

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



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Sentencing for Suffolk mother who tortured animals in front of her kids

The Selden mother convicted of torturing and killing animals, sometimes in front of her seven children, was sentenced to the maximum two years behind bars in Suffolk County court today.

Saying he was bound by the laws that presently exist, State Supreme Court Justice C. Randall Hinrichs sentenced Sharon McDonough, who has been incarcerated in the county jail since December 18, 2009, to the maximum two-years in jail for aggravated cruelty to animals, a felony under New York State's Agriculture and Markets Law.

The defendant was sentenced to concurrent one year jail sentences for overdriving, torturing, injuring and failure to provide proper sustenance to animals and for endangering the welfare of a child.

A stay away order of protection was issued for the children, now living in foster care, and for the animals which were rescued from the defendant's home on Awixa Place in Selden.

Assistant District Attorney John Cortes (Kor - tez') said the defendant's conduct in torturing and killing animals, and abusing her own children, was "sinister, barbaric, and wicked".

"These poor, innocent children were made to live in squalor and filth, and witnessed and experienced things no child should ever have to encounter," said ADA Cortes.

"At this point, it is difficult to gauge the long-term impact of the pain and suffering she inflicted...only time will tell if the defendant's crimes and abuse will have a lasting impact on her family."

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A criminal charge is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.