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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 3, 2017

Cat Killer Sentenced in Animal Cruelty Case



ALBANY, NY – District Attorney P. David Soares today announced that JOHN GEHRLEIN, 45, of Albany, was sentenced to 2 years in Albany County Jail, before the Honorable Thomas A. Breslin in Albany County Supreme Court this morning. This is the maximum sentence under Buster’s Law. The people also requested an order which prevents the defendant from owning, harboring, or having custody or control of any animals for the rest of his life. The Court deemed the request reasonable and issued the order.

On June 7, 2017, GEHRLEIN was found guilty after a jury trial of (1) Count of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, an Unclassified Felony, also known as Buster's Law.

On December 23, 2016, at approximately 1:00 P.M., members of the Albany Police Department responded to a report that a dead cat was found in the back yard of GEHRLEIN's home on Ryckman Avenue in the City of Albany. GEHRLEIN had cut the cat's throat with a sharp object to the point that it was almost decapitated. Following an investigation GEHRLEIN admitted to killing the animal and was arrested.

"I want to thank ADA McCanney and members of the APD who treated this investigation with the seriousness and professionalism necessary to hold accountable dangerous people," commented DA Soares. "Defendants who would harm vulnerable and defenseless animals are more likely to harm others. His conviction leaves us all a bit safer."

Assistant District Attorney Jennifer McCanney of the Special Victims Unit prosecuted this case.

For more information please contact the Albany County District Attorney's Office at AlbanyDA@albanycountyny.gov

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