

NEWS RELEASE



Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office
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BELMAR MAN FACES UP TO TWO YEARS IN CUSTODY AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO KILLING TWO CATS

On August 18, 2010, Daniel I. Mann, 31, of Belmar, N.J., pled guilty to two counts of fourth degree Animal Cruelty in connection with the deaths of two cats which occurred at the Monmouth County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("M.C.S.P.C.A.") while Mann was employed there. Mann entered his plea entered his pleas before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Anthony J. Mellaci, Jr., who is scheduled to sentence Mann on November 5, 2010.

Mann entered his guilty pleas pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. Pursuant to the terms of the negotiated plea agreement, the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office will recommend that Judge Mellaci sentence Mann to two consecutive twelve month custodial terms, and that Judge Mellaci order Mann to pay restitution for the costs of the necropsies that were performed on the two dead cats. In addition, the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office will recommend that Judge Mellaci order that, upon his release from confinement, Mann must perform 60 days of community service at a facility at which no animals are present.

On March 1, 2010, two M.C.S.P.C.A. employees at the Eatontown facility observed Mann, a kennel technician, holding a cat in the air and then forcefully slamming it head-first into the tile floor. The cat then died. A necropsy determined that the cat died from blunt force trauma to the head.

Shortly afterward, and on the same date, other M.C.S.P.C.A. employees located a second cat, which was deceased, in a garbage bag at the facility. The second dead cat had a leather leash wrapped around its neck. A necropsy of this cat revealed that it died as a result of asphyxiation due to a crushed trachea and lung hemorrhage.

The Eatontown Police Department and the Law Enforcement Division of the M.C.S.P.C.A. conducted an investigation into the deaths of the two cats, which determined that Mann had caused their deaths.

Mann's employment with the M.C.S.P.C.A. was terminated on March 1, 2010, after the deaths of the two cats.

At the time of their deaths, the two cats were recovering from surgery, and they were about to be offered for adoption by the agency.

During his guilty plea, Mann stated that at the time of the crime he was suffering from insomnia and also dealing with stress and family issues. Mann told Judge Mellaci that while he was cleaning out the cats' cages, he "snapped" and slammed one cat on the floor, and strangled the other cat with a leather leash.

Mann is being held at the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail in the amount of \$30,000.

The case is assigned to Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Brian A. Heyesey. Mann is represented by John F. Hazard, Esquire, of Long Branch, N.J.

Released: August 18, 2010