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Grove City Couple Convicted of 20 Counts of Animal Cruelty

COLUMBUS –Douglas and Britny DeVaul, of Grove City, have been charged with 20 counts of Prohibitions Concerning Companion Animals for acts of animal cruelty, announced Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. They were found guilty by a jury at the conclusion of a three-week trial.

“Innocent animals were trapped in deplorable conditions by the DeVauls,” said Klein. “With testimony from Columbus Humane investigators and veterinarians, medical records and hundreds of photos, Prosecutors Joseph Gibson and Jennifer Grant helped bring justice to these individuals. We appreciate the citizens who brought forward their concerns to stop the suffering of these animals.”

The couple was under investigation for animal care at both their primary residence at 3145 Demorest Road in Grove City, as well as a retail pet store, The Petting Zoo (formerly Grove City Reptiles) at 3578 W. Broad Street in Columbus as authorities received approximately 30 complaints, many of which were filed by individuals who purchased puppies that died soon after purchase. Puppies were also sold under the business names of Fireside Puppies and Buckeye Puppies.

On initial visits, authorities found minor animal care violations which were promptly corrected. At the final inspection in August 2019, the situation had greatly worsened with unsanitary, overcrowded conditions and inadequate food and water. Authorities seized approximately 190 animals, including 97 dogs, from the DeVaul’s Grove City property. Several of the animals were suffering from untreated diseases including parvovirus which is extremely lethal to dogs.

Each count is a misdemeanor of the second degree. Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 5, 2021. The convictions will automatically result in the loss of their animal broker license.

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