



NEWS RELEASE

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Jurassic Pets Owner Convicted of Animal Cruelty Charges

Kenneth Mark Kubic, owner of Jurassic Pets in Thornton, was convicted of 18 counts of animal cruelty Friday in Adams County Court.

Kubic (DOB 06/14/54) was charged in March 2015 following an investigation by Thornton Police Department after complaints were received about gross neglect of animals at the store. Witnesses testified during the two-day trial about kittens, hedgehogs, reptiles and rodents confined to filthy enclosures without adequate food and water and needing veterinary care. Several of the animals subsequently died.

Assistant District Attorney Jess Redman told the jury that Kenneth Kubic was the person ultimately responsible for the care of the animals he sold. Instead, Redman said, the animals were subjected to extreme neglect and many became emaciated and in desperate need of veterinary care. "They had no fat, no muscle. They were so neglected that their bodies began to consume themselves," he said.

Rebecca Lacey, a customer at the store, testified that her son burst into tears when he saw the condition of kittens confined in a filthy enclosure. One kitten had a bloody ulcer near its rectum and another had matted hair from discharges coming from its eyes. Peggy Graham, a hedgehog breeder, testified that one of the pets she supplied to the store was so malnourished that it died after losing half of its body weight.

Dr. Scott Larsen, vice president of the Denver Zoo, who examined animals at the store, testified that a number of them were so dehydrated and emaciated that they had to be euthanized. He said, depending on the species, it would take weeks to months of neglect for the animals to reach that condition.

In response to the verdicts, District Attorney Dave Young said, "Thanks to the Thornton Police Department, the Denver Zoo, the Colorado Reptile Humane Society and all of the other volunteers who devoted their time and expertise to this important investigation. I also thank the citizens of Adams County who served as jurors. Their verdicts guarantee that this man will be held responsible for his failure to properly care for the creatures he tried to sell to the public."

Kubic will be sentenced June 29 at 8:30 a.m. in Division 2 of Adams County Court.

Kubic's son, Brian James Kubic (DOB 09-11-1993), pleaded guilty to one count of misdemeanor animal cruelty in April and will be sentenced at 8:30 a.m. on June 1. Kubic's wife, Lynn Denise Kubic (DOB 05/21/1961) is set for trial on the charges on June 16.