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SCARLETT A. WILSON

Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit

For Immediate Release
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North Charleston Woman Convicted of Felony III Treatment of Animals

Charleston, SC– Solicitor Scarlett A. Wilson announced that on Wednesday afternoon, a Charleston County jury convicted defendant Nakida Gathers of felony III Treatment of Animals after law enforcement officers located her dog near starvation. After a two-day jury trial, Circuit Court Judge Perry Buckner sentenced Freeman to a 2 year sentence suspended to the completion of 2 years of probation. During her probationary period, the Judge ordered that the Defendant complete 150 service hours at the Charleston Animal Society or the SPCA.

On January 30, 2017, North Charleston Animal Control responded to conduct an animal welfare check at the defendant's residence. Upon making contact with the defendant and her boyfriend, Animal Control Officer Bowden observed a dead dog and another emaciated dog, for which the defendant was charged. There was no clean food and water and the animals were covered in grime and excrement. Chaos, the defendant's dog, was nearly 20 pounds underweight when the officer located him. Chaos was treated by veterinary staff at the Charleston Animal Society who determined he needed round the clock emergency care. After 2 days at the emergency clinic, Chaos, now renamed Cappuccino, was transferred back to Charleston Animal Society for the remainder of his rehabilitation. Dr. Lucy Fuller, Senior Veterinary Care Director at CAS, testified during trial that anyone who looked at Cappuccino could see that he was starving to death. The defendant also testified at trial and claimed that her responsibility for the dog ended once her boyfriend decided the dog needed to live in the backyard, instead of inside of the house.

North Charleston Animal Control and the Charleston Animal Society did great work in saving Cappuccino's life. Assistant Solicitors Jordan Smith and Elliott Barrow prosecuted the case.

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