

Twelfth Judicial District State of New Mexico OTERO, LINCOLN COUNTIES

> JOHN P. SUGG DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sandra and Allen Quick Plead No Contest to 30 Counts of Animal Cruelty on Morning of Trial

Twelfth Judicial District Attorney John P. Sugg announced today that Sandra and Allen Quick pled no contest to eight counts of Extreme Animal Cruelty, and no contest to twenty-two counts of Animal Cruelty this morning before the Honorable Angie K. Schneider.

The Quicks were scheduled to start a three-day jury trial this morning when they decided to change their pleas from not guilty to no contest. The plea proceeding took place right before the potential jurors were brought into the courtroom. Under court rules, a defendant may change his or her plea from not guilty to guilty or no contest at any time during the proceedings. There was no plea agreement with the State.

On December 14, 2015, an Animal Control Officer working with the Otero County Sheriff's Office, along with members of animal rescue organizations, went to the Quicks' residence to take possession of an unknown number of dogs and cats which had been neglected. The Quicks had been operating a business called K-9 and Feline Assistance at the time in which they would obtain animals from county and city animal shelters and then attempt to adopt the animals out to members of the public for a profit.

When the group of workers and the ACO arrived to the 42-acre tract of land located southwest of Tularosa, they discovered twenty-two dogs which were extremely emaciated along with several cats in need of veterinary care. As the rescue workers were collecting the animals, a worker discovered a deceased dog. After obtaining a search warrant, the Otero County Sheriff's Office recovered the remains of eight additional dogs that had been hidden on the property. The dogs had been locked in their crates without food or water. A necropsy was done on one of the dogs and the cause of death was determined to be anti-freeze poisoning.

The Quicks were living inside of a recreational vehicle located on the property with their six children, and Sandra Quick's cousin, Ryan Boggs. The Quicks were convicted earlier this year of six counts of Child Abuse based in part on the deplorable living conditions that kids were subjected to on the property.

The Quicks face up to 34 years in prison and up to a \$62,000 fine on the animal cruelty charges, and they face an additional 18 years in prison for the child abuse case. Sentencing will occur in September after the Quicks return from a 60-day diagnostic evaluation which will take place in the Department of Corrections.

The State's request to have the Quicks immediately remanded into custody was denied, but Allen Quick is required to turn himself into the Otero County Detention Center on May 29, 2018, and Sandra Quick is required to turn herself in on June 29, 2018 so they can be transported to the Department of Corrections to undergo the 60-day diagnostic evaluation.

The case was prosecuted by District Attorney John P. Sugg and was investigated by the Otero County Sheriff's Office.

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