro have been sentenced with animal cruelty under the Animal Protection Act of Nova Scotia.

Brett Fiddes and Jessica Riley were charged in April 2019 with causing their dog to be in distress, failing to provide a dog with an adequate source of food and water and failing to provide a dog with adequate medical attention when it was wounded or ill.

In March 2019, the Nova Scotia SPCA received a complaint that an emaciated dog had been brought to a veterinary hospital by a good Samaritan. The veterinarian admitted the dog and was rendering live-saving treatments. When the dog was stable, it was seized by SPCA Enforcement Officers and taken to the SPCA Dartmouth Animal Hospital.

Through the course of the investigation, it was determined that the dog belonged to Fiddes and Riley. 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 Welfare Appeal Board. No appeal was filed by the pair with the Animal Welfare Board and the dog became the property of the SPCA.

Fiddes and Riley were both charged under the Animal Protection Act and pled guilty to the charges in court on August 21, 2019. The Judge handed down a sentence to both Fiddes and Riley with a prohibition order that prohibits them from having in their possession, care or control, any livestock, farm and companion animals, and from residing in any residence or on any property in which any such animals are housed or kept. The two were granted an exception to allow them to keep their current three cats but must take them for a veterinary examination within 30 days of court and every year after that for the duration of the order. Both Fiddes and Riley were also ordered to pay restitution and fines upwards of \$2,000.

“This dog, Buddy, suffered severe and chronic neglect. Unfortunately, Buddy was a victim of the many manifestations of animal abuse, both physically and psychologically,” says Jo-Anne Landsburg, Chief Inspector at the Nova Scotia SPCA. Buddy had to be humanely euthanized due to health and behaviour complications.

The Nova Scotia SPCA urges you to report acts of animal cruelty by contacting the 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.

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