



NAPA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

1127 First Street, Suite C
Napa, CA 94559

Main: (707) 253-4211
Fax: (707) 253-4041
www.countyofnapa.org/da

ALLISON HALEY
District Attorney

For Immediate Release
June 7, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

NAPA MAN CONVICTED OF ANIMAL CRUELTY FOR NEGLECT AND ABUSE OF DOGS

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced the conviction of Napa resident, Zachary Roberts, age 38. Mr. Roberts was convicted on June 2nd by a Napa jury of two felony crimes of Animal Cruelty. The jury also found that the crimes involved great violence, great bodily harm, or other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, or callousness and that the crimes were inflicted upon particularly vulnerable victims. The jury trial lasted three days and was presided over by Judge Francisca Tisher.

The convictions stem from Mr. Roberts' prolonged neglect and abuse of his then one-year old Pitbull mix dog named "Avery" and one-year old Chihuahua dog named "Princess". Mr. Roberts was acquitted of animal cruelty related to a third dog. On January 17, 2020, Avery and Princess were found emaciated and undernourished with Mr. Roberts by a local registered veterinary technician who regularly performed community outreach. Princess was already deceased when she was discovered, and Avery was in critical condition. In addition to their poor body conditions, both dogs suffered additional signs of neglect including grossly overgrown nails and coats covered in urine and feces. Avery was treated on an emergency basis at a Napa veterinary hospital, where she stayed as in-patient for approximately one week. Avery's treating veterinary believed that Avery would have passed away if she had been rescued any later.

Avery made a full recovery. She was later adopted by a Napa family and lives with them today.

Mr. Roberts had dog food and access to additional dog food. He claimed the two dogs would not eat, which was contrary to the medical evaluations and evidence presented to the jury.

Napa County Deputy District Attorney Taryn Hunter prosecuted the case. Deputy Hunter commented that "Although Avery and Princess could not tell us what happened to them, the extent of their conditions made clear that they had suffered at the hands of Mr. Roberts for far too long. I am grateful for the community that came together to save Avery, and for the jury's verdicts in this egregious case of cruelty."

The investigation in this case was handled by the Napa Police Department. Sentencing is scheduled for June 30, 2022 at 8:30 a.m, in Department One of the Napa County Superior Court.

Any questions regarding this case may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.