



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## Press Release

### Judge orders 8 to 10 year Sentence for animal cruelty

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A former Quincy man has been sentenced to 8 to 10 years in Massachusetts State Prison following his conviction on 12 counts of animal cruelty, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

The Commonwealth asked Norfolk Superior Court Judge Beverly Cannone to impose a sentence of 12 to 15 years even though Massachusetts suggested sentencing guidelines called for incarceration of 0 to 18 months. Defendant Radoslaw Czerkawski's defense attorney, Larry Tipton, asked Judge Cannone to sentence the defendant to 4 ½ to 5 years in state prison.

"We felt that a substantial period of incarceration was warranted in light of the terrible nature of the abuse, the evidence that the abuse was ongoing for a significant period of time and the kind of injuries discovered in the investigation," District Attorney Morrissey said. "The evidence of injury in this case was shocking."

The case began when Quincy residents found a female pit bull, whose name was later learned to be Kiya, in obvious physical distress, having been discarded on the street in August of 2013. "What followed her discovery was a vigorous and thorough investigation by Quincy Police Detectives Thomas Pepdjonovic, William Montieth and Chuck Landry who learned her history, identified Czerkawski as having had her custody, and then located Czerkawski in Connecticut as he traveled away from Massachusetts."

In addition to solid police work by Quincy detectives, assisted State Police Detectives attached to the Norfolk DA's Office, Morrissey said the case rested heavily on medical and scientific evidence and testimony provided by experts including veterinarians Dr. Amanda Duffy, Dr. Martha Smith-Blackmore and Dr. Diana Rosenstein. Additionally, Math professor Dr. John Rhodes of the University of Alaska (Fairbanks) offered expert assistance in statistical analysis of the DNA evidence and Florida Anthropology professor Dr. Jonathan Bethard provided technical expertise in the case – both of whom worked pro bono.

Judge Cannone also ordered 2 years probation to follow his incarceration, although that probation would not delay any removal from the United States by federal authorities.