

Calgary Woman Sentenced in Storage Locker Animal Cruelty Case

On May 23, 2019, Samantha Zychowski of Calgary, was convicted in Provincial Court of Animal Protection Act Offenses and sentenced to a 15-year prohibition from owning or caring for animals and a \$3,000 fine.

The charges stem from a January 6, 2017 call, when staff of a storage facility contacted police and Calgary Humane Society upon hearing animal sounds coming from inside a storage unit. When officers responded, they cut the lock and found a dog and heard a cat, who was located inside a plastic storage bin. The head of the cat had been wrapped with duct tape.

The animals were seized and delivered to a veterinarian, who found them both to be in distress due to dehydration. The cat also suffered corneal injuries from the duct tape. There was evidence the cat likely struggled violently against the duct tape and the confines of the storage bin for a lengthy period.

Brad Nichols, Senior Manager, Animal Cruelty Investigations said “This was a case of extreme negligence. The intent to keep the cat quiet by duct-taping its head was callous and extremely dangerous. That the cat was found, let alone survived this incident buried under personal effects in a plastic bin, with its head taped, is incredibly fortunate. The outright ban on owning, caring for or residing with animals for 15 years is significant. My hope is that Ms. Zychowski’s judgement improves significantly over that period.”

Brad Nichols will be available for interviews throughout the day.

Correction: An earlier version of this release did not include the \$2,750 fine for one count of willfully causing unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal (Criminal Code). This is in addition to the previously reported \$250 fine for causing an animal to be in distress (Animal Protection Act).



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