



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
RICHMOND COUNTY

MICHAEL E. MCMAHON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

130 STUYVESANT PLACE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301
TELEPHONE (718) 876-6300

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release on April 13, 2016

Contact: Douglas Auer (718) 556-7150
Douglas.Auer@rcda.nyc.gov

DA McMahon announces formation of Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit

**** Unit will work with the NYPD Animal Cruelty Investigations Squad and the ASPCA ****

STATEN ISLAND, NY – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced the formation of an Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit. The purpose of this Unit is to investigate and prosecute crimes against animals, to highlight and increase awareness of animal abuse, to educate the community about available resources and programs that could prevent neglect, abuse, and injury to animals, and to develop and facilitate relationships with Staten Islanders and local veterinarians to encourage the reporting of animal abuse by speaking for those who have no voice.

The RCDA Animal Cruelty Unit will work closely with the New York City Police Department’s Animal Cruelty Investigations Squad to investigate these cases and with the ASPCA to provide for the direct care of animal cruelty victims.

“Studies have shown that animal abusers are five times more likely to commit violent crimes, 40 percent of domestic violence victims stay in abusive situations out of fear of what would happen if they left their pets behind, and as many as 75 percent of violent offenders in prison have earlier records of animal cruelty. Designating one unit to handle animal abuse cases is a critically important step in showing the public that our office understands the seriousness of these crimes and that we are committed to being a voice for the voiceless,” said District Attorney Michael E. McMahon.

“In creating a unit dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of crimes of animal cruelty, abuse, and neglect we are ensuring that the investigators and prosecutor handling these cases are fully trained in the nuances of the law and the special types of veterinary and forensic evidence encountered so that they can respond appropriately and handle these cases consistently,” continued McMahon.

“The ASPCA commends District Attorney McMahon for continuing his office’s commitment to animal welfare through the formation of the Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit,” said Stacy Wolf, Esq., senior vice president, ASPCA Anti-Cruelty Group. “The Richmond County District Attorney’s Office has built a reputation for being a voice for animal cruelty victims on Staten Island through rigorous prosecutions. We look forward to working even more closely with the Animal Cruelty Prosecution Unit and the NYPD to continue our fight against animal cruelty in New York City.”

The RCDA Animal Cruelty Unit will be led by its inaugural Chief, Assistant District Attorney Jane Grinberg. Grinberg is a senior ADA in the office and has extensive experience handling animal abuse cases in Richmond County, including the highly reported Alsu Ivanchenko case where she secured a felony conviction for animal abuse committed against Charlotte, a 3-month-old Maltese mix. This conviction led Ivanchenko to appear as the first name on the City's Animal Abuse Registry.

ADA Grinberg was also instrumental in starting the Animal Neglect Prevention Program at RCDA, a program designed to help prevent animal neglect before it rises to a criminal level and to also provide financially struggling pet owners with affordable medical services for their animals. For more information, callers can dial the RCDA ANPP hotline at 718-876-6300, and press option #2.

Grinberg is currently the lead prosecutor handling the case against JERRY MOORE, who has been indicted on charges including felony Aggravated Cruelty to Animals for killing Bambi, a 2-month-old Chihuahua.

-End-