

October 13, 2011

Guilty of endangering child's welfare for euthanizing animal in front of 10 year old

A Manorville woman was found guilty of endangering the welfare of a child and not guilty of aggravated animal cruelty in a decision today from Judge James Hudson in Suffolk County Court following a two-week bench trial.

The Suffolk County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals arrested Mona Kanciper, 49, on August 5, 2010. A grand jury later indicted the defendant for the improper euthanization of three dogs and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child; one count for euthanizing a dog in the presence of a 10 year old girl in May of 2009 and another charge for directing a young girl to the scene of a euthanization in October of 2008.

In convicting the defendant of endangering the welfare of a child, Judge Hudson said commencing the euthanization of a dog in front of a 10 year old was "egregious". Judge Hudson dismissed the second count of endangering, finding there was insufficient evidence that Kanciper knew what was happening when she directed the young girl to an area of the farm where horses were being put down.

In finding the defendant not guilty of three charges of aggravated animal cruelty the judge ruled that there was justification for the killings of the dogs and there was not enough evidence to establish the animals' pain and suffering.

The trial began on September 22.

Judge Hudson scheduled Kanciper's sentencing for December 13.

###

NORTH COUNTY COMPLEX • VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY • HAUPPAUGE, NY 11787-4311 • (631) 853-4118

Robert.Clifford@suffolkcountyny.gov

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