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Press Release

Couple pleads not guilty to killing cat in clothes dryer

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Lori E. Tasney, 36, and Christopher M. Lang, 32, both of Hunt Street in Quincy, pled not guilty to larceny and animal cruelty indictments Friday, Nov. 22, 2013 at their arraignment in Norfolk Superior Court, Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey said.

Quincy Police responded to a Sea Street address for a report of animal abuse in May, after residents found the house cat, named Kitty, dead in the yard. The cat was discovered hours after a female resident reports asking the defendants, who had been guests in that house, about several hundred dollars in cash missing from her purse.

Although Kitty was an indoor cat, she was found in the yard with obvious signs of trauma, according to court documents. The residents of that address later went into the basement to use the automatic clothes dryer and found the lint trap full of cat hair. The Animal Rescue League of Boston performed a necropsy on the cat and found multiple traumatic thermal injuries, consistent with being tumbled to death in a dryer.

Court documents allege that Tasney and Lang were the only parties at the residence during the time frame when the injuries to the cat were inflicted. They were indicted by a Norfolk County Grand Jury on October 30, 2013.

Judge Kenneth J. Fishman continued the bail amounts that had been set at their Quincy District Court arraignment - Lang's bail remained at \$10,000 cash and Tasney's bail at \$5,000 cash - after the judge heard their not guilty pleas. Judge Fishman extended the order that they stay away from animals and the victims in this prosecution. They are due to return to court January 29, 2014 for pre-trial conference.

As with all criminal defendants, Lang and Tasney enjoy the Constitutional presumption of their innocence until proven guilty.