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Staten Island Man Arraigned on Indictment for Animal Cruelty Case Involving Twenty-Four Huskies

Defendant kept huskies in deplorable conditions and neglected to provide proper sustenance, food, and water; Sheriff's Office and ASPCA rescued dogs following investigation

Staten Island, N.Y. – Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon today announced that a Staten Island man has been arraigned on an indictment in which he is charged with multiple counts of second, third, and fourth-degree criminal mischief as well as twenty-four counts of overdriving, torturing, and injuring animals for failing to provide proper sustenance for twenty-four huskies under the defendant's care.

The defendant, Victor Quinteros, 54, was arraigned today in Staten Island Supreme Court, St. George. The defendant was released on his own recognizance and the case was adjourned to September 6.

Staten Island District Attorney Michael E. McMahon said, "As alleged in the indictment, this defendant neglected to provide basic needs for twenty-four huskies under his care, choosing to heartlessly leave these beautiful creatures in deplorable and unsafe conditions without access to enough food or water. We are extremely thankful for our partners in the Sheriff's Office and ASPCA for taking immediate action to rescue and care for the injured dogs, and my office's Animal Cruelty Unit will now work tirelessly to ensure justice is served in this case."

New York City Sheriff Anthony Miranda said, "The successful investigation and rescue in this case was the collaborative effort of dedicated personnel from the Sheriff's Office, Richmond County District Attorney, the ASPCA and other organizations. It is important to acknowledge and recognize the importance of the community reporting what they saw, allowing us to mobilize in response. We are happy the huskies are in better and more compassionate hands."

Erin Satterthwaite, NYC Counsel for ASPCA Legal Advocacy and Investigations said, "The ASPCA is deeply committed to ending animal cruelty across New York City's five boroughs, and we are proud to work alongside the New York City Sheriff's Office and Richmond County District Attorney's Office to bring these dogs to safety and provide them with the much-needed medical care and behavioral treatment they deserve."

On July 29, 2022, the New York City Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant for a property being rented by the defendant at 137 Van Duzer Street, which is a large fenced-in lot with trailers, a bus, and an RV parked on it. Upon entering the property, members of the Sheriff's Office observed a group of huskies living in unhealthy and unsanitary conditions throughout the lot. There were approximately five huskies loose on the property, and once the trailer was opened, approximately ten huskies came running out of it. Many huskies were running around, apparently

searching for food, and were drinking from a small children's pool filled with dirty, foul-smelling water, which was the only source of water for the dogs available on the property. The only apparent food accessible to the dogs was found in large white buckets with maggots crawling all over it. The inside of the trailer was overall unsuitable for animal habitation and covered in urine and fecal matter, with the animals defecating and urinating freely inside the small space. Additionally, there was no food or water present in the trailer, and it was extremely hot and stuffy inside, with no light fixtures or air flow. An adult husky and eight husky puppies were found underneath the first trailer, with one of the puppies found deceased. Two additional adult huskies were found inside of the second trailer, one roaming freely, and the other laying on its side, initially unresponsive. The second trailer also had a strong odor of feces and urine, had very little air flow, and was very hot inside. In total, twenty-four husky type dogs (sixteen adults, seven live puppies, and one deceased puppy) were found on the property. The dogs and puppies were immediately transferred to the ASPCA's care where they have been receiving medical care and behavioral treatment and enrichment.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Travis Atkinson, Chief of the Animal Cruelty Unit, and Assistant District Attorney Adam Silberlight, Trials Bureau Chief. The case was investigated by the New York City Sheriff's Office.

The charges contained in the indictment are merely allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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