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Authorities Look for Leads in Animal Cruelty Cold Cases

COLUMBUS, OH—One case involved a horrific scene where over 40 dead animals were found stored inside sheds, coolers, trash bags, and crates. Another entailed a self-professed animal breeder who condemned several household pets to die of hypothermia and dehydration after abandoning them in the dead of winter.

These offenders and three others are targets once again, as the Capital Area Humane Society (CAHS) and Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. appeal to the public in hopes of locating convicted animal abusers who seemingly have fallen off the grid after violating probation.

“We previously prosecuted these individuals and obtained convictions against them,” said City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. “Unfortunately, after initially receiving their sentences and being placed on probation, they failed to adhere to the community control sanctions levied against them.”

City Attorney Pfeiffer and CAHS hope attention to these cold cases also will help bring more awareness to their ongoing efforts to prevent animal abuse and neglect in Central Ohio. Such crimes are a serious concern nationwide, as the [ASPCA reports that more than 7.5 million companion animals enter animal shelters in the U.S. every year.](#)

Columbus City Attorney Chief of Staff and Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick has little sympathy for individuals who neglect and abandon animals.

“Whether it’s leaving a pet behind after an eviction or something more extreme like turning one’s living room into an animal mortuary, there is no excuse for animal abuse,” said Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick. “People have to understand they can’t disappear after being placed on probation and expect we’ll just forget about them.”

Hedrick spearheaded a push last year to round up 12 of the most wanted animal abusers in Franklin County after warrants were issued for their arrest. Nine of the 12 were quickly located and brought to justice.

But one of the three who remained on the loose was 54-year-old Calvin Dale Channell, last seen by his probation officer in 2012.

Channell now joins the latest list of cold case offenders that includes 31-year-old Dominic Franklin, 44-year-old Robert Holland, 33-year-old Brandy Scarberry, and 30-year-old Amy Stover.

Anyone with information regarding these individuals is asked to contact Assistant City Prosecutor Bill R. Hedrick at 614.645.8874 or brhedrick@columbus.gov.

To report suspected animal cruelty, neglect or abandonment within Franklin County, contact the Capital Area Humane Society at 614.777.7387 ext. 250. More information also can be found on the Capital Area Humane Society's website: www.cahs-pets.org.

DISCLAIMER: In accordance with state law, the City Attorney's office prosecutes misdemeanor crimes, not felony offenses.

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