

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas



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WICHITA, KAN. – In response to media coverage concerning the plea and sentencing in State v. Carlett McPherson, the following is being issued:

Ms. McPherson pled guilty Monday morning to one count of misdemeanor cruelty to animals. After her guilty plea, she was sentenced to six months of probation by agreement of the parties.

The case was filed and resolved based on the following facts: on November 16, 2018, Ms. McPherson's dog entered her neighbor's yard where the neighbor's grandson and the neighbor's dog, Smokey, were located.

Ms. McPherson's dog attacked the neighbor's dog, Smokey.

Ms. McPherson tried to break up the dog fight with a broom but was unsuccessful. She called for help, and a man entered the yard with a tire tool. The unknown man tried to separate the animals with the tire tool, striking Smokey.

There was no evidence that Ms. McPherson ever wielded the tire iron that struck Smokey or directed the man to strike Smokey with the tire iron.

Ms. McPherson left the yard. She asserted that she left to obtain a phone to call 911. When she returned, two more of her dogs followed her back to the yard and again attacked Smokey.

Smokey was later euthanized after his bites became infected.

Ms. McPherson was charged with one count of misdemeanor cruelty to animals for allowing her dogs to attack the neighbor's dog, Smokey.

Ms. McPherson pled guilty to one misdemeanor count of cruelty to animals. She was also ordered to pay the veterinary bill.

Wichita Police continue to search for the male with the tire iron.

Under Kansas law, cruelty to animals includes knowingly but not maliciously killing or injuring an animal. Ms. McPherson pled guilty to injuring Smokey.

There was no evidence that Ms. McPherson intentionally killed the victim animal, Smokey.

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